



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

University of North Texas College of Music

Guest Artist Recital | Friday, February 24, 2023 | 7:30 pm | Winspear Hall



MNOZIL BRASS – GOLD - Best Of

Intoxicating precious metal, melting point 1064.18°C. Chemical notation AU, atomic number 79. Frequently found on ring fingers, teeth and Olympic necks, often in leaf-form, less commonly as an LP and sporadically reputed to be found in the Viennese heart. And last but not least also on brass instruments. Mnozil Brass is therefore giving itself and the audience the 27th birthday gift of a Definitive Best Of Anthology Greatest Superhits Celebration Show, in short: **Gold**.

Mnozil Brass – From then till now

The “Gasthaus Mnozil” is in the famous 1st “Bezirk” (quarter) of the City of Vienna. Directly opposite the Music Conservatoire. Fate played a role, and in 1992 seven young brass musicians were lucky enough to be able to take part in the regular music series held in the restaurant under the auspices of Josef Mnozil himself. Soon, original folk tunes had become occasional pieces, without any need for the music. It appeals to all ages and stages of life, typical brass music: hit tunes, jazz, pop, opera and operetta. No sense of fear here, no reprisals for anything out of place, and all played with an open mind, typical Viennese “Schmäh” (almost impossible to find an English equivalent, but best rendered as a kind of sarcastic charm), along with immense technical skills.

Mnozil Brass give around 100 annual concerts now, all over the world: from the farthest reaches of the European continent to Israel, Russia, China, Taiwan, Japan, Canada, the United States, and Australia. They play to full houses, at the famous Burgtheater and Konzerthaus in Vienna, KKL in Lucerne, Royal Albert Hall in London, Tchaikovsky Conservatoire in Moscow, Philharmonie Luxembourg, Jahrhunderthalle in Bochum, opera houses in Frankfurt, Cologne, Munich, Stuttgart, Wiesbaden and Leipzig, Thalia Theater in Hamburg, Düsseldorf Schauspielhaus and Berliner Ensemble. As for the "Gasthaus Mnozil," well, they fill that too of course, but in a somewhat different way.

Mnozil Brass is an incredibly creative band. Since 2000 they have produced a new stage show almost every year: *Zimt* (2000), *Smoke* (2001), *Ragazzi* (2002), *Seven* (2004), *Das Gelbe vom Ei* (2007), *Magic Moments* (2009), *Mnozil spielt Mnozil* (2010), *Blofeld* (2012), *Happy Birthday* (2013), *Hojotoho* (2013), *Yes Yes Yes* (2015), *CIRQUE* (2017; Regie: Philippe Arlaud; Choreographie: Virginie Roy); *GOLD - Best Of* (2019).

And in between times there was even time left over for some successful theatre work:

— *Das trojanische Boot* (Operetta by Mnozil Brass and Bernd Jeschek, premiere at the Ruhr Triennale 2005, Dir: Bernd Jeschek, Music: Mnozil Brass)

— *Irmingard (wahrscheinlich eine Oper* by Mnozil Brass and Bernd Jeschek, premiere at the Salzburger Festspielen, 2008, Dir: Bernd Jeschek, Music: Mnozil Brass)

— *Blofeld* (premiere at the Ludwigsburger Schloßfestspielen, 2011, Dir. and choreography: Ferdinando Chefalo, Music: Mnozil Brass)

— *HOJOTOHO: A Wagner-Bass-Comedy* (Commissioned by the City of Bayreuth on the occasion of the Richard Wagner 2013 Jubilee, Dir: Philippe Arlaud; Music: Richard Wagner / Thomas Gansch / Leonhard Paul / Gerhard Füßl; Choreography: Anne Marie Gros; Lightdesign: Mariella von Vequel-Westernach)

No wonder they have won so many awards: 2001 nomination for the Amadeus Austrian Music Award; 2006 Cabaret Prize "Salzburger Stier," the most renowned prize in German-speaking territories.

