



The Vice City Brass





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About

Since their formation in 2013, The Vice City Brass has illuminated stages and faces alike through riveting performances up and down the east coast. An innovative collective whose strength is drawn from the diversity of its members' experiences, their goal is to break the boundaries of the traditional brass quintet and chamber music experience.

They have been described as the "total package of musicality, personality and individual accomplishments." Their educations in the fields of classical and jazz instrumental performance, music education, studio music, ethnomusicology and cognitive science has shaped them into the exciting and multifaceted performing ensemble they have become.

Throw in a multi-talented keyboard/electronist, and you have yourself an ensemble that can traverse nearly every musical style from classical to popular with conviction and cool.



Every member of the Vice City Brass began their musical journey in the early stages of their life. VCB was inspired by the dedication of their public schools and private music teachers to promote music education and appreciation to young people. In fact, coupling performances with school outreach has become one of VCB's primary missions.

The members of the Vice City Brass spend part of each summer with FredBrass, a summer brass institute co-founded by VCB trumpeter, Buddy Deshler. At FredBrass, VCB devotes themselves to creating a world-class experience through teaching private lessons, coaching ensembles, and performing in the elite FredBrass Ensemble.

Vice City Brass members have performed with major symphonic ensembles including the National Symphony of the Dominican Republic, the Florida Grand Opera, the Orchid City Brass, the Virginia Symphony, and the Washington Chamber Orchestra, as well as alongside jazz, pop, and commercial artists such as Barry Manilow, Kevin Spacey, Arturo Sandoval, Gloria Estefan, Maria Schneider, and Dawn Upshaw.



Outreach

The Vice City Brass has made education and outreach one of its primary musical endeavors. They are committed to education through the communicative and multi-modal power of music. By cultivating future audiences for the performing arts, they aim to leave a sustained musical legacy.

The Vice City Brass offers student assembly and side-by-side programs for elementary school through high-school. A study-guide will be made available for each program.





The Vice City Brass Experience

The Vice City Experience is an excellent way to expose students to the quality of a high-professional brass chamber ensemble. This exposure will inspire them to promote and cultivate their own musical abilities. The Experience is a full-day residency that is composed of a clinic and rehearsal workshop during the day as well as a full public performance in the evening.

The rehearsal is for the students and VCB to practice selections that will be performed together during the evening concert. Two different bands can be featured with the Vice City Brass. The students in each band can be from a number of schools and of all proficiency levels.

The experience begins with a clinic during the day that can include topics such as:

- Breathing
- Improvisation and Composition
- Musicianship
- A Q&A session

The rehearsal workshop is typically a 45-60 minute session for each participating band, and is designed specifically for the preparation of concert selections. The selections will be decided in advance.

The highlight of the concert comes when local students take the stage with VCB, playing a side-by-side performance with a professional ensemble that is sure to inspire them and the audience members





The Vice City Brass Workshop

A Half-Day Residency for Music Programs

The Vice City Brass Workshop is designed for tighter time constraints. This workshop is typically the length of an average class period and will expose students to the working processes of a professional chamber ensemble. VCB leads by example in conveying areas of music and performance. The workshop typically opens with a short selection played by The Vice City Brass, followed by a workshop that can cover many wide-ranging topics including:

Practice Skills - Improvisation - Breathing - Showmanship - Composing
Entrepreneurship - Crossover Playing - The Art of Chamber Music.



Members



Dakota Corbliss

Virginia Beach native Dakota Corbliss helped create the Vice City Brass in 2014 after working with several of the members at the University of Miami. Dakota is an active freelance horn artist on the East Coast where he divides his time between teaching and performing with a multitude of ensembles. Dakota is a founding faculty member at the FredBrass institute, and is always pushing the limits of what is expected from horn players. Dakota earned his Bachelor of Arts in Music Education and Music Performance from Virginia Tech. He then continued to the University of Miami where he earned his Masters of Music. His teachers have included Sgt. Eric High, Rebecca Peppard, Wallace Easter, and Richard Todd. Dakota is a rabid sports-fan and follows almost all of the Washington, D.C. sports teams. See if you can find Dakota's sports commentary Twitter feed!



