

BRAM GREGSON, MUSIC DIRECTOR

www.brassroots.ca
bramgregson@rogers.com
226.448.7821

The Brassroots INSIDER

Vol. 10, Issue 2 • January 2015

"South Western Ontario's Favourite Brass Ensemble"



London Arts Council

FAMILY OF MILTON & VERNA
GOOD FOUNDATION INC. SINCE 1974

From our music director Bram Gregson

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We thank you for your support in 2014. For twenty-nine years, Brassroots has made a vibrant contribution to the cultural landscape of our community and much further afield. If you supported Brassroots by attending our concerts or by donation, you have helped 'to keep the ship afloat'! We are passionate about our art form, viz. brass performance. Your continued support is vital for our future.

The attendance at our October concert (the first of the current season) was a disappointment. On the other hand, about four hundred attended our Christmas concert. The concert, our gift to the community, was considered by many to be our finest Christmas concert. Several new charts made this especially enjoyable for us!

For the fourth consecutive year - Stephen Holowitz, the church choir and the volunteers who prepared the post-concert reception - were enthusiastic participants.

We were saddened by the demise of Orchestra London so we thought we would ask our audience - at the Christmas concert - for their views on a variety of issues.

The results are shown on page 2. In brief however, it was evident that:

- ✓ respondents preferred eclectic programming;
- ✓ presenting classical music only would be courting disaster;
- ✓ while some stated opposition to our having guest performers, most preferred instrumental guests while choirs were a close second.
- ✓ there was significant support for an increase in ticket prices for the 2015-16 season
- ✓ 20% were attending a Brassroots' concert for the first time!
- ✓ a significant number indicated that their attendance at future concerts would depend on the type of music to be performed

We can provide eclectic programming! We just want more people in the seats on a regular basis to secure our future! You can help us! Tell someone about our concerts; take the poster from page four and place it on a bulletin board. It would be appreciated.

And on the subject of eclecticism, our next concert is an example of what Brassroots can do! A look at the poster provides a clue to the great variety of music you will hear when brilliant keyboard artists Angus Sinclair, Peter Clements and Stephen Holowitz collaborate with us in super new arrangements. We believe this is a first; the mighty organ, grand piano, electric keyboard, Hammond Organ and maybe even a harmonica; taking turns with our blazing brass and percussion. We can't wait! *Bram*



THINK SUMMER! OFF TO A GIG IN SUMMER 2008 (BRASSROOTS ARCHIVES)

Our Final Concert of the Season



Concert #4

Dizzy Fingers

With Laurel Swinden – Flute Virtuoso

Music with a Latin flare

World Premiere of new arrangements for flute and brass

Sonata Latino by Mike Mower

“Flower of Port William” by Chris Norman

Brassroots: “Tientos Y Danzas,” “La Perla Negra,” “Soul Bassa Nova,” “Granada,” “Children of Sanchez,” and more

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2015 | 7:30 PM

St. James Westminster Anglican Church 115 Askin Street, London

TICKETS Adults \$20 ea | Seniors/Students \$15 ea
from **Tuckey Home Hardware** (136 Wortley Rd) | on line
at onstagedirect.com/brassroots | or call 226.448.78 21
or purchase **at the door**, subject to availability.



We recommend the following concerts

ALL AMABILE CHOIRS

30th Amabile Festival

SUNDAY MARCH 1, 2015, 2PM
CENTENNIAL HALL

ENCORE: THE CONCERT BAND and AMABILE YOUNG MEN’S ENSEMBLE & PRIMUS: AMABILE MEN’S CHOIR

Carmina Burana

SUNDAY APRIL 19, 2 PM
CENTRAL SECONDARY SCHOOL

Visit www.amabile.ca for more details

Audience survey results

- Is this your first time at a Brassroots concert?

Yes	20%
------------	------------

Are you a regular attendee?

Yes	16%
------------	------------
- What type of music do you prefer?

Eclectic mix	70%
---------------------	------------

Of those who preferred an eclectic mix, a preference was stated for weighting as follows:

Pop / jazz	41%
Movies	19%
Classical	34%
No preference	6%
- Would you support an increase in ticket prices for our 2015–16 season?

Yes	80%
No	7%
No answer	13%
- 31 respondents asked to be added to Brassroots’ e-mail list!

