

MAGA//ZINE

Issue 17: December 2020

SILENT NIGHT
HOLY NIGHT



Music and Gospel Arts



Canada & Bermuda Territory

SILENT NIGHT

BY MARCUS VENABLES

It's obvious that December this year will be unique. As Salvation Army musicians, by now we would have played around a kettle, sung some carols, marched in a parade, or taught some children to sing *Jingle Bells*. However, we find ourselves amid a second wave and everything is different. We see the numbers of cases rising daily and the reality of a traditional family gathering for Christmas is fading away.

Yet, the problem really isn't that we aren't able to do all the things we love at this time of the year. The problem is that Christmas is a time of year where The Salvation Army is most visible. Along with Santa drinking a Coke, networks airing *Home Alone* and *Die Hard* marathons, our kettle campaign is right up there as an iconic Christmas tradition. As musicians, we often get the opportunity to play and sing music that proclaims the birth of Christ in secular settings. This is the time of year where we truly have a united front within our corps and ministry units. It's an all-onboard mentality in order to reach the community whether it be through music groups, youth programs or family services.

Where does that leave us for this year? Let's start with our joy. We can't let joy be lost. I miss making music in church services. I miss hearing kids sing together. I miss caroling around a kettle. But this doesn't change the message that we have proclaimed

throughout our entire lives. The Lord has come! We can reflect this joy, we can explore this joy, and we can be thankful for this joy!

What about our bell ringers? Some areas around the territory cannot depend on kettles right now to raise money for services that are vital to the community. We need to do our part to help reach the public. Spamming social media with "PLEASE DONATE" may result in yourself getting blocked, but perhaps your daily meme posts could include a simple reminder to donate to the Army which may prove to be more effective. As well, you could consider sharing some of the musical resources included in this issue to help keep the Army's Christmas campaign in the public's view.

For those within our communities or our own music groups who may find themselves alone this Christmas, we need to get creative with how we can lift them up and help them be included. I always hear that we spend too much time on Zoom calls these days and our virtual interactions are constant, but there are some people who may be forgotten or are too shy to join in. Don't underestimate the investment of including others, especially at this time of year.

The lyrics of *Silent Night* come to mind: "*Silent Night, holy night.*" It may be a bit more silent this year, but it is still holy. Gather as a household and make it meaningful. Reflect and be open to hearing what God wants to say to you this Christmas season.

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MAGAZINE - ISSUE 17 - DECEMBER 2020

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PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY:

THE SALVATION ARMY MUSIC AND GOSPEL ARTS

DEPARTMENT, CANADA AND BERMUDA TERRITORY.



A few years ago, I was singing a well-known hymn at my corps. I took a moment to stop and study the lyrics that often fly by at quite a speed. I needed to take time to read through each word and try to understand what the composer was trying to say through their carefully crafted and God-inspired lyrics. Shortly after that Sunday morning, I had the idea to create a video devotional series based on our Salvation Army Songbook. I hoped that listeners would grasp the meaning and theology behind the lyrics as well as the message that was trying to be conveyed. I chose to focus on Lent, Thanksgiving and Advent. We have now produced a great number of daily video devotionals that contain a song performance and spoken word that goes along with it. The series has grown substantially over the last couple of years with many thousands of viewers.

This coming Advent season presented a challenge in that I felt I had exhausted the repertoire of well-known public domain carols and songs. I had a few options to choose from, but with the help of the wider International Salvation Army, we are excited to release a new song every-day starting on December 1st, 2020. Through combined efforts of Territorial Music Departments around the world, each new song will be accompanied by a short inspirational devotional from a Salvationist in their re-

spective territory. We are happy to include some songs in Spanish and feature contemporary singer-songwriters from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South America West (Chile) and the four USA Territories. Additionally, as soon as the video is released on Facebook and YouTube, downloads will be provided of the entire video as well as the song performance, lead sheets and chord charts.

They can be found at www.usamusicwest.org/sa-devotionals

We hope this will be especially useful during these unprecedented times of predominantly online services.