CDs: *Volksmusik aus Österreich No Ziel* (Mnozil Brass & Gansch Schwestern), 1997; *Wenn der Kaiser grooved*, 1998; *Dasselbe in grün*, 2000; *Zimt*, 2000; *Smoke live*, 2002; *Ragazzi*, 2004; *What Are You Doing The Rest Of Your Life?*, 2007; *Almrausch*, 2009; *Yes Yes Yes*, 2015.

Six of their stage shows are already on DVD: *Seven*, 2005; *Das Trojanische Boot*, 2007; *Das Gelbe vom Ei - La Crème de la Crème*, 2008; *Irmingard*, 2008; *Magic Moments*, 2010; *Blofeld*, 2012.

Book: *20 Jahre MNOZIL BRASS*, 2013.

Mnozil Brass wrote and recorded the music for the Austrian film *Freundschaft* (2006, Dir: Ruppert Henning, with: Ruppert Henning, Erwin Steinhauer, Arthur Klemt).

Thomas Gansch - trumpet

Born in Melk an der Donau, Thomas is one of the band's founding members. By the time he turned 17, he was already playing at the Vienna Staatsoper. However, his love of jazz was stronger, and led him to become one of the most versatile trumpeters in Austria, one who can play jazz, classical, crossover and everything in between. He is a whirlwind on stage and can tell a good joke or two, with perfect comic timing. When he has time off, he composes for Mnozil Brass.

Robert Rother - trumpet

Like Thomas, Robert also hails from Melk an der Donau. As children, the two of them played in a brass band conducted by Thomas' very strict father. Polkas, waltzes, and marches were always on the program - a good learning experience it seems. Robert can engender a tone with so much longing and feeling that it is guaranteed to bring anyone to tears. Unlike Thomas, Robert hardly moves on stage at all and lets the music speak for itself.

Roman Rindberger - trumpet

Roman was born into a musical family and played folk music as a youngster with his father and two brothers. His father Hans, in turn, would meet up with Gerhard Füßl's father Franz because the families lived nearby. Roman loves technical passages and renders them with the precision of a Swiss clock-maker. And he even knows how the instruments work! If anyone wants to know more about brass music, Roman is the man for you. On stage his character is the Latin Lover.

Leonhard Paul - trombone and bass trumpet

Leonhard was born in Mödling near Vienna and is the first musician his family has ever produced. (There was a grandfather, though, who earned his money as a painter and whose pictures hang in every other house in the better parts of Vienna.) Recently, the other members of the band have started to get a little concerned about him, because he seems to have taken a liking to shady characters on stage. Everyone wishes to play the hero, but Leonhard likes roles that show the darker side of man. No one knows exactly what's going on in his head!

Gerhard Füßl - trombone

Gerhard grew up near where Roman lived and also had a father who taught him much about brass music. He is the most well-liked in the group. Probably because he looks after financial matters. Everyone tries to keep on his good side and no one wants to incur his wrath. For his part, he is usually friendly to all.

Zoltan Kiss - trombone

Austrian folk music was certainly not part of Zoltan's upbringing. He was born in Budapest, spent some time in Poland, and finally settled in Vienna, where he plays trombone in four languages. One of the group's favorite games is to put some really difficult music in front of him to see if he can play it. He usually can! His technical skills take your breath away. Bets have been placed as to when and how something will be written that he cannot master, but so far—high, low, slow, fast—he can play it all!

Wilfried Brandstötter - tuba

Wilfried started his stellar career playing the recorder, subsequently joining the boys' choir. After that he played the violin, followed by the trumpet, before finally feeling comfortably at ease with the tuba. Speed is actually not quite his business. To him, life is a slow and wide river. Hence his ambition consists of making all concert halls, including the audience seated therein, being caressed by pleasant vibrations he's producing with the help of low tones from his tuba. He has no idea why people like fast, high-pitched melodies.

For more information visit: <http://www.mnozillbrass.at>. Booking contact: südpolmusic GmbH – Holger Vogt Tel: +49 / 89 / 55 05 477 00. Mail: holger@suedpolmusic.de

Pictures (columns left to right): Thomas Gansch, Leonhard Paul, Wilfried Brandstötter, Robert Rother, Zoltan Kiss, Roman Rindberger, Gerhard Füßl



*Four hundred eighty-fifth program of the 2022–2023 season
Photography and videography are prohibited*