

SEPTURA BRASS SEPTET



THE BRASS SEPTET

The brass septet is a brand new invention, with no canon of repertoire, no grand history of great compositions. So why not invent a new one? Like musical Robin Hoods, Septura thieve from the richest ensembles to create a counterfactual history — a parallel universe in which, in the world of chamber music, the brass septet rules.

BETTER ON BRASS

SAMPLE PROGRAMMES

FROM PRAYER TO PARADISE

Septura takes you on a journey from prayer to paradise through sacred music across six centuries, whilst exploring spirituality more broadly.

- Finzi** God is Gone Up 5'
- Lassus** Lagrime di San Pietro (selection) 15-20'
- Aleotta** Ego flos Campi and Hodei Nata est 6'
- Schumann** Vier Doppelchorige Gesnage 12' interval
- Handel** Rinaldo Suite 20'
- Bruckner** Os Justi, Ave Maria 7'
- Brahms** Geistliches Leid 5'
- Panufnik** Seven Heavens 12'

SIX CENTURIES OF WOMEN'S VOICES

From Renaissance to now: an unbroken lineage of women who shaped classical music. This programme includes their new piece 'Seven Heavens' by Roxanna Panufnik, written for Septura's 20th Anniversary in 2025.

- Raphaella Aleotta** Motets (16th Century) 5'
- Barbara Strozzi** Il Primo Madrigali (17th Century)
- Elizabeth de la Guerre** Suite from Cephale et Procris (18th Century) 9'
- Clara Schumann** Piano Sonata (19th Century)10' interval
- Ethel Smyth** The Boatswain's Mate Overture (20th Century) 9'
- Florence Price (20th Century)** In the Land O'Cotton 8'
- Florence Price** Octet for Brasses and Piano (20th Century) 12'
- Roxanna Panufnik** Seven Heavens (21st Century) 12'



AMERICAN IN PARIS

Septura explore a great transatlantic relationship, charting a course from Debussy's Préludes, through Ravel's Mother Goose, to his friend Gershwin's Songbook and iconic An American in Paris, especially arranged for brass and solo car-horns.

- Ravel** Mother Goose
- Debussy** Préludes interval
- Gershwin** Three Piano Preludes
- Gershwin** Songbook (selections)
- Gershwin** An American in Paris

A SHARED LANGUAGE: LIBERTÉ, EGALITÉ, FRATERNITÉ

Island nations in dialogue: six centuries of music across the Channel.

- Josquin des Prez** Ave Maria 4'
- Robert Parsons** Ave Maria 4'
- Henry Purcell** The Curious Impertinent (all movements) 13'
- Elizabeth de la Guerre** Suite from Cephale et Procris 9'
- Jean-Philippe Rameau** Suite from Dardanus (movements 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7) 15' interval
- Edward Elgar** Serenade in E minor, Op. 20 10'
- Claude Debussy** Five Préludes (*La fille aux cheveux de lin, Minstrals, Général Lavine eccentric, Bruyères*) 9'
- Hubert Parry** Songs of Farewell 14'
- Maurice Ravel** Trois Chansons 12'

A SHARED LANGUAGE: THE TEUTONIC CONVERSATION

Two nations, locked in rivalry and admiration, speaking the same musical language.

- Weber** Oberon (Overture) 9'
- Handel** Fireworks Music 10'
- J S Bach** English Suite No. 4 12'
- Elgar** Serenade in E minor, Op. 20 10' interval
- Brahms** Geistliches Lied 4'
- Parry** Songs of Farewell 14'
- Smyth** The Boatswain's Mate (Overture) 9'
- Mendelssohn** Organ Sonata 10' or **Clara Schumann** Piano Sonata 20'

Encore: Felix Mendelssohn – Wedding March



FESTIVE PROGRAMMES

SEPTURA'S NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

with narrator **Zeb Soanes**

Join acclaimed British brass septet Septura and BBC radio presenter Zeb Soanes to experience the famous **Christmas Eve Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols** from King's College, Cambridge, recast in a brand new way. The seasonal celebration of Christmas has been the inspiration for so many great musical masterpieces, and brass instruments are a vital part of this festive musical fabric. Septura's aim is to cast these masterpieces in a new light; to illuminate works – some familiar, others not – by re-imagining them for this unique ensemble, the brass septet.

