The **MIRARI BRASS QUINTET** has garnered a reputation for their engaging and eclectic performances with audiences around the United States and abroad. Their programs bring joyful collaboration and innovation to music spanning centuries and contrasting genres. Commissioners of numerous new works, the group performs a spectacular balancing act: intensity with levity, virtuosity with pure fun.

Since its inception, Mirari has expanded the brass quintet repertoire with nearly two dozen original works and arrangements. Their debut album, *Spires*, reimagines Renaissance and Baroque works, jazz standards, and includes a commission by Rome Prize-winner Eric Nathan. *Renewed, Reused, Recycled*, their second album, explores music not originally written for brass. This third album features winners of Mirari's biennial Call for Scores competition alongside additional commissioned works.

Mirari led a consortium with The Ohio State University Wind Symphony, resulting in Clint Needham's *In These Hallowed Halls*, a concerto for brass quintet and wind ensemble. Their previous community-engaged project, supported by a Chamber Music America Residency Grant, resulted in a partnership with Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless and Community of Note in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Mirari's members are collegiate professors who engage aspiring musicians through master classes, clinics, and mentorship. Individually, they have taught at universities and festivals throughout the country. True to their name, Mirari embodies mutual admiration and respect as performers, educators, and human beings.

Personality Test was generously funded by the University of Iowa Sound Subvention Fund and a Supplemental Research Fund Award from the Washington State University Office of Research.

Personality Test

Mirari Brass Quintet

Peyden Shelton and Joe Cooper, trumpets
Katy Ambrose, horn; Sarah Paradis, trombone
Chris Dickey, tuba

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CRC 4206

1		Lili Boulanger (arr. Jeff Luke): D'un matin de printemps	4:50
2		Vittoria Aleotti (arr. Sarah Paradis): O dolce eterno amore	1:28
3		Vittoria Aleotti (arr. Sarah Paradis): Io v'amo vita mia	2:36
		Ian Lester: Three Episodes for Brass Quintet	(10:41)
4	I	Kaleidoscopic Fanfare	4:39
5	II	Daydream	3:18
6	III	Evil in the Mist	2:44
7		Ryan H. Jones: Sleepy Hollow	5:29
8		Florence Maunders: Fleeting Images	4:21
9		Edgar F. Girtain IV IV: Thank You for Your Service	6:08
10		Gilson Santos: Maculelê	5:01
		Charles Collier Jones: Four Movements for Five Brass	(7:27)
11	I	Introduction	1:41
12	II	Pretentions	2:22
13	III	Waltz	1:28
14	IV	Finale	1:56
		Zoe Cutler: Personality Test	(12:16)
15	I	Doody Daddy	2:29
16	II	Dirty Dawg	2:30
17	III	Sweaty Betty	2:22
18	IV	Lil Big Boi	2:11
19	V	Reggie Rhombus	2:44

Total time: 60:17

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PERSONALITY TEST

Mirari Brass Quintet

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Lili Boulanger (1893-1918) was the first woman to win the prestigious Grand Prix de Rome composition prize. Her musical style melds trends from Impressionism and Post-Romanticism, resulting in rich colors, expressive melodies, and many shifting moods. *D'un matin de printemps*, "Of a Spring Morning," was originally conceived in three versions: violin and piano, flute and piano, and orchestra. This piece was among the last compositions Boulanger wrote before her death, and it exemplifies many of the hallmarks of Boulanger's writing. Though brief, the work contrasts spirited, energetic sections with moments that are mysterious and introspective. Jeff Luke of the Utah Symphony transcribed this work for the Mirari Brass Quintet.

Vittoria Aleotti (1575-1620) was an Augustinian nun, composer, and organist in the late Renaissance and early Baroque periods. Her works are among the first published by a woman composer of sacred and secular vocal music. Aleotti's madrigal writing features a pleasing balance of alternating textures, expressive lines, and a keen sense of dissonance and consonance. *O dolce eterno amore*, "Oh Sweet Eternal Love," and *Io v'amo vita mia,* "I give my life to you," were transcribed for brass quintet by Mirari trombonist Sarah Paradis.