We are blessed with so many talented musicians within The Salvation Army and I am thrilled this platform is available to them. This is an opportunity to create, express themselves, and ultimately worship our Lord and Saviour.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TSA songbookseries>

www.youtube.com/c/TheSalvationArmySongBookDevotionalSeries

Kevin Larsson
Divisional Music Director
California South Division

OF SERVICE, SACRIFICE AND REMEMBRANCE

REPORT BY COLIN WILLIAMS

“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” John 15:13

During this period of pandemic, the Canadian Staff Band has been hard at work finding innovative ways to continue their musical outreach. On October 7th, they premiered their third virtual concert entitled “*Of Service, Sacrifice and Remembrance.*”

Featuring many different small groups from within the band, the concert achieved its goal of reflecting on both the sacrifices made by the brave men and women in the Canadian Armed Forces as well as the supreme sacrifice made when Jesus laid down His life for each of us.

The cornet section began the evening with Jan Hewerdine’s *Remembrance Fanfare*. The first half of the concert continued with music which has ties to military heritage, including *Be Thou My Vision* (arr. Marcus Venables) and *I Vow to Thee, My Country* (Holst, arr. Ray Steadman-Allen).

Featuring current music of the Canadian Army, the band played the regimental march of the Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry, *The Maple Leaf Forever* (John Slater). During the march, the band presented a series of photos that highlighted CSB members, both past and present, that served in the Canadian Armed Forces. Current bandspeople Andrew Burditt, Sherie Keogh, Noel Samuels as well as Bandmaster John Lam were among those pictured.



CSB alumnist, Jonathan Lam's new arrangement of *Homeward Bound* (Peter Hollens) tells the story of a young soldier far from home, but yearning for an eventual return to his family.

In addition to featuring the trombone section in Nick Simmons-Smith's arrangement of *Peace, Perfect Peace*, three soloists were highlighted as Bill Way played his own *Peace Medley*, Cameron Rawlins played the reflective *Benedictus* (Karl Jenkins, arr. Tony Small), and Doug Chaulk was featured on Peter Graham's *The Minstrel Boy*.

A second visual presentation during the playing of *Hymn to the Fallen* (John Williams, arr. Hun Jeon) highlighted photos from the Canadian Staff Band's multiple visits to war cemeteries in the Netherlands.

The major work of the night was Eric Ball's *Triumph of Peace* which depicts the struggle between war and peace. After an extended back-and-forth, it is ultimately peace that wins out in the end.

The evening was capped off with *Postlude on St. Peter* from the pen of Captain Nicholas Samuel, reminding us of the words from the hymn:

*In Christ there is no east or west,
In Him no south or north,
But one great fellowship of love
Throughout the whole wide earth.*

During these trying times of pandemic-induced separation, may we remember that we are "One great fellowship of love" in Christ.

CSB APPOINTS MULTIMEDIA SPECIALIST

INTERVIEW WITH WILLIAM CHINNERY

Recently, the Canadian Staff Band officially appointed William Chinnery as an official member of the band as the Multimedia Specialist! For many years, there has certainly been a growing need for this type of position within the band. From operating A/V at concerts, to taking behind the scenes pictures and videos of the staff band, the amount of potential workload for this position is always increasing. With the pandemic stretching further and further down the road, the online presence of the staff band has become the only immediate outlet for ministry. William has stepped in with expertise in sound engineering/editing and video producing to help the band continue its ministry. With now three pre-recorded live concerts under its belt, the band has been providing music ministry around the world on a monthly basis, with most of this being made possible by William.

MV: Welcome William! Let's start with sharing your initial thoughts on being appointed to the band.

WC: I feel so fortunate that I get to join this ministry and use my skills to help broaden the band's reach. I am so excited! This is the first time I've been a member of a band but not played my cornet! What makes it even more special for me is that I am the first band member to contribute in this unique role.

MV: Where did you learn the skills of audio and video editing?

