

Intrada Brass blasts Mozart's opera

Dominik Kurek, Oakville Beaver

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Intrada Brass of Oakville will be pulling out a pair of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart opera masterpieces for its upcoming concert on Sunday, Oct. 30.

Opera performed by a brass brand?

Certainly, says Intrada Brass associate conductor Kevin Norbury who will be conducting the concert.

"Brass bands played opera selections and orchestral music from opera from their very beginnings during the industrial revolution in Britain," he said in a press release. "They had very little original concert music, so they relied on transcriptions of well-known opera arias, choruses and overtures. For most of the players – and their audiences – this was their first exposure to classical music."

The concert, titled Opera Blast!, will feature two of Mozart's most well known pieces of music: one being the overture from The Marriage of Figaro and the other is The Queen of the Night's Aria from The Magic Flute. Though the aria is usually a showcase for divas, this time it will be sung by soprano cornet soloist Marcus Venables.

In addition to Mozart's music, the concert will feature Wilhelm Richard Wagner's prelude to Die Meistersinger.

"This is one of the pieces bands have been playing since the early days," Norbury said. "Wagner's big music is well-suited to the brass band; we have to remember that the brass section of Wagner's orchestra is often almost as large as a thirty-piece brass band."

As the concert falls on Halloween weekend, the band will also play something to mark the day. The band did not reveal what music it will play, other than the hint of Alfred Hitchcock.

The concert takes place at St. John's United Church, located at 262 Randall St. The show starts at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets cost \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors and students and are available at L'Atelier Grigorian in downtown Oakville as well as at the door.

For more information, visit www.intradabrass.org.

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Intrada Brass blasts Mozart's opera. THE BRASS: Pictured are members of the Intrada Brass of Oakville, which will perform this weekend at St. John's United Church. *Submitted photo*