



OMAHA
SYMPHONY

Ankush Kumar Bahl, Music Director

program notes

2023/24 SEASON

Brass Transit: The Music of Chicago

Saturday, February 17, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.

Holland Performing Arts Center

Ernest Richardson, conductor | Brass Transit, band

Selections to be announced from stage.



Ernest Richardson, conductor

Ernest Richardson is the principal pops conductor and resident conductor of the Omaha Symphony. Since 1993, he has been integral in the development of the Symphony's vaunted education and community engagement programs, in addition to his artistic leadership in the creation and curation of the successful Symphony Pops, Symphony Rocks, and Movies Series. Richardson's innovation can be especially seen in the Symphony's Choral Collaborative, Celebrate Creativity, and Mission: Imagination programs, which remain mainstays of the organization's season.

In addition to his post in Omaha, Richardson holds the position of music director and principal conductor of the Steamboat Symphony Orchestra in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. During his tenure, the organization has grown from a community orchestra to a resident professional orchestra, attracting the finest musicians from the Front Range of Colorado. He is also the founding artistic director and CEO of the Rocky Mountain Summer Conservatory.

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Featured Artist



Brass Transit, band

Brass Transit was formed in 2008 and brought together eight of the most talented and accomplished award-winning musicians. Their sole purpose was to pay tribute to one of the world's greatest and most successful pop/rock groups of all time, Chicago.

Since then, the group has toured North America, dazzling audiences with their flawless performances and spectacular attention to every detail of the Chicago songbook. Hits like "Saturday in the Park," "25 or 6 to 4," "If You Leave Me Now," and "You're the Inspiration" have left crowds in awe and on their feet more than once during a show, evoking comments like "spine-tingling," "brought me back to my youth," and "perfect in every detail."

Brass Transit goes far beyond just imitating the songs; they embody the music. They recently produced their first CD, taking top hits from the '70s and recording them with horns in the Chicago style. The result is a fresh approach to some of the greatest hits of that era. They have also scored their show for full symphony, with luscious orchestral arrangements that are truly spellbinding.

Brass Transit will bring you back to the most memorable times of your life.

Ian Justin - Lead Vocals

Tony Carlucci - Trumpet

Don Breithaupt - Keyboards + Backing Vocals

Paul DeLong - Drums

Doug Gibson - Trombone

Bob McAlpine - Guitar + Backing Vocals

Phil Poppa - Woodwinds + Backing Vocals

Jay Speziale - Bass, Lead Vocals + Backing Vocals

This printed program is a condensed version.

For more info about the orchestra, guest artists, and the full program notes, download the Omaha Symphony app or scan this QR code with your mobile device.

*program subject to change