WC: I have always been really interested in microphones, cables, lights and cameras from the time I could walk. Dave Hipperson was my first mentor one summer at Jackson's Point Camp. He included me in everything he was doing and was very generous with his time. Pete Tansley from Newfoundland was also influential at National. I was too young to attend the camp, but I appreciated how he would always take time to "talk shop" and let me watch or help where possible. Ted and Eva Marshall were also unbelievably significant in my skill development. They attended my corps, so I felt comfortable with them from an early age. It wasn't until I was much older that I realised that my friend Ted was a giant in the industry. Ted was extremely generous and allowed me to sit beside him when he was recording. Eva and

Ted invited me to come over to their house in Elora so that Ted and I could have more time to talk about everything related to recording and music. Ted would tell me when he had a recording and I could sit with him and watch. Their generosity and patience have had a profound impact on my life.

My corps has also played a significant factor in that from a very young age I was given the responsibility for the sound on Sundays and for productions such as the Singing Company Christmas pageants. I have been so fortunate through my entire life, to be surrounded by skilled and generous people who were happy to share what they knew and allowed me to join them and make mistakes. I hope to be that kind of mentor to many over the coming years.

MV: What has been the highlight of these three virtual concerts so far?

WC: The highlight I think is sending the final product to John and Cameron. I enjoy every minute from putting up the tripods, listening to the band during the recordings, to editing in my studio. But there is nothing like the feeling of pressing SEND.

MV: When the band gets back to weekends away, what will

you look forward to most as a member of the CSB?

WC: I know I will enjoy visiting different corps, meeting new people and building relationships with the members of the band. I hope to expand the band's reach through more recordings and live streaming.

MV: Share your thoughts on how multimedia continues to be a growing element in ministry.

WC: More recent advancements in technology have enabled churches to reach more people and enhance worship. What first started with projecting words on a screen and later adding videos, moved to sometimes installing video cameras for archival purposes and has evolved now to broadcasting live. While technology has made it easier to do many things, in some ways it has brought new challenges. Live streaming, particularly now during COVID, is becoming the norm and churches are noticing that they need to adapt. Especially in this time when we can't meet in person, many churches are now relying on one or a few members of the congregation who have had experience in video production.

I think people are realizing that the use of multimedia needs to be an integrated element of ministry rather than an add on.

For this to happen, corps will want to think about creating a more formalized program to train interested youth in developing skills, similar to how the army is so good at developing musical talent from a young age.

After we are all able to return to our corps buildings, I think that churches will try to use the skills that have been developed to enhance worship. Whether it be a virtual ensemble that includes people across the world, or a series of short bible-based kids videos, this crisis has pushed us to be more creative, collaborative and will benefit us long after COVID is over.



INTRODUCING SALVATION WORSHIP

BY HEATHER OSMOND

The Salvation Army Worship Magazine (out of the Canada and Bermuda Territory) recently held a competition for worship songwriters. The SAWM Song Search received submissions from songwriters across the world. From this song search, a new publication has been created by the Music and Gospel Arts Department entitled Salvation Worship. This publication will showcase the global interest, writing talent and gospel message of songs written for our Army. Twice a year, 5 – 7 songs will be published and will include a free, downloadable lyric sheet, chord chart and lyric video. A piano reduction and various brass parts will be available for purchase. Extra resources will also be made available for each song such as information about the songwriter, Scripture references and devotional material.

Recently, I tried to teach my phone number to my young daughter. At mealtimes, bedtime, or play time, I would encourage her to repeat it to me over and over again. One day on a walk, a simple idea came to my mind, so I sang my phone number to a little impromptu melody. By the time we rounded a block or two, she could sing it with me. When I asked her to repeat my phone number later, she knew it.

In University, I remember having to learn atonal melodies for vocal class exams. It wasn't fun. While most of us floundered through it, one classmate had the simple but brilliant idea to apply words to every melody. He aced the exam.

A few of my family members and friends cope with Alzheimer's disease. I have witnessed how they sadly forget many of the people and places in their lives. But when you start to sing a song such as *Because He Lives* or *Amazing Grace*, they often sing along without missing a word.

These illustrations show how words to music can stick with us. This is why it is so important to include sound Christian theology and Salvationist doctrine in our worship music. The truths of the Bible will remain in our hearts



SALVATION WORSHIP
COMING SOON

A PUBLICATION OF NEW SONGS FOR
SALVATION ARMY CONGREGATIONS

MAGA//ZINE

and minds as we sing those words over and over to music. A publication like Salvation Worship will provide an opportunity for Salvationist songwriters to share their God-inspired text and music with congregations around the world.

