

Happy Birthday
20 years of
Mnozil Brass

A Jubilee Programme

Friday, October 18, 2013
Fisher Auditorium
IUP Performing Arts Center
Presented in Celebration of
International Education Week

*Concert information and program notes have
been provided, unedited, by the artists.*

Boot Overture

Mnozil Brass 1, Arr: Mnozil Brass 2

Flötenuummer

J. Haydn, Arr: Mnozil Brass

Rede + Krankstück

Leonhard Paul, Arr: Leonhard Paul

Streets of San Francisco

Henry Mancini, Arr: Leonhard Paul

Gnossienne

Eric Satie, Arr: Gerhard Füssl

Navigator

Fons/Garcia, Arr: Gerhard Fül

I can't give you anything but love

Jimmy Hugh, Arr: Leonhard Paul

Kajak Champion Fanfare

Leonhard Paul, Arr: Leonhard Paul

Bertolo@Hammerwerfen.At

Thomas Gansch, Arr: Thomas Gansch

Bertolo@Speerwerfen.At

Thomas Gansch, Arr: Thomas Gansch

Bertolo@Gewichtheben.At

Thomas Gansch, Arr: Thomas Gansch

Olympic Medley (Medley)

Chariots of Fire: Vangelis, Arr:
Mnozil Brass 2

Rocky Theme: Bill Conty, Arr: Le-
onhard Paul

Marsch aus der Nussknacker: P. I.
Tchaikovsky, Arr: Mnozil Brass 2

Donauwalzer: Johann Strauss, Arr:
Mnozil Brass 2

Florentiner March

Julius Fucik, Arr: Mnozil Brass

Schnapsodie

Leonhard Paul, Arr: Leonhard Paul

• *Intermission* •

Präludium No 22

J. S. Bach, Arr: Leonhard Paul

Slibowitz

Gerhard Füssl, Arr: Gerhard Fül

Moon River

Henry Mancini, Arr: Leonhard Paul

Birdland

Joe Zawinul, Arr: Leonhard Paul

*Ich hatt einen Kameraden/So ein Tag, so
wunderschön wie heute*

Fr. Silcher/Lotar Olias, Arr: Mnozil Brass

Lonely Boy

Paul Anka, Arr: Mnozil Brass 2

Pop Medley

Earth, Wind and Fire/S. Wonder/R.
Gibb/J. Jackson/S. Winwood/M. Jackson,
Arr: Mnozil Brass/L. Paul/T. Gansch

May Way

C. Francois/J. Revaux

Bohemian Rhapsody

Freddy Mercury, Arr: Mnozil Brass
*This song is our all time favourite. Queen
is one of the best bands that ever per-
formed on earth.*

Bic

Thomas Gansch, Arr: Thomas Gansch

Piccado

Leonhard Paul, Arr: Leonhard Paul

Tired Bones

Leonhard Paul, Arr: Leonhard Paul

Happy Birthday

Hooray, we've managed the first twenty years!

Mnozil Brass has received incredibly positive reviews in the papers. The ensemble is virtuosic and probably the strangest brass septet ever to emerge from Vienna. We would like to offer them our heartfelt birthday congratulations. And if anyone would like to join us on that, let us extend a warm invitation to the series of jubilee concerts!

So who exactly is inviting you? Well, that would be: Thomas Gansch, Robert Rother and Roman Rindberger on trumpets, Leonhard Paul on the bass trumpet and trombone, and Gerhard Füssl and Zoltan Kiss also on trombones, as well as Wilfried Brandstötter on tuba. The repertoire includes occasional brass music for any age and stage of life, performed now for twenty years. No note is too high, no lips too hot, no music too unimportant or too serious not to be taken on by Mnozil Brass, who always manage to make something great out of it. Music by Mnozil Brass appeals to all the senses. It is almost visible, and, when they take the stage, the very air seems perfumed.

All seven members of the band studied at the University of Music in Vienna, graduating as well-rounded musicians who, in the meantime, have found their places too as teachers in professional musical life. But they never lost their nerve and remain flippant enough to create from their virtuosic playing and unique kind of comedy the kind of scenes on stage, which are so clever that they would be worthy of Monty Python.



