

Motor City Brass Band

2013-14 Concert and Media Guide

It's more than a Concert... It's a SHOW!



Craig Strain, Music Director, Conductor

www.mcbb.org

MCBB Hotline: 248.788.6618

About Motor City Brass Band

It's More than a Concert...It's a Show!

Modeled after the traditional British brass band, Motor City Brass Band (MCBB) represents an American take on a beloved British custom. The group's unique blend of innovation and authenticity has earned it a reputation for musical excellence and high-quality entertainment. With musical director Craig Strain at the helm as conductor, arranger and composer for the group since its inception, MCBB continues to musically define itself as an integral part of the growing national brass band movement. The band performs in a variety of venues throughout the year in a wide range of musical styles from classical to jazz, pop to sacred. MCBB has performed throughout the state, as well as in Illinois, Kentucky, Minnesota, Ohio, & Ontario, Canada.



The Band participates in the First Section of the North American Brass Band Association (NABBA) Championships as well as in the U.S. Open Brass Band Championships. MCBB has released seven CDs in the past ten years; *After Five*, *Irish Spectacular*, *American Salute*, *Sounds of the Season*, *Voyage of Discovery*, *American Portrait*, and *Sounds Of The Summer*. The band has also shared the stage with some of Detroit area's finest ensembles and has featured some of its own stellar players in other performances.

During the regular concert season, MCBB makes its home at the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center in Dearborn. The band's annual four-concert series performed here is "more than a concert, it's a show!" and is regularly attended by an audience of nearly 400. Each spring, MCBB is also the proud host of the Motor City Festival of Bands, where ensembles from across the region gather to perform. The concert culminates with a 250-plus massed-band playing together in a truly impressive and show-stopping display of talent.

The forward momentum of the MCBB mission is on full display with the innovative and successful Motor City Youth Brass Band, the only performance ensemble of its kind in Southeast Michigan. The Youth Band is designed for intermediate- to advanced-level brass and percussion students in grades 8-12, and represents several middle, junior high, and high schools across the Metro Detroit area. Since 2006, participants in this unique program have been introduced to the culture of brass banding and have the distinction of representing the future of the adult ensemble.

Music Director & Conductor

Craig Strain

Motor City Brass Band is fortunate to have Craig Strain as its Musical Director and Conductor. Craig received a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Performance and Political Science, and a Bachelor of Music Education as well as a Masters Degree in Music Composition and Trumpet from Eastern Michigan University. Following an extensive career in teaching which included high school, community college and Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, Craig currently performs and arranges music, is owner and operator of a 24-track digital recording studio, and directs and/or leads several musical organizations.



In 1996 when this fledgling band concluded its second rehearsal, one of the tuba players, a friend of Craig's, invited him to rehearse the band. By the end of the session, the affinity between the musicians and Craig was evident and he was asked to be the Music Director and Conductor. Since then he has played a vital role in the band's growth. There has been growth in membership; and, because of Craig's understanding of the musical and technical capabilities of brass instruments and his experience as a brass performer, teacher, arranger, and conductor, he has taken Motor City Brass Band to ever higher levels of musicianship and performance.

A prolific arranger for many genres, his clients include drum and bugle corps, marching bands, brass quintets, brass bands, (many of these for Motor City Brass Band), orchestras, professional and school jazz bands, and national as well as local acts and bands. For more information about Craig's arrangements and other musical organizations, please go to www.craigstrain.com.

The MCBB Experience



Motor City Brass Band (MCBB) has a history of providing a wide variety of music and programming that will appeal to audiences of all types. Drawing from the tradition of the British brass band movement, MCBB performs music that covers virtually all styles and eras of music.

MCBB programs are developed to include classical, jazz, Broadway, patriotic, popular, and even some novelty music. Adding to the variety and quality of many MCBB performances are arrangements written for the band by our Music Director and Conductor, Craig Strain.

Each program reflects the diversity of the brass band, as well as the high level of musicianship of the performers. This variety means that every MCBB program will have something that appeals to every audience member.

Previously Performed Programs:

Horns & Howls

A fun concert with a theme to match. The band dresses in costume, and the program includes a childrens' Halloween Parade (complete with treats) as well as a costume contest for the adults. In 2012, the theme was Fire & Ice.

- Festive Overture: Fire of Eternal Glory
- Maid of the Mist (Cornet Solo)
- Dragons Arise
- Sun (Euphonium Solo)
- Grim, Grinnin' Ghosts

Sounds of the Season

Featuring holiday music of all types, Sounds of the Season is a perfect way to get into the spirit of the holidays.

- Christmas Intrada
- Fantasia & Fugue
- Baby It's Cold Outside
- The First Noel
- Winter Wonderland

Special Themes

Each year as a part of its concert series, MCBB has one performance with a theme that changes every year. An example of this is Under the Big Top:

- Entry of the Gladiators
- Carnival Overture
- Baby Mine
- Harlequin
- Barnum & Bailey
- The Peanut Vendor

Patriotic

A staple of the band's summer programming is American and patriotic music. This program highlights MCBB's penchant for striking a patriotic tone as well as providing a diverse and enjoyable concert.

- Star Spangled Banner
- Strike Up the Band
- American Salute
- America, the Beautiful
- Over the Rainbow

What People Are Saying



"A high energy band streaked by a good-time vibe and musicianship sharp enough to cover a charmingly eclectic repertoire"

Detroit Free Press

"Musicians who always have a great time playing ...and it shows!"

greatstufftodo.com

"Top Notch"

Mark Stryker, Detroit Free Press Music Writer

"The most professional group of amateur musicians with whom I have ever been associated."