As musicians in The Salvation Army, we have always been called to use our music to spread the gospel message. Our Salvation Army Song Book is often referred to as “our sung theology.” While every songwriter whose words are part of the song book are not necessarily Salvationists, the selected songs have always expressed our fundamental Christian beliefs and Army principles. As worship music has expanded in recent years with many songwriters sharing their music, there have been several beautiful expressions of worship through these new songs. There is something even more special about music that also acknowledges our values as Salvationists. It unifies us as a Christian movement and inspires us to continue reaching the lost, no matter who or where they are, and share with them the saving grace of God’s love.

FIND OUT MORE

Read all about this new publication in the latest issue of Salvation Army Worship Magazine, including writer bios, selection process, and upcoming opportunities to submit your own songs.

<https://www.saworshipmagazine.com/full-magazine>



VOLUME 1 FEBRUARY 2021

BOUNDLESS LOVE - LOUISE MATHIESON
COME, OH BURNING SPIRIT, COME - KATHLEEN JOHANSSON
LET THE BEAUTY OF JESUS - NATALIE & JOHN HANCHETT
SOLID ROCK - KATIE FUENTES
YOUR KINGDOM REIGNS - PETER GOTT

HOW I CAME TO THE ARMY

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFITHS

In 2001, I was seven years old and had just started Grade two. Mississauga Temple was the building beside my former preschool, but I didn't know much about The Salvation Army. It wasn't until two families at school encourage us to attend and I soon realized it would be a place to call home.

My mother and I had been members of an Anglican church that was nearby her childhood home. As I grew older, the population of kids at church began to decrease. I was often the only child in the service and there wasn't a Sunday School program. Mississauga Temple was closer to home, and had a much larger children's program, so we started doing double duty – one service at 8:00AM and then the next at 9:30AM. It was nice to be able to stay connected with one church and make new relationships at the other. Unfortunately, due to low numbers, our first church closed a few years later.

As the years went on, I started to branch outside of the Mississauga Temple walls and started discovering other Salvation Army programs. I spent a week at Jackson's Point Junior Music Camp where we learned to "Celebrate Jesus – All Day, Every Day." I still have a dog tag on my keychain from this special week. Going to music camp gave me a chance to connect with Salvationists who have influenced my life in numerous ways. I gained mentors who continue to challenge me in my faith and friends that I will have for a lifetime. I am so thankful for that first summer at JMC and for the many summers I have spent at music camps.

I've been a member of The Salvation Army for almost 20

years now and I have had the chance to be involved in some great opportunities around the world, especially through music. Some highlights include travelling to Brazil with the Mississauga Temple Band, going to England with the OCE Divisional Youth Chorus for the Army's 150th anniversary, and visiting California three times with various youth bands for the Rose Bowl Parade.

I have been able to meet fellow Salvationists from around the world and be a witness to those who may not know Christ. I consider myself blessed to be part of such a global community of Christ-followers. I have loved the opportunity to travel and connect with so many over the years. In fact, it was through one of these trips that I met my husband Daniel. On my last trip to California for the Rose Bowl Parade, I was playing in our Territorial Youth Band. This time, we were joined by seven other youth



bands from around the world, including the New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa Territorial Youth Band, of which Daniel was a member. I can't say for sure that I would have never met Daniel if it wasn't for The Salvation Army, but I am so thankful that meeting him was a little bit easier than it would have been without that common connection of Christ and music ministry opportunities.