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Despite or maybe because of their academic backgrounds, it is important and, we add, perhaps necessary to have fun. Musical cabaret and comedy are rare birds indeed. And Mnozil Brass assumes they will be playing for an intelligent audience, one able to imagine what they are getting at. Enlightenment is their watchword, and this is paired with a kind of laid back perfection. This is what the septet is known for, and loved for. Not only in the city centre of Vienna.

What began as a session in a rustic restaurant was soon to take root and become part of concert life. In between times, they have given more than 120 concerts each year. In total, Mnozil Brass thinks they must have played a total of 1846 concerts, travelled at least 14,821,613.4 kilometres and consumed around 10,003 bread

rolls with sausage meat. Other than that, probably ca. four hectolitres of sparkling, yeast-ridden brews and spir-its have been quaffed, and around two hectolitres of CO2 neutral condensed water must have dripped out the end of their instruments.

Over the years, Thomas has produced the note c''' (loud) 46,281 times, Roman c'''' (soft) 247 times, and Robert c'''''' (with optimum temperatures and tailwind) twelve times. Gerhard has played innumerable glissandi, and now suffers from tennis arm. As for Zoltan, his playing has so touched a nerve amongst audiences that people have broken down in tears. Leonhard, for his part, has ordained that the bass trumpet is actually a musical instrument. Wilfried's tuba has fallen over four times now. So, as you see, there is every reason for a jubilee tour!

After three successful operetta and opera productions in the last few years, Mnozil Brass continue their extraordinary career by ringing in the changes for 2013. On the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Richard Wagner, the ensemble has been entrusted with a production for the City of Bayreuth. A pinnacle of success we are bound to assume. Congratulations all round!

Mnozil Brass: From then till now

The Gasthaus Mnozil is in the famous 1st "Bezirk" (quarter) of the City of Vienna, directly opposite the Music Conservatoire. Fate played a role, and in 1992 seven young brass musicians were lucky enough to be able to take part in the regular music series held in the restaurant under the auspices of Josef Mnozil himself. Soon, origi-

nal folk tunes had become occasional pieces, without any need for the music. It appeals to all ages and stages of life: typical brass music: hit tunes, jazz, pop, opera and operetta. No sense of fear here, no reprisals for anything out of place, and all played with an open mind, typical Viennese "Schmäh" (almost impossible to find an English equivalent, but best rendered as a kind of sarcastic charm), along with immense technical skills.

Mnozil Brass gives around 130 annual concerts now all over the world from the farthest reaches of the European continent to Israel, Russia, China, Taiwan, Japan, Canada, the U.S., and Australia. They play to full houses, at the famous Burgtheater in Vienna e.g. or the KKL in Lucerne, at the Royal Albert Hall in London, or the Tchaikovsky Conservatoire in Moscow, the Jahrhunderthalle in Bochum, the opera houses in Munich, Stuttgart, Wiesbaden and Leipzig, the Thalia Theater in Hamburg, the Düsseldorf Schauspielhaus and at the Berliner Ensemble. As for the Gasthaus Mnozil, well, they fill that too of course, but in a somewhat different way.

Mnozil Brass is an incredibly creative band. Since 2000 they have produced a new stage show almost every year: "Zimt" (2000), "Smoke" (2001), "Ragazzi" (2002), "Seven" (2004), "Das Gelbe vom Ei" (2007), "Magic Moments" (2009), and "Mnozil spielt Mnozil" (2010).

And in between there was even time left over for some successful theatre work "Das trojanische Boot" (Operetta by Mnozil Brass and Bernd Jeschek, Premiere at the RuhrTriennale 2005, Dir: Bernd Jeschek, Music: Mnozil Brass); "Irmingard" ("wahr-

cheinlich eine Oper“ by Mnozil Brass and Bernd Jeschek, Premiere at the Salzburger Festspielen, 2008, Dir: Bernd Jeschek, Music: Mnozil Brass); and “Blofeld“ (Premiere at the Ludwigsburger Schlossfestspielen, 2011 | Dir. and choreography: Ferdinando Chefalo, Music: Mnozil Brass).

Their any awards include the 2001 Nomination for the Amadeus Austrian Music Award and 2006 Cabaret Prize “Salzburger Stier,” the most renowned prize in German-speaking territories.