Craig Strain, MCBB Music Director & Conductor

"Motor City Brass Band took the stage, and not only are they phenomenal musicians, but they are SHOWMEN!"

Lee Hart, Music Director, Woodside Bible Church, Troy, MI

"The music is beautiful, always so transporting to the time the music was created. I save the concert music and get some of the pieces out of the library. I loved the Bach & Brubeck—wow!"

"The attitude of Craig & the band – they LOVE playing, having fun and sharing music so EVERYONE in the audience gets hooked --feels that love of great music!"

"Overall, a very special energy that just gets your toes tapping, your heart flying high, and makes your day, week and month."

Peggy Bocks

"I feel very enriched having experienced the music that Craig Strain and his fellow musicians make available to us. I urge you to support MCBB today so that we can continue to benefit from such outstanding music now and into the future."

Marilyn Kornmesser, MCBB Supporter

Booking Information

The following items are requested for a performance by the Motor City Brass Band. If there is any item you cannot provide, please contact us immediately.

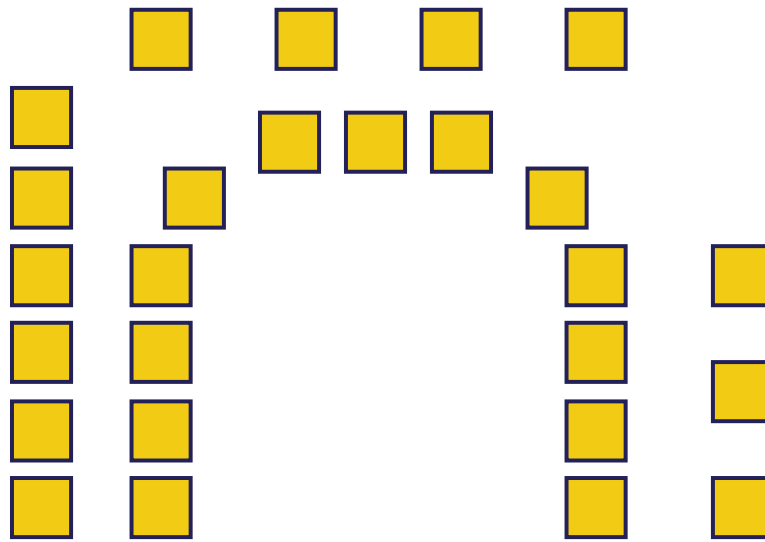
MCBB is very flexible and will work to create a spectacular performance for your unique space.

1. A stage or stage area with minimum dimensions that are 35' wide by 35' deep.
2. 30 chairs without arms.
3. Two lighted music stands for the conductor, no podium.
4. 30 music stands, preferably the heavy black metal type, with stand lights.
5. Light board operator and follow spot operator. MCBB will provide a lighting assistant to aide in details.
6. Announcer's podium with a microphone set at downstage left and a sound technician for concert announcements.
7. Separate dressing rooms for men and women with nearby bathroom facilities.
8. If a sound shell is available, it would be helpful.
9. One 6' long by 8' wide by 12" high stage platform stage left for Drum Set.
10. One 8' long by 8' wide by 12" high stage platform center stage for 4 timpani.
11. Amenities: Some type of hot meal, bottled water and/or fruit juice, soda and coffee appropriate for thirty people. These items should be available 45 minutes before, and through the intermission, and will be at no cost to Motor City Brass Band.
12. Stage Crew: minimum of two stage hands to assist the MCBB crew in the loading and the load out of percussion equipment will be available for up to two hours prior to the performance time and through one hour after the performance ends.
13. Travel directions, and information about equipment truck and band member parking.



Booking Information

Concert Set Up & Stage Layout



Press Release Information

Update the press release template below to send to local media four weeks prior to performance.

Motor City Brass Band will perform on ____ (date) at ____ (venue)

Metro Detroit's premiere British-style brass band will present an entertaining concert of fun and challenging brass works.

CITY, STATE (DATE) – Since 1996, Metro Detroit's Motor City Brass Band (MCBB) has produced concerts that are energetic, fun for the whole family, and present the best of the brass band genre. With dazzling set design and extraordinary showmanship, MCBB performances are more than a concert, they're a show! MCBB will perform on ____ (date) at ____ (time) at ____ (venue).

Called by the Detroit Free Press "A high energy band streaked by a good-time vibe and musicianship sharp enough to cover a charmingly eclectic repertoire," MCBB takes pride in producing a quality and entertaining musical experience for the whole family. Currently ranked among the top brass bands in the country, MCBB is led by the artistic vision of conductor and music director Craig Strain.

[DESCRIPTION OF THE UNIQUE PERFORMANCE MCBB WILL PRESENT AT YOUR VENUE]

[QUOTATIONS FROM YOUR ORGANIZATION'S LEADERSHIP WILL HELP STRENGTHEN THE PRESS RELEASE.]

Tickets to see Motor City Brass Band are ____ (ticket prices). To purchase, please call ____ (box office number) or go online to ____ (box office website).

[CONCLUDE WITH SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION]

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Contact Information

Press Contact:

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For high resolution photos of Motor City Brass Band visit our photo gallery at
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/94423165@N02/>



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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/7967184850/>



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