



“a magnificent seven” - The Observer

Critically-acclaimed British brass ensemble

SEPTURA

follows debut Naxos recording with new album and launch concert



Music for Brass Septet 2: Handel, Purcell, Rameau, Blow
Released on Naxos: Monday 30 March

Album launch concert: Friday 1 May, 7.30pm
St Cyprian's Clarence Gate, London

After earning plaudits for their debut album, pioneering brass group **Septura** return with their second recording in a 10-disc deal for Naxos, ***Music for Brass Septet 2: Handel, Purcell, Rameau, Blow***. It will be released on **Monday 30 March**, prior to a launch concert at St Cyprian's Clarence Gate in London on **Friday 1 May** at 7.30pm.

For their second disc, Septura - a brass ensemble described as “pure gold” (Ritmo) - explores the glorious sound world of 17th Century theatre music, with a collection of four contrasting works by leading composers of the Baroque era reimagined for brass septet. Among them are suites from Rameau’s opera *Dardanus* and Handel’s *Rinaldo*, alongside Purcell’s *The Curious Impertinent* and a mournful *masque* from John Blow’s *Venus and Adonis* - the first English opera. Each of these works demands especially inventive arrangements and by incorporating the stylistic elements of ‘period performance’, the pieces are vividly brought to life. The exhilarating result is a dazzling set of new Baroque works for brass.

Septura Founder and Artistic Director **Simon Cox** explains:

“Brass instruments have a really strong link to the Baroque period, but due to the limitations of the natural trumpet, there’s little chamber music from that time. With modern instruments we’re now able to perform some of this thrillingly virtuosic music and so in our second disc, we seize the opportunity to trace the evolution of opera in England in works arranged for brass septet.”

This new repertoire will be showcased in Septura’s forthcoming concert on Friday 1 May entitled ‘Unmasking May Day’. The programme looks at the different meanings of the first day of Summer, reflected in music - from the festive dances of Purcell and Rameau, to the Marian devotions of Bruckner and Victoria, and Shostakovich’s Eighth String Quartet representing International Worker’s Day.

Comprised of distinguished young brass players, many of whom hold principal positions in leading UK orchestras, Septura breaks the mould of traditional chamber ensembles by bringing together three trumpets, three trombones and a tuba in a septet formation. This combination of instruments is familiar in symphony orchestras, but rarely heard as an independent ensemble on the concert platform. Septura explores the distinct sound world of the brass septet through transcriptions, arrangements and commissions, creating an extensive body of works recorded over 10 discs for Naxos, each focused on a particular period, genre, and set of composers. The group's first album, featuring 19th Century choral and organ music, reached the top 10 in the UK Classical Charts.

Principal of the Royal Academy of Music, **Professor Jonathan Freeman-Attwood** comments:

"Septura's innovative approach to repertoire and recording is raising the interpretative stakes for brass music. Their unique configuration creates a palette of sound which is both stable and varied, lyrical and powerful — but not overwhelming. It gives me great pleasure to host the ensemble's live launch at the Royal Academy of Music where many of the group's members embarked on their professional lives."

Click here to see Septura performing Rameau's *Suite from 'Dardanus'*:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gptU5TflBD4>

MUSIC FOR BRASS SEPTET 2
Handel • Purcell • Rameau • Blow
Brass Chamber Music - Volume 2
Naxos 8.573386



Jean-Philippe Rameau (1683–1764)
Suite from *Dardanus* (arr. Simon Cox)

John Blow (1649–1708)
Venus and Adonis: A Mournful Masque (arr. Matthew Knight)

Henry Purcell (1659–1695)
The Curious Impertinent (arr. Simon Cox)

George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)
Suite from *Rinaldo* (arr. Simon Cox)

Performers: Alan Thomas and Simon Cox (*Trumpets in B flat*), Huw Morgan (*Trumpet in E flat*), Matthew Gee and Matthew Knight (*Trombones*), Dan West (*Bass Trombone*), Peter Smith (*Tuba*).

The album was recorded at St Paul's Church, New Southgate, London on 3-5 May 2014.

MUSIC FOR BRASS SEPTET
Brahms • Bruckner • Mendelssohn • Schumann
Brass Chamber Music - Volume 1
Naxos 8.573314



Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
Organ Sonata in C minor, Op. 65, No. 2 (arr. Simon Cox)

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)
Vier doppelchörige Gesänge, Op. 141 (arr. Simon Cox)

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
Five Chorale Preludes (from Op. 122) (arr. Simon Cox)
Geistliches Lied, Op. 30 (arr. Matthew Knight)

Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)
Two Aequali
Four Motets (arr. Various)

Performers: Matt Williams and Simon Cox (*Trumpets in B flat*), Christian Barraclough (*Trumpet in E flat*), Peter Smith (*Tuba*), Matthew Gee and Matthew Knight (*Trombones*), Dan West (*Bass Trombone*).

"superbly played and warmly engineered debut disc of imaginatively conceived arrangements."
- BBC Music Magazine

Septura

Septura is a ground-breaking new brass septet, comprised of leading British brass musicians. The group's members hold principal positions in the London Symphony, Philharmonia, Royal Philharmonic, BBC Symphony, City of Birmingham Symphony, Scottish Opera and Aurora orchestras, and have performed in venues across the world with distinguished international conductors.

Currently Ensemble in Residence at the Royal Academy of Music in London, Septura is recording a series of 10 discs for Naxos over five years, which aims to re-invent brass chamber music. Their debut album, which features works by Brahms, Bruckner, Mendelssohn and Schumann, was released in July 2014. Their second - Baroque theatre music by Blow, Purcell, Handel and Rameau - will be released in April 2015. Their third - Russian chamber music by Rachmaninov, Scriabin, Prokofiev and Shostakovich - was recorded in December 2014 and is due for release in late 2015.

Septura share a passion for live performance and believe in the idea of the concert as a real event: imaginative and interesting programming, built around strong concepts and themes, and presented in a captivating manner.

Members of Septura: Philip Cobb (*Trumpet*), Simon Cox (*Trumpet & Artistic Director*), Huw Morgan (*Trumpet*), Alan Thomas (*Trumpet*), Matthew Gee (*Trombone*), Edward Jones (*Trombone*), Matthew Knight (*Trombone & Co-Artistic Director*), Daniel West (*Bass Trombone*), Sasha Koushk-Jalali (*Tuba*), Peter Smith (*Tuba*).

www.septura.org

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