CDs:

- “Volksmusik aus Österreich No Ziel” (Mnozil Brass & Gansch Schwestern), 1997
- “Wenn der Kaiser grooved”, 1998
- “Dasselbe in grün”, 2000
- “Zimt”, 2000
- “Smoke live”, 2002
- “Ragazzi”, 2004
- “What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life?”, 2007
- “Almrausch”, 2009

Six stage shows are already on DVD:

- “Seven”, 2005
- “Das Trojanische Boot”, 2007
- “Das Gelbe vom Ei - La Crème de la Crème”, 2008
- “Irmingard”, 2008
- “Magic Moments”, 2010
- “Blofeld”, 2012

The Musicians

Thomas Gansch

Born Melk an der Donau. One of the band’s founding members. At the time he was at the tender age of 17, but had already deputised at the Vienna Staatsoper. His love of jazz was stronger however and thus it is that he became one of the most successful trumpeters in Austria, one who led in terms of style. He can play anything on his instrument: jazz, classical, cross-

over and anything in between. Other than that he is like a whirlwind on stage and can tell a good joke or two, with perfect comic timing. When he has time off, he composes for Mnozil Brass and makes sure new projects come to fruition.

Robert Rother

Like Thomas, he also hails from Melk an der Donau, where they both played as children in a wind band conducted by Thomas’ pretty strict father. Polkas were on the programme, but they played waltzes and marches too. A good learning experience it seems. Robert can engender a tone that is guaranteed to bring anyone to tears. With so much longing and so much feeling. By way of contrast to Thomas, he hardly moves on stage at all and lets the music just speak for itself.

Roman Rindberger

He was also born into a musical family and played folk music as youngster with his father and two brothers. His father Hans, in turn, would meet up with Gerhard Füssl’s father Franz, because the families lived nearby. Roman loves classical and the more technical passages, ones he renders with the precision of a Swiss clock-maker. And he even claims to know how it works! Anyone who wants to know more about brass music, then Roman is the man for you. On stage he plays the Latin Lover.

Leonhard Paul

He was born in Mödling nr. Vienna and is the first musician his family ever produced. Although there was a grandfather who earned his money as a painter and whose pictures hang in every other house in the better areas of Vienna. Recently, the other members of the band have started to be a little concerned about him be-

cause he seems to have taken a liking to shady characters. Everyone wishes to play the hero, but he has taken on roles which display the darker side of man. So what is going on in his head exactly?

Gerhard Füssl

He grew up not far away from where Roman lived and was also able to count on a father who taught him much about brass music. He is the most loved among the group, probably because he looks after financial matters. Everyone tries to keep on his good side. And no-one wants to encourage his wrath, remaining as friendly as can be. For his part, he is usually friendly to all in turn.

Zoltan Kiss

Austrian folk music was certainly not part of his background, as he was born in Budapest. He spent some time in Poland before finally settling in Vienna, where he plays trombone in four languages. One of the group's favourite games is to put some really difficult music on his stand and see if he can play it. And he can! His technical skills on the instrument are amazing, it takes one's breath away. And bets have been placed as to when and how something will be written that he cannot master. The higher the line goes, the better, the lower it goes too. It just cannot be fast enough that he cannot play it.

Wilfried Brandstötter

He began his meteoric rise to fame on the humble recorder. After that he sang treble in the choir. And then he wanted to be a vi-

olinist. It seemed he had settled for the trumpet before finally plumping for the tuba. Speed is not his thing really. What he likes to do best is to produce some nice notes that are neither too high nor too low and make the concert hall and those sitting in it resonate in a pleasant way. He has no idea why people like tunes in brisk tempi.

20 Years of Mnozil Brass: Hear them live!

U.S. Dates 2013

- October 18, Indiana PA, IUP Fisher Auditorium
- October 19, Grand Ledge, MI
- October 20, Bethlehem, PA, Lehigh Zoellner Arts Center
- October 22, Davis CA, Mondavi Arts Center
- October 23, Azusa, CA, Azusa Pacific University
- October 25, Fayetteville, NC, Walton Arts Center
- October 27, Gainesville, FL, University of Florida

www.mnozilbrass.at