Three Episodes for Brass Quintet by **Ian Lester** (b. 1994) was the 2020 winner of the Mirari Brass Quintet's Call for Scores. The first movement, Kaleidoscopic Fanfare, comprises four parts, with each part representing abstract colors and shapes resulting from twisting a kaleidoscope. A lyrical middle movement, Daydream, marks a departure from mundane life, where recurring fantasies and memories forever exist in the mind. Evil in the Mist, the final movement, is loosely inspired by films such as *The Fog* and *The Mist*. The movement begins where the first movement ends, journeying deeper into an ominous unknown. Though there are fleeting moments of light and clarity, the work concludes still lost in the sinister mist.

Ryan H. Jones (b. 1997) is a composer, pianist, and teacher based in East Lansing, MI. Influenced by his experiences with free improvisation, performing classical piano repertoire, and singing in choirs, Ryan enjoys composing music that is visceral, spontaneous, concise, and engaging to perform. *Sleepy Hollow* offers a sonic representation of a well-known spot in Michigan State University's Botanical Garden. This beautiful work encourages listeners to contemplate the beauty of life and honors the memory of the students killed during a Michigan State University campus shooting in 2023.

Praised by *The Guardian* for her "energized, rough-edged juxtapositions," **Florence Maunders** (b. 1978) has enjoyed a richly varied career as a composer and performer. *Fleeting Images* won Mirari's Call for Scores competition in 2022. This short work explores the rhythmic interplay and interlocking grooves of contemporary electronic dance music. The opening section is derived from hesitant waves of pulsation, which eventually build into a lively groove full of cross-rhythms. The second half of the piece is influenced by the "half-time" or "2-step" feel of styles such as dub step or UK garage. The five instruments imitate the rhythms of jump-cuts, builds, bass-drops, and filter-sweeps of electronic music. The title refers to the rapid changes every few bars as the music constantly shifts and transforms, never exactly repeating a phrase.

Edgar F. Girtain IV(b. 1988) is an American composer on the faculty at Western Colorado University. With over 200 compositions in his catalog, his works have been performed across five continents. *Thank You for Your Service* was written in 2024 for the Mirari Brass Quintet. It is a thoughtful, pensive work that invites performers and audiences alike to reflect on the lived experiences of military veterans and harsh realities they face upon returning home. Mental health, financial stability, and access to health care are just some of the issues veterans encounter today.

Gilson Santos (b. 1977) enjoys an active and varied career as a trumpet player, composer, and teacher in Brazil. With numerous awards and critical accolades to his credit, Santos is an in-demand artist for many Brazilian performing arts organizations. The Maculelê is an Afro-Brazilian stick dance that blends rhythmic, synchronized movements with the sounds of drumming and chanting. The resulting show is marked by energy, intensity, and a show of cultural expression. The roots of the Maculelê are linked to African and Brazilian indigenous traditions. This quintet setting by Santos, the 2024 winner of Mirari's Call for Scores, features the energy and bravura long associated with this performance tradition.

Four Movements for Five Brass, composed in 1957, remains an enduring standard in the brass quintet repertoire. Written by **Charles Collier Jones** (1928-2013), this quintet reflects a neoclassical style, rejecting trends from the Romantic era and the avant-garde experimentation so prevalent in the 1950s. Melody, clarity, balance, and effective musical dialogue are hallmarks of the work. If one is familiar with Classical period composers like Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven, imagine this quintet as a Classical era piece but with a new coat of paint reflecting a more modern spirit. Performers and audiences alike enjoy this charming and engaging staple for brass quintet.

Zoe Cutler (b. 1996) enjoys a varied career as a trombonist and composer based in Detroit, MI. She published *Personality Test* in 2020. Cast in five movements, the work enables performers and listeners to explore a fresh approach to human nature in contrast to conventional tests like the Myers-Briggs. Each movement features a different member of the quintet in a personological representation. "Doody Daddy" showcases the first trumpet in a surprisingly funky march. The trombonist leads the bluesy "Dirty Dawg," and the "Sweaty Betty" movement explores the tuba's melodic charm in the extreme low range. In "Lil Big Boi," Mahler meets Klezmer to shine a spotlight on the horn. Lastly, the piece concludes with an angular ballad led by the second trumpet.