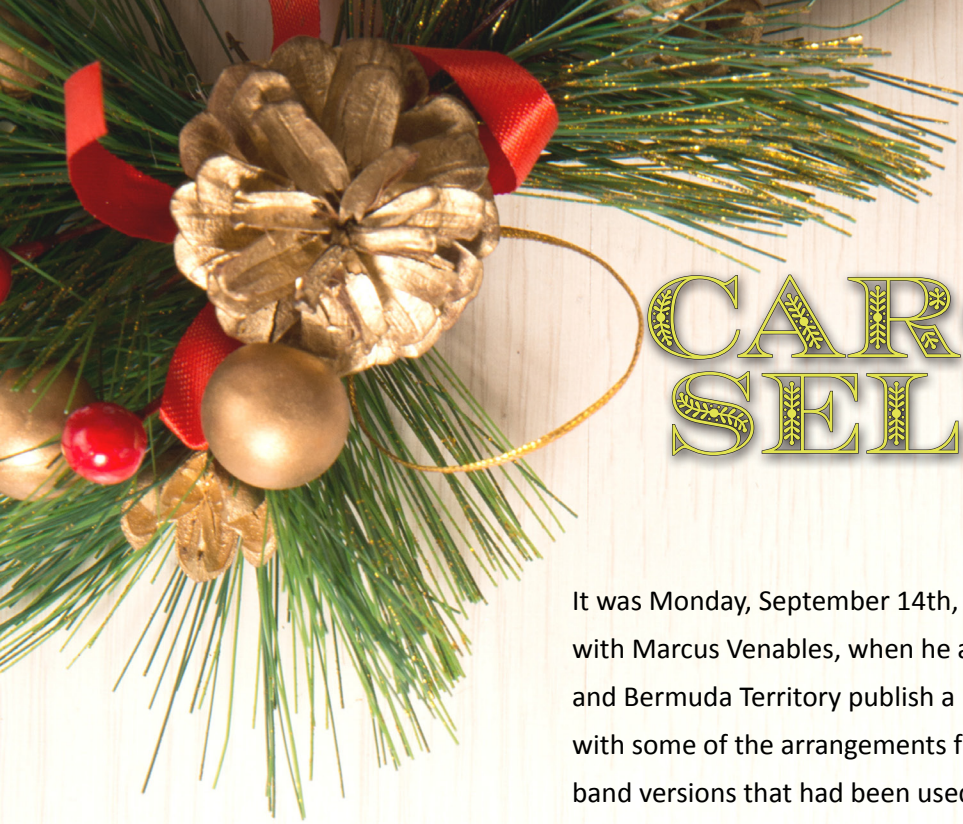
Growing up as a Salvationist has helped me navigate through some of the big choices in life. As a result of my access to music education, I was able to nurture my existing passion for music and orient my career goals around it. I attended a music regional arts program in high school and studied music education at the University of Toronto. This helped prepare me to be the middle school music teacher that I am today.

One of the amazing opportunities I've had as a Salvationist is being a member of the Canadian Staff Band. I love coming together with other musicians to make music. In Salvation Army banding, it is a bonus that these musicians not only share your passion for music, but also a love for Christ. It has truly been

a blessing to have a strong and supportive faith community in the CSB. Knowing that you have a group of people who care about you and pray for you can bring a certain peace to life's decisions.

As someone who wasn't born into the Army, I have what some might say is a unique perspective in that I know what it is like to be "new." Like any church, sometimes it can be a tough place to be a newcomer. At times, I felt myself excluded from opportunities because it didn't occur to others that perhaps new people wouldn't know about them. Sometimes newcomers can get lost in the traditions. It is our job to help them feel welcome and we should try to go out of our way to explain what is going on at the corps. After all, how else is a newcomer supposed to know what a YP Band or a Singing Company is? Make them feel included by inviting them to Bible study, youth group, music ministries or other corps events. I was someone who stuck around despite having been excluded at times, and I am so grateful I did. How many others have we lost? It is my hope that we as an Army make the conscious effort to look for ways to connect with new members of our congregations.