**Charitable Tax Credits:
How much will you
get back?**



Charitable giving is vital to making our communities, country and world a better place. The Canadian government recognizes this, and as a result offers significant tax credits encouraging all Canadian to give generously. At CanadaHelps, we make it easy to calculate your savings using our tax calculator. Reduce your tax bill by:

- Up to 35% of your donations totalling \$200 or less
- Up to 53% of your donations totalling more than \$200
- New to claiming charitable donations? Get an extra 25% back!

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the generous grant from Good Foundation, which will see Brassroots in the recording studio in a few months' time. We also thank Fanshawe Chorus London for the loan of large percussion instruments.

FAMILY OF MILTON & VERA
GOOD FOUNDATION INC. SINCE 1974

FANSHAWE
CHORUS
 LONDON

We offer eclectic programming!

Wikipedia offered the following definitions:

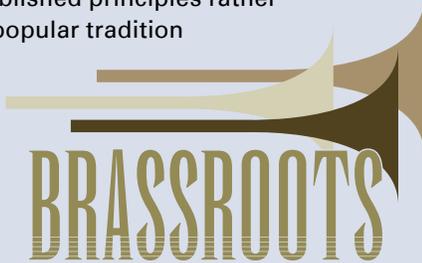
POP Any genre of music having wide appeal but usually only for a short time!

SWING Music in a subtle, inherently felt rhythm or sense of rhythm.

JAZZ A style of music native to America, characterized by a strong but flexible rhythmic beat with solo or ensemble improvisations.

CLASSICAL Serious or conventional music following long established principles rather than a folk, jazz or popular tradition

*Ed note: Definition of classical music by one teenager I know: "Music by dead guys!"
 Oops! A lengthy debate ensued and I think I lost!*



See www.brassroots.ca for more details about our ensemble. You can read about our mandate, our history, players' biographies, guidance on the easiest way for donating to BRASSROOTS, and more.

BRASSROOTS on facebook

Search Facebook for "Brassroots London Ontario" to find our page, and "Like" us get our postings on your newsfeed.

Take a peek at our entries and listen to Julia Vaughan play "Autumn Leaves" — someone had his or her iPhone on!



What is Music?

One music dictionary defines music as:
 The Art of combining sounds for reproduction by the voice or various kinds of instruments in rhythmic, melodic and harmonic form so as to express thought or feeling and affect the emotions.

Here are some other thoughts from *Words about Music: a Treasury of Writings* by John Amis and Michael Rose

“ Music is a miracle.
 Anon

Music is the eye of the ear.
 Thomas Drake, 1616

Music is that which cannot be said but upon which it is impossible to be silent.
 Attributed to Victor Hugo

Music is a method of employing the mind without the labour of thinking at all.
 Samuel Johnson, quoted by Boswell, 1785

Music is the thing of the world that I love most.
 Samuel Pepys, 1666

Musick helps not the tooth-ach.
 George Herbert

Musick is almost as dangerous as gunpowder... Tis' possible a publick Regulation might not be amiss.
 Anon

Ed note: What an excellent thought for the music I hear at the gym!

BRASSROOTS
presents

Brass & Ivory

Featuring
3 Keyboards

ANGUS SINCLAIR PETER CLEMENTS STEPHEN HOLOWITZ

Sizzling entertainment with great new arrangements!
thunder of the organ ~ sparkling keyboards ~ brilliant brass

GEORGE GERSHWIN: It Ain't Necessarily So, Summertime, I Got Rhythm
DUKE ELLINGTON: Star Crossed Lovers LALO SHIFRIN: The Cat
BILLY JOEL: The Piano Man JOSEPH LAMB: Champagne Rag

CLASSICS

DEBUSSY: En Bateau SAINT-SAËNS: Organ Symphony (Finale)
MUSSORGSKY: The Great Gate of Kiev (from *Pictures at an Exhibition*)
WAGNER: Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral (from *Lohengrin*)

Something for Everyone!

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2015 | 7:30 PM

St. James Westminster Anglican Church | London
Adults \$20 | Seniors/Students \$15

Tickets available from Tuckey Home Hardware (136 Wortley Rd) |
online at onstagedirect.com/brassroots | call 226.448.7821 |
at the door, subject to availability

2014|2015

BRASSROOTS

BRAM GREGSON, MUSIC DIRECTOR