Schütz *Das Wort ward Fleisch*

First lesson: God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head. Genesis 3.

Tchaikovsky *The Crown of Roses*

Second lesson: God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed. Genesis 22.

Bruckner *Os Justi*

Third lesson: The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour. Isaiah 9.

Praetorius *Es ist ein Ros entsprungen*

Brahms *Es ist ein Ros entsprungen*

Fifth lesson: The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary. Luke 1

Parsons *Ave Maria*

Rachmaninov *Ave Maria: Bogoroditse Devo*
interval

Palestrina *Canite Tuba*

Sixth lesson: St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus. Luke 2.

Grieg *Homeward*

Warlock *Bethlehem Down*

Seventh lesson: The shepherds go to the manger. Luke 2.

Rachmaninov *Slava v vishnikh Bogu*

Eighth lesson: The wise men are led by the star to Jesus. Matthew 2.

Cornelius *The Three Kings*

Bach *Nun seid ihr wohl gerochen*

Ninth lesson: St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation. John 1.

Handel *Worthy is the Lamb (The Messiah)*



CHRISTMAS WITH SEPTURA

In this festive concert Septura focus on some of the highlights of the rich Christmas canon – including Bach's Christmas Oratorio, and Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker. Where years of repetition have dulled the impact of these wonderful works Septura — described by BBC Music Magazine as “dazzlingly polished” — illuminate them afresh, casting them in a brand new light through the unique and uplifting sound of the brass septet.

Schütz *Das Wort ward Fleisch*

JS Bach *Christmas Suite*

Reena Esmail *A Winter Breviary*

Humperdinck *Overture from Hänsel und Gretel*

interval

Tchaikovsky *Nutcracker Suite (with narrator)*

Encores to Include

In the bleak midwinter, Silent Night, Three Kings



"British brass playing is the envy of the world, and when you hear Septura you can hear exactly why."

Jonathan Freeman-Attwood Principal,
Royal Academy of Music

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Septura believe that chamber music should be at the very heart of any student's musical development. Whether your ultimate ambition is to be a soloist, chamber, or orchestral musician, the development of good ensemble skills is essential. Septura is committed to providing educational opportunities alongside their concerts.

MASTERCLASSES AND CHAMBER COACHING

Septura's members are some of the leading British brass players. They are all experienced teachers, teaching at the London music colleges, and regularly giving masterclasses internationally and throughout the UK. Visiting musical institutions around the world they are able to offer both individual masterclasses, ensemble coaching, and side-by-side ensemble playing as part of their concert package.

FAMILY CONCERTS

Septura work with the wonderful animator Ruth Rosales to produce engaging programmes for family concerts.

SUMMER BRASS ACADEMY

In 2023 Septura launched its first residential Summer Brass Academy in collaboration with the Rudolfus Foundation to inspire future generations of brass players.

More information [here](#).

TOUCH TOURS

Septura's 'Touch Tours' are short (30-45-minute) presentations for blind and visually-impaired people.

Aided by a facilitator the members of the group introduce their instruments and explain how they are played; they demonstrate the wide range of different techniques, mutes and effects that will be used in the programme, and how all the instruments come together in different pieces to create a variety of sounds and musical textures.

Throughout this the participants are able to touch instruments (a trumpet, trombone and tuba) and the different mutes that radically change the sound of each instrument.

Septura's outreach work includes close collaboration with the Amber Trust.



SEPTURA

IN THE PRESS

"An uplifting debut from a magnificent seven." [5 stars]

Fiona Maddocks
The Observer

"A recital of pure gold."

Ritmo

"This is brass playing at its most exalted."

Robert Markow
Fanfare

"I heartily recommend Septura to anyone who likes chamber music."

Bachtrack

"The standard is absolutely higher than brass playing has ever been before."

Alison Balsom
BBC Radio 2

"Beautiful from beginning to end."

Barry Fitzpatrick
American Record Guide

"If you like English pastoral music, and the sound of brass, this album is irresistible."

The Guardian

"Beautifully intoned."

Robert Markow
Fanfare



"Virtuoso playing: glossy, brilliantly articulated, audaciously coloured, technically flawless." [5 stars]

BBC Music Magazine



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