CAROLLING SELECTIONS

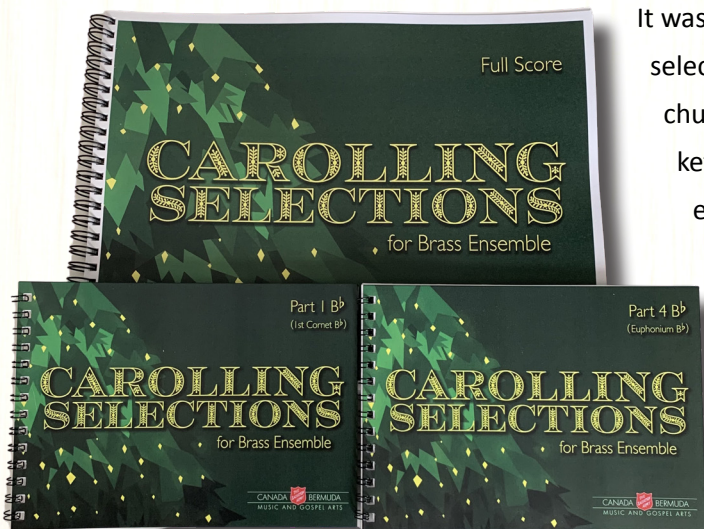
REVIEW BY CRAIG LEWIS

It was Monday, September 14th, and I was on my regular MAGA staff check-in call with Marcus Venables, when he asked if I would be interested in having the Canada and Bermuda Territory publish a book of 12 of his carol selections. I was familiar with some of the arrangements from Venabass videos, as well as some of the full band versions that had been used by the Canadian Staff Band, so I was immediately interested. We arranged a meeting the next day with Maple Leaf Brass editor, Rachel Ewing, to discuss the project.

It would be a tight timeline to get these books typeset, edited and prepared in time to be used this Christmas, but we felt that these arrangements were needed precisely at this time. Given COVID restrictions, there was a demand for music specifically for small brass ensembles that could be recorded by corps and widely used as part of online church services without copyright restrictions. We also knew that there would be interest from non-church ensembles based on the quality of the arrangements and Marcus' growing reputation.

It was decided to go with a "carolling book" printed format so that these selections could be portable. Aside from the ability to use them in church services, they can be used in Christmas concerts, around the kettle, on the street corner, or while supporting community Christmas events. International euphonium virtuoso, David Childs, reviewed the arrangements for the Brass Band World magazine and had this to say: "On first inspection it would be easy to simply categorize this new publication as another flexi-part carolling book, but to do so would be a huge injustice...they're inventive quintets that would stand alone as instrumental items in any concert or service."

Paramount in the projects that MAGA chooses to publish, is

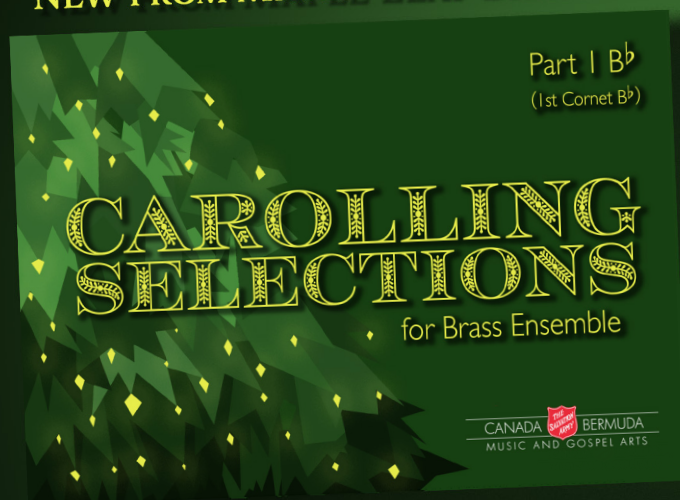


the desire to resource and equip local corps musical ensembles, and this project is no different. While some of these arrangements will require a little more preparation than others, there is something in these books for all ensembles. After receiving their set of books and reading through them at rehearsal, the bandmaster at one rural Ontario corps sent us this note: "I was very pleased to see these arrangements published in five-part scoring so a band like mine - 10 players - can have ready access to playable music." The inclusion of a full printed score will prove useful for many small bands that choose to use it as part of their full group ministry.

Whether you are a corps music ensemble looking for new ministry tools to proclaim the birth of Christ or just a quintet of brass players that want some new, creative arrangements of old Christmas classics, the *Carolling Selections* books are a must have!



NEW FROM MAPLE LEAF BRASS



CANADA  BERMUDA
MUSIC AND GOSPEL ARTS

12 ARRANGEMENTS BY MARCUS VENABLES FOR FIVE-PART BRASS ENSEMBLE

Full Score	Away in a Manger
Part 1 B \flat	Deck the Halls
Part 2 B \flat /E \flat	The First Noel
Part 3 B \flat /E \flat	God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
Part 4 B \flat	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Part 5 B \flat /E \flat	I Wonder as I Wander

Jingle in the Halls
O Come Let Us Adore Him
O Holy Night!
Wassail Song
We Three Kings
What Child is This?

