

Geneva Brass Quintet—Brass@ge

Samuel Gaille and Lionel Walter, trumpets; Christophe Sturzenegger, horn; David Rey, trombone; Eric Rey, tuba.

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Handel (Torreilles): *Arrivée de la Reine de Saba*; Crausaz: *First Suite for Brass Quintet*; Sturzenegger: *Fanfare pour GBQ*; Stephenson: *Quintett*; Arutunian: *Armenian Scenes*; Sturzenegger: *Quatre Fanfares*; Roblee: *Early Days from American Images*; Sturzenegger: *L'Encyclopédie de l'opéra*; Lavallée (Cable): *La Rose Nuptiale*.



The Geneva Brass Quintet was formed in 2001. The members met at the Geneva Conservatory of Music, all first-prize winners for virtuosity. This 2009 offering, entitled *Brass@ge*, is a journey of “passages” in and around a variety of styles and vivid musical scenes. GBQ does

not sound like a typical brass quintet, but, rather, more like a large wind ensemble. The depth, richness and fullness are very well balanced. Their collective timbres provide a gorgeous blend of colors, and their choice of literature matches their personality precisely. *Fanfare pour GBQ* is full of textual, harmonic, and tempo surprises. Arutunian's *Armenian Scenes* is a beautiful soundscape resonating with the nostalgic and familiar tonal palette with which trumpeters are so familiar in Arutunian's music. Opera fans must listen to the exciting *L'encyclopédie de l'opéra*. GBQ hornist Christophe Sturzenegger does a stunning arrangement of twelve themes from eleven different operas, all in one beautiful piece. This selection includes themes from such works as Beethoven's *Fidelio*, Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman* and *The Valkyrie*, Bizet's *Carmen*, and Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* and *William Tell*. The overall ensemble is nothing less than first class. Their technique, intonation, and musicianship are polished and sparkle brightly. The CD packaging is colorfully eye-catching and clean. The back of the CD jacket clearly lists the pieces and times for each piece. The liner notes, printed in both English and French, are full of performer biographies, notes on the works, and information about the group. This wonderful recording would make a wonderful addition to any brass ensemble CD library. (Jim Martincic, instructor of music, Aurora University, Aurora, IL)