Derek Ganong

Originally from Lake Tahoe, California, Dr. Derek Ganong is a founding member of the Vice City Brass. Derek enjoys an active freelance career in South Florida, including performances with Arturo Sandoval, Barry Manilow, the National Symphony of the Dominican Republic, and the Miami Symphony. In addition to performing, Derek teaches trumpet for the Miami Music Project, an El Sistema-style program in South Miami, as well as for the FredBrass Institute. Derek earned his Bachelor's in Ethnomusicology and Cognitive Science from UCLA, his Master's Degree in Jazz trumpet from NYU, and his DMA in Jazz/ Studio and Classical trumpet from the University of Miami. His dissertation, "Laurie Frink's Method of Trumpet Instruction," has become one of the most accessed scholarly papers in the history of the university. Derek's past teachers include Mark Lord, Laurie Frink, Ralph Alessi, Brian Lynch, and Craig Morris. When Derek isn't playing the last variation of Carnival of Venice up an octave, he loves sipping a Cuban coffee.



Buddy Deshler

VCB trumpeter Buddy Deshler hails from the birthplace of the legendary Chick-fil-A sauce, Fredericksburg, VA, and is a founding member of the group. Deshler occupies many exciting facets in the field of music including education, entrepreneurship, producing, and collaboration on top of an already active and rising performance career, which has taken him to over half the country and across two continents. Buddy Deshler is an XO Performing Artist for Jupiter Band Instruments as well as an Artist for Denis Wick, DANSR Inc. Buddy received his B.M. and A.D. from the Frost School of Music, University of Miami and is currently a M.M. student at the Peabody Conservatory. As an entrepreneur and educator, Buddy is the co-founder and Artistic Director for the FredBrass Institute. Whenever Buddy is not doing trumpet-related things, he is probably drinking an excess amount of coffee or going on his latest binge-watch of whatever series Netflix has recently released.



Sam Ambrose

Originally from Coral Springs, Florida, Sam Ambrose turns back-row tuba playing into front-line artistry, bringing high-caliber style to performances, outreach, and educational experiences. He joined the Vice City Brass in the fall of 2015, his first gig being at the Boys and Girls home in Lake Waccamaw, NC. Sam has also performed for the Sunrise Pops Orchestra in Sunrise, FL, as well as freelancing in the area. When he is not performing in the concert hall, Sam takes his talents to senior communities and homeless shelters, providing free recital programs. Sam currently lives just outside Washington, D.C. He received a Master's degree in Tuba Performance from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University, and a Bachelor's of Music Education degree from Florida State University. His teachers include David Fedderly and Paul Ebbers. When he's not throwing down killer bass lines, Sam channels his inner pop star, memorizing lyrics to all of Katy Perry's hits.



Eric Bowman

Eric was born in Kalamazoo, MI, where he completed a Bachelor's degree in Instrumental Performance from Western Michigan University. Subsequently, he earned a Master's degree in Studio Music and Jazz from the University of Miami, Frost School of Music, where he is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Musical Arts. At the University of Miami, Eric teaches improvisation and is director of the World Music Ensemble. He has performed with the likes of the Glenn Miller Orchestra, the Ira Sullivan Quintet, and Joe Alessi. He has had major success in the International Trombone Association competitions, taking 1st in the Frank Smith Solo Competition in 2012, held in Paris, France. Eric has also won the ITA's Carl Fontana Jazz Trombone Competition, held in Aarhus, Denmark. In his free time, Eric loves experimenting with different drums while writing his music, specifically the darbuka.



Mike Greenwood

Mike Greenwood is a keyboardist/pianist in California. He began playing classically at the age of 6 and then studied jazz in middle school, along with classical percussion. In high school, Mike was the pianist for an award-winning jazz ensemble that performed in The Chicago Jazz Spotlight, The Essentially Ellington Festival in New York City, and The Monterey Next Generation Jazz Festival. At age 18, Mike was selected as the runner-up for the prestigious Dave Brubeck Fellowship program. He attended UCLA on scholarship and performs regularly around California. He recently finished a contract with Celebrity Cruises, and is continuing with new and exciting adventures back on land. In the time since, Mike has worked with Smooth Jazz Guitarist Brian Hughes, Mark Ballas from Dancing With the Stars, and is currently the Keyboardist for Grammy-Nominated Guitarist/Producer Jaiirus Mozee. Mike has shared the stage with Kenny Burrell, Clayton Cameron, Wycliffe Gordon, Gerald Wilson, Dee Dee Bridgewater, UK Popstar Darius Campbell, and has opened for several artists including De La Soul, The Game, People Under the Stairs, and Erykah Badu. Mike travels the world with his keytar, taking the unorthodox instruments to locations abroad.



**The Vice City Brass is available for booking immediately!
Please contact us and check out our website!**

ViceCityBrass@gmail.com

www.ViceCityBrass.com

www.SoundCloud.com/ViceCityBrass

@ViceCityBrass

“As you took everyone on a musical journey of genres from classical to jazz, you captivated our hearts and souls”

Gary Faircloth
President/CEO Boys and
Girls Homes of NC, Inc.