Available from
Trade North

<https://store.salvationarmy.ca/>

ONLINE LESSONS

BY MARCUS VENABLES

Over the last few months, we have spent an enormous amount of time in front of screens for work, church, fellowship and leisure. Exhausting is an understatement as we navigate issues with lag, internet speeds and endless other distractions.

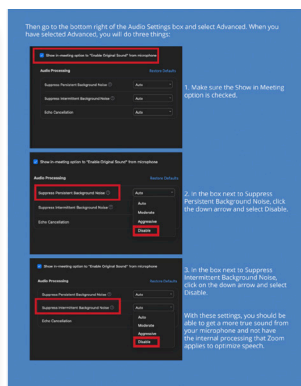
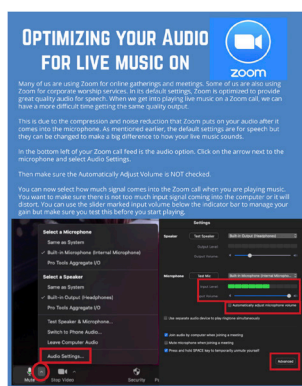
Just like many other music leaders, I have been doing online lessons for a few of my younger students. What I want to stress through this brief article is that just like our programs during non-pandemic life, music is still a useful tool to help people engage. Most of my students are between the ages of 9-13. We meet for 30 minutes and work through a specific lesson. Sounds simple, right? Well, it can be if we have all the right tools to make it work.

First, you need to know your Zoom and computer settings. Noise reduction can ruin your lesson. On page 14 of the June SAWM, there is a simple outline of how to adapt your settings. Learn how to share your screen so you can watch a recent music video or display a specific playing exercise.



For my lessons, I use the *Brass Course* from the music department. They are designed to work for self-taught situations or with a teacher. The vocabulary used is clear and concise. Sometimes, I read exactly what is written and other times I choose to expand on a subject or a technique. The course also gives a clear indication of how to progress. There is a sense of accomplishment as you work through each lesson and complete the level.

Take time to teach proper warm-up methods. The book includes instruction for warm-ups, but it is important to also demonstrate. About halfway through the lesson, we take a little break. During this break, I chat to my

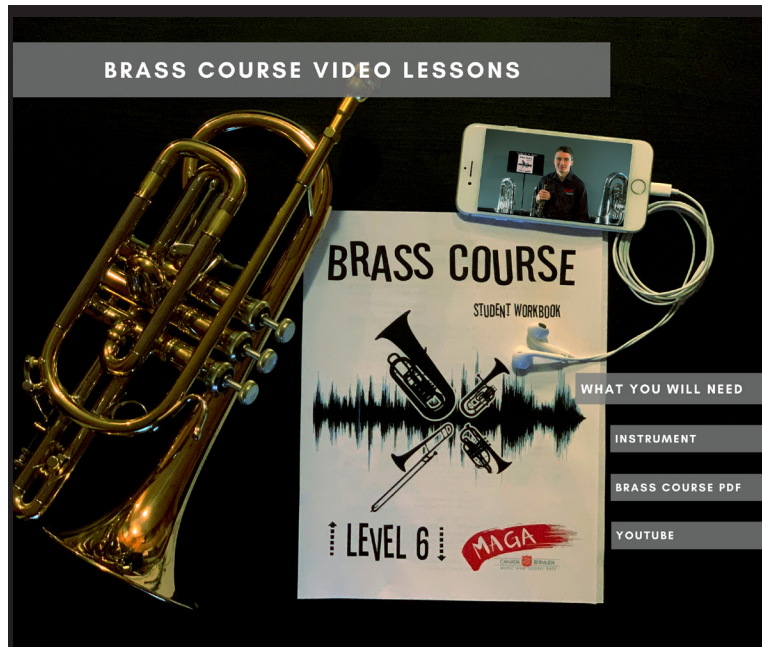


students about their life and engage with them about school, church or family. I ask them about games they are playing, what movies they are watching, or what sports or YouTube videos