The University of Rochester Brass Choir

presents:

**Blast Off!**

A Concert of Premieres

Friday, February 26, 2016 at 7 PM
Hirst Lounge (in Wilson Commons)

Fanfare and Burlesque  
John Zdechlik

Grand Choeur Triomphale  
Alexandre Guilmant
arr. E. Limbach

Five by Five  
Josef Hanson

I. Exponentiation  
II. Jive by Five  
III. To The Fifth Power  
IV. Pentagram  
V. The One-Legged Polka

The Ten Commandments  
Elmer Bernstein
arr. S. Morabito

Brooklyn  
Youngblood Brass Band
arr. M. Yetto
Thank you for joining us for *Blast Off! A Concert of Premieres.* We hope you enjoy hearing this music for the first time. Wilson Commons, our venue of choice for this concert, might seem like an unusual setting for a brass ensemble performance, but we think its expansive acoustic environment greatly enhances what we are trying to do. Thanks again for attending!

**Fanfare and Burlesque by John Zdechlik**
A native of Minnesota (where he still resides), John Zdechlik taught music at Century College for many years and has composed over 60 works for band, chamber ensembles, and solo instruments. His music is well-known to a generation of band musicians who honed their technique on *Chorale and Shaker Dance, Celebrations*, and *Fox River Valley Overture*. Zdechlik also serves as conductor of the Minneapolis Brass Ensemble and specializes in works for large brass choir. I reached out to him in search of unpublished brass works, and he generously provided the pair of works presented tonight, which he composed separately and later grouped into a single work. After the festive mixed-meter *Fanfare*, the euphoniums and tubas will lead the ensemble through the oddly charming *Burlesque*, complete with interjections from the upper brasses and a whiz whistle.

**Grand Choeur Triomphale by Alexandre Guilmant, arranged by Eric Limbach**
One of the great organists of the 19th century, Alexandre Guilmant was born in France but traveled the world as a celebrated soloist, teacher, and church musician. Guilmant wrote the *Grand Choeur Triomphale* (or *Grand Triumphal Chorus*) for pipe organ in 1876. UR Department of History faculty member and Brass Choir member Dr. Eric Limbach arranged tonight’s version for brass. The exuberant march is preceded by a fanfare figure which reappears at important structural moments. Each appearance of the main theme includes new contrapuntal themes and/or harmonic intensification. In the middle of the piece, a less martial trio section features conically-constructed members of the brass family; namely, horns and euphoniums.

**Five by Five by Josef M. Hanson**
In radio parlance, the phrase “five by five” refers to the highest level of signal strength and clarity. I designed this suite of short movements as a reflection of the number five and its mathematical, religious, and cultural significance. After five strokes of the snare drum, the first movement, “Exponentiation,” features a melody comprising intervals that mirror successive powers of five: 5, 25, 125, 625, and so on. “Jive by Five” consists of an original blues melody (a slight nod to Red Garland’s “Blues by Five”) juxtaposed with Count Basie’s swing classic “Jive at Five.” The third movement, “To The Fifth Power,” returns to the exponentiation technique of the first movement, this time by creating rhythmic patterns gleaned by using five as an exponent: $1^5$, $2^5$, $3^5$ (1, 32, 243, etc.). “Pentagram,” the cacophonous fourth movement, is only five measures long. It showcases the diminished fifth (or tritone), the pentatonic scale, and some furious drumming by our percussionist, Will Keefer. “The One-Legged Polka” provides a slightly off-kilter ending to the suite, with its fits and starts, irregular 5/8 meter, and sloppy trombone melody.
**The Ten Commandments** by Elmer Bernstein, arranged by Scott Morabito

“So let it be written! So let it be done!” In Cecil B. De Mille’s epic 1956 film *The Ten Commandments*, Pharaoh Rameses II (played by Yul Brynner) utters these words after each of his nefarious decrees, setting into motion one of the most astonishing (and melodramatic) cinematic displays of that era. While the acting and special effects might not seem so special today, Elmer Bernstein’s score has stood the test of time. An unabashed Romanticist in the style of Berlioz or Strauss, Bernstein toiled over the score for more than a year. The result was one of the longest movie soundtracks of all time, carefully integrated to fit the dramatic action in each scene and riddled with Wagnerian leitmotifs. Whether due to economic limitations or artistic preference, Bernstein dispensed with orchestral strings for most of his *Ten Commandments* score…and we brass players thank him for that! After a prelude based on Bernstein’s “Moses Theme,” our arrangement quickly moves to “The Exile in the Desert,” where Moses wandered for 40 years. An additional theme, known as “Deliverance,” becomes more prominent as the story moves along. It finally appears in full when Rameses is left in awe after his army is swallowed by the Red Sea. Tonight’s arrangement was prepared by UR graduate and Brass Choir emeritus member, Scott Morabito (‘10, Economics), who received his MBA from the Rochester Institute of Technology and now works for Manning & Napier in Fairport, NY.

**Brooklyn** by the Youngblood Brass Band, arranged by Matthew Yetto

Formed in Madison, WI in 2000, the Youngblood Brass Band mixes hip-hop, punk, and New Orleans jazz into a musical gumbo described as “ecstatic, raucous, and incendiary.” The band refers to its style as “riot jazz.” The tune we will perform tonight, “Brooklyn,” is the band’s most popular single to date and showcases a more contemporary side of the UR Brass Choir. The song was arranged by UR Brass Choir member Matthew Yetto (‘16), a native of New Hampshire who is double majoring in biology and mathematics.
2016 UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER BRASS CHOIR
Dr. Josef M. Hanson, director

**TRUMPETS**
Alex McKinley
Brendan Chin
Baiju Sharda
Brianna Herron
Scott Morabito
Dean Ekberg
Jason Tiemer
Famous Clark
David Meister
Lisa Rosenfeld
Stuart Goldstein
Steve Hahn

**TROMBONES**
Matt Yetto
Alexandra Nelligan
John Cole
Caroline Santos
Gianna Macri
Ben Wucher
Colin Pronovost
Eric Hebert
Sarah Briscoe
Amelia Petrosino
Jon Campanaro
Brenden Sullivan (bass)

**HORNS**
Dr. Eric Limbach
Morena Heyden
Rebecca Silver
Alyssa Lombardi
Chris Plunkett
Tristan Ford
Kailey Ferger
Fiona Jones

**EUPHONIUM**
Dr. Lynn Selke
Josh Acklin
Matthew Delsordo
Darren Fujii
Scott Kirschner

**TUBA**
Janet Sorrells
Richard Hellinger

**PERCUSSION**
Will Keefer