

Kansas Brass Quintet

Members

STEVE LEISRING joined the KU faculty as Assistant Professor of Trumpet and Principal Trumpet of the Kansas Brass Quintet in the fall of 2004 after fourteen seasons as a member of the Tenerife Symphony Orchestra, Canary Islands, Spain. As a member of the orchestra, he made more than 25 orchestral recordings, and regularly performed with world-class artists throughout Spain and other European countries. Other experience include performing as Principal Trumpet and soloist with the Tenerife Chamber Orchestra, as well as performances with Neemi Jarvi and the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra from Sweden, the Dallas Symphony, and the Music in the Mountains Festival Orchestra in Durango, CO. An active teacher while in Spain, former students from the island of Tenerife have gone on to perform with the New York Philharmonic, Pacific Music Festival in Japan, as well as in music festivals in France, Finland and Spain

NITAI PONS-TRUMPET

A native of Yauco, Puerto Rico, Nitai is currently pursuing a Doctoral degree in trumpet performance with Professor Stephen Leisring, as well as serving as a Teaching Assistant. He has a Masters from KU in 2007, and received his Bachelors in Music Education from the Puerto Rick Music Conservatory in 2001. Nitai has a great deal of performing experience, having played with ensembles such as the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra, the Lawrence Chamber Orchestra, the Fountain City Brass Band, the Caribbean Brass Quintet, Principal Trumpet of both the University of Kansas Symphony Orchestra and the University of Kansas Wind Ensemble, the Idyllwild Festival Orchestra, and the Festival of the Youth Symphony Orchestra of the Americas (FOSJA), Puerto Rico. His principal teachers have been Stephen Leisring, Ronald Romm, Roberto Ramierz, Vincent Penzarella, and Richard Giangiulio.

Netai is in his first season with the Kansas Brass Quintet. He has received such honors as Semi Finalist Soloist, National Trumpet Competition, First Prize, Music Teacher National Association State of Kansas Chamber Music Competition, and Third Prize in the MTNA Regional Chamber Competition.

PAUL STEVENS-HORN

Paul is Assistant Professor of Horn at the University of Kansas where he is a member of the Kansas Brass Quintet and the Kansas Woodwinds. He also plays principal horn in the Lawrence Chamber Orchestra and often with the Kansas City Symphony. Paul recently completed a DMA in horn at UCLA, and continues to maintain an active performing schedule in Southern California, appearing with the Los Angeles Opera, Los Angeles Opera Chorale, Los Angeles Mozart Orchestra, San Diego Opera, Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, Joffrey Ballet Orchestra, the Long Beach Symphony, and on such television and film scores as "Star Trek: Generations", "Voyager", "Deep Space Nine", "The Next Generation" "Ransom", and "What Dreams May Come". Nationally, Stevens has also performed with the New York Philharmonic, the American Ballet Theatre, and the Houston, San Francisco, and Oregon Symphonies. In the summers he is a Featured Artist at the San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival and a Permanent member of the Martha's Vineyard Chamber Music Society.

Michael Davidson

Michael is Assistant Professor of Trombone, is also principal trombonist of the Shreveport Symphony Orchestra (a position he's held since 1985), solo trombonist of the Kansas City's own Fountain City Brass Band, and trombonist with the Kansas Brass Quintet and the LATEX Trombone Quartet. He's performed with the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, the Tulsa Philharmonic Orchestra, the Spoleto Festival Orchestra USA, and in local "one night stand" performances with the Four Tops, Ray Charles, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Johnny Mathis, Kathy Mattea, Emmylou Harris, Mel Tormé, and many others. He will play the 2007-2008 season with the St. Joseph (MO) Symphony Orchestra as acting principal trombonist. He has performed at state music education conferences in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Ohio, and at International Trombone Association conventions and the Eastern Trombone Workshop with the LATEX Trombone Quartet .

Mike earned a Bachelors in Music Education and the Performer's Certificate on trombone from the University of Florida, an M.Ed. from Centenary College of Louisiana, and a D.M.A. in trombone performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Before coming to KU he taught at Benedictine College, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, the University of Arkansas at Monticello, Centenary College of Louisiana, and in several public schools in Northwest Louisiana. He still serves as conductor of the Benedictine College/Atchison Symphony Orchestra and writes literature and recording reviews for the *International Trombone Association* and *National Association of Wind and Percussion Instructors* journals. Mike was twice selected for inclusion in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*, named the 1991 Caddo Association of Educators Music Teacher of the Year, and elected to membership in the American School Band Directors Association in 1996 . His major teachers include Richard W. Bowles, Roy Pickering, Donald Yaxley, Raymond Turner, Andrew Russell, Tony Chipurn, David Vining, and Roger Oyster.

SCOTT WATSON-TUBA

Scott Watson is now in his 28th season with the Kansas Brass Quintet, an association that dates back to 1979. His solo efforts can be heard on their CD titled "Rare Breeds & Dog-Eared Classics. From 1999-2001, Watson was elected and served as President of the International Tuba Euphonium Association from 1999-2001 and currently serves on their Board of Directors. Professor of Tuba-Euphonium at the University of Kansas he is an acclaimed soloist, clinician, and chamber musician, Scott has concertized all over the world; with composers such as James Barnes, Walter Hartley, Elliot Schwartz, Igor Rekhin, and Charles Hoag all composing works especially for his talents. Along with Winston Morris he is Co-Artistic Director of one of music's most unusual ensembles-the acclaimed tuba-euphonium chamber orchestra SYMPHONIA, which has released three CD recordings on Mark Records. Scott also regularly performs with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Kansas City Brassworks, and the Fountain City Brass Band of Kansas City. His career has seen performances with such groups and individuals as the Brevard Music Center Festival Orchestra, Kansas City Symphony, the Infinity Brass Quintet of the Martha's Vineyard Chamber Music Festival; Kansas City Symphony Brass Quintet; the Crested Butte Music Festival Orchestra, Dizzy Gillespie, the Jack Daniels Silver Cornet Band, the Chestnut Brass Company, the New American Tuba Quartet, and countless shows, performances and other free lance work each year. He is also on the faculty of the Midwestern Music Camp and has served on the faculties of the Brevard Music Center, the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and Baker University. At KU he is the proud director of the KU Tuba-Euphonium Consort and serves as Director of the Division of Brass and Percussion. Scott Watson is an Artist/Clinician for Willson Tubas.