



Copper Street Brass Mission

The mission of the Copper Street Brass (CSB) is to represent the *Evolution of the Brass Quintet*. Through inventive concerts, engaging educational programs, and original musical arrangements, we bring a fresh perspective to instrumental music. To express our artistic voice, we use a dazzling fusion of brass, keyboard, guitar, percussion, and electronic instruments to appeal to a universal audience and go beyond ordinary.

Group Biography - 2016-2017 Season

The Copper Street Brass is the premier brass chamber ensemble in Minnesota and one of only a handful of self-sustaining brass groups in the country. We were founded in 2008 as a professionally trained classical chamber music ensemble (which means we perform *without* a conductor) with two trumpets, horn, trombone and tuba. We present exclusively our own music, which is an original blend of musical styles from Mozart to Madonna, in over 30 concerts and 100 outreach services each season.

Our group sound has been described by reviewers as “flawless”, “polished”, and “somewhere between magnificent and exquisite.” Our artistic excellence was widely recognized in 2013 when we were chosen as a finalist for the prestigious McKnight Artist Fellowship. Each of our individual artists is a master of his or her craft. Our 6 core musicians, Allison Hall, Josh Cameron, Tim Bradley, Alex Wolff, Nick Adragna, and Reid Kennedy have a combined 11 professional music and education degrees and thousands of performances under our belts. Our artists have performed with world-renowned classical ensembles like the Minnesota Orchestra, SPCO, MN Opera and Malaysian Philharmonic and also have the versatility to perform with jazz/blues groups such as Davina and the Vagabonds and Nooky Jones. Our musicians have recorded for Prince, Grammy-winner Big Walter Smith, and many other groups.

We have two main programs: our **Twin Cities Season** and **regional concert & educational touring**. Our **Twin Cities Season** is 5 self-produced programs (12 total concerts) bundled together as a subscription Concert Series and Free Family Series, which continue to exceed audience goals each season and gives our musicians agency to create one-of-a-kind programs every year.

“We feel that The CSB’s Twin Cities Concert Series is among the most important in the area because it attracts audiences that are diverse in every way, and is held in unique performance venues that are easily accessible. The modest ticket price makes it possible for people of all ages to enjoy this excellent concert series, whether young families or retired music lovers.” - **Mike McCarthy, CSB patron**

The **CSB tours** annually to every corner of Minnesota to perform concerts and present educational activities, often in communities underserved by professional artists. Our concert and educational program bookings take us to at least 10 communities in greater MN each season, with recent visits to small, rural communities like Karlstad,



Fosston, and Tracy. Our tour programming reaches *more than 10,500 people annually* from kindergarteners through seniors, at one to three-day residencies in communities across Minnesota.

The CSB leads over 100 educational programs each season, far more than any other arts ensemble in the Upper Midwest. Our excellence in educational programming has led to recent partnerships such as serving as a Class Notes Artist for Minnesota Public Radio and Artists-in-Residence for The Schubert Club's *KidsJam* and Composer Mentorship programs. We are celebrating the eighth year of our partnership with the Minneapolis Public Schools, called the "Chamber Music Skills Camp". This year-long program focuses specifically on middle-school music students and provides an intensive, in-depth exploration of key musical skills alongside professional musicians using chamber music as the medium. The CMSC develops transferrable leadership and musical skills which students bring back into full band, creating a lasting impact in each middle school music class and beyond.

"Any day that my students and I get to share with the Copper Street Brass is a great day. They are wonderful teachers, outstanding musicians, and are all around great people. I am lucky to know and work with them."

- ***Charlie Preis, CMSC partner teacher at Northeast Middle School in Minneapolis***

The CSB has been heard by thousands of people outside of the Twin Cities area on local concert series performances, summer music festivals, performances with school bands, and collaborations with other local arts groups. Recent performance activities include concert tours throughout Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, and New Mexico. We have captured our exclusive arrangements on five commercially available records.

When not on stage with the CSB, our members are in high demand as educators, appearing as Teaching Artists in hundreds of classrooms and panelists for arts entrepreneurship panels at colleges and Universities across the country. The CSB's musicians teach individual lessons from their own studios as well as at St. Olaf College, Concordia University, MacPhail Center for Music, and numerous public and private schools around the Twin Cities.