

Brass Roots Trio

Press Release and Biographies
2011-2012

Brass Roots Trio dazzles audiences with pyrotechnic virtuosity and exquisite sounds in colorful programs that take unexpected twists and turns! Blending the classical music genre contemporary styles, they move seamlessly from virtuosic showpieces to refined chamber music to ragtime and to jazz. A pioneer of this instrumentation, piano, trumpet and horn, Brass Roots Trio has played to standing ovations and rave reviews in every corner of the US and UK since 2005. Their tours have included performances at Oxford University, St. James Piccadilly in London, the Chicago Brass Festival, and on NPR. In 2009 the trio was honored to perform at the White House.

Rosetta Senkus Bacon (piano), **Thomas Boulton** (trumpet), and **Dan Wions** (horn) infuse their music with passion and exuberant energy, and their spontaneity and warm-hearted presentation establish an immediate connection with the audience. They have demonstrated their prodigious talents across the country and around the world with engagements at the Kennedy Center in Washington, Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall in NY, and at Cultural Centers and festivals in Switzerland, England, Mexico, Lithuania and Taiwan.

Exhilarating performances and imaginative programming have established Brass Roots Trio as one of the most compelling ensembles of the 21st century.

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Recent Reviews

"Brass Roots Trio put on an amazing performance. Their musicianship, technique and phrasing were incredible. They have fun playing together, and the audience seemingly could tell this too. Concerts like this should not be missed!"

- Christopher C. Foster, **Olean Times Herald**, Olean, NY, March 2010

"...deliciously diversified with astounding virtuosity...one doesn't listen to this kind of playing without realizing it is coming from the soul...this is a hot group to watch!"

- Becky Ball, **The Oak Ridger**, Oak Ridge, TN, December 2009

"I would like to express my sincere appreciation as well as to convey the gratitude of the President and Mrs. Obama for your wonderful performance at the White House during this Holiday season."

Desirée Rogers, **White House Social Secretary**, Washington, DC, December 2009

"...the trio kept the audience spellbound until the end...they responded with several standing ovations."

- Robert Ellis, **Times-West Virginian**, Fairmont, WV, October 2009

Biographies

The founding member of Brass Roots Trio, pianist and arranger **Rosetta Senkus Bacon** has performed extensively throughout North America, Europe and Asia with concerts at the *Kennedy Center* in Washington, *Taipei County Cultural Center* in Taiwan, *St. Moritz Cultural Center* in Switzerland, and *Kaunas Philharmonic Hall* in Lithuania. A frequent guest at international festivals, Rosetta has served on faculties and performed at *The International Summer Chamber Music Festival* in Taiwan and *The International School of Performing Arts* in Bucks County, PA where she accompanied Master Classes of Metropolitan Opera stars Sherrill Milnes and Gilda Cruz-Roma. She concertized with Metropolitan Opera soprano Judith Raskin and the internationally acclaimed Lithuanian clarinetist Algirdas Budrys. In a lighter vein she was one of the duo-pianists in “*Side By Side By Sondheim*” starring Arlene Francis and Hermione Gingold. A native of West Virginia, Rosetta graduated from West Virginia University and received a Masters Degree from the Manhattan School of Music in New York. She was the recipient of the “Outstanding Musician Award” from the West Virginia Arts & Humanities Commission.

Thomas Boulton, trumpet, is an active freelance musician and educator in the New York City area, performs internationally across North and Central America and has performed live on television and National Public Radio broadcasts. He has performed with numerous ensembles, large and small on the east coast, including the *Philharmonic Orchestra of the Americas*, the *Orchestra at St. Luke’s*, and the *New Amsterdam Brass Band*, where he recorded a CD with virtuoso Allen Vizzutti. An avid supporter of chamber music, Boulton regularly appears as principal trumpet with the *Artemis Chamber Ensemble* and 2011 Grammy nominee, *Metropolis Ensemble*. With *Metropolis*, Boulton has premiered several commissioned works and reworked adaptations, including an adaptation of John Corigliano’s “Three Hallucinations” and Igor Stravinsky’s “The Rite of Spring” which was subsequently performed in front of a crowd of 10,000 and broadcast live on WNYC/WQXR. He served as principal trumpet in Lorin Maazel’s inaugural *Castleton Music Festival* and recently appeared in Philip Glass’ 2011 *MATA Festival*. In June 2011, he will participate in *The Center for Advanced Musical Studies* at Chosen Vale, performing along side Stephen Burns, Edward Carroll, Gabriele Cassone, Mark Gould, Markus Stockhausen, Hakan Hardenberger, and Thomas Stevens. Boulton earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Rutgers University and attended Eastern Michigan University (BM) and Manhattan School of Music (MM). Primary teachers include Kevin Cobb, Thomas V. Smith, Carter Eggers, and Michael Bowman. He has had further instruction from teachers Mark Gould, David Krauss, Robert Sullivan, Philip Myers, Ray Mase, Jim Ross, Toby Hanks, and Per Brevig. Boulton has performed in Symphony Space, Lincoln Center, and Carnegie Hall and can be heard on the Sony Classical, Mark Masters, and Naxos Recording Labels.

Dan Wions has worked under the baton of such prestigious conductors as Zubin Mehta, Michael Tilson Thomas, Charles Dutoit, Kurt Masur, and Lorin Maazel and has recorded on the Sony Classical and Naxos labels, and for NASCAR and ESPN productions. Mr. Wions has performed on tour dates with a long list of pop, rock, and jazz musicians, including Dave Brubeck, Patti LaBelle, Aretha Franklin, John Legend, Gloria Estefan, Carlos Santana, Frank Sinatra Jr., Patti Lupone, Anne Murray, Leann Rhimes, Mannheim Steamroller, Clay Aiken, and Josh Groban. Recent appointments include Principal horn of the *Chamber Orchestra of New York*, Third Horn/Co-Principal of the *Philharmonic Orchestra of the Americas*, and a current trial as Principal horn of the *Pennsylvania Ballet*. He was also a finalist in the New York Philharmonic’s most recent Assistant/Utility Horn audition. Teachers include Michelle Baker, Myron Bloom, Tony Cecere, Peter Gordon, Michael Hatfield, Rick Seraphinoff, and Chris Wilhjelm. Mr. Wions holds a BM in Horn Performance, with outside studies in piano and composition, from Indiana University. He has been a participant at the *FAME festival*, *National Orchestral Institute*, and a member of the *Verbier Festival Orchestra* in Switzerland. Mr. Wions is the CEO and founder of Live Music Consulting LLC (www.livemusicconsulting.com). He presently resides in Hillsborough, NJ, freelancing mainly in the NJ, NY, PA, and DC areas, and contracting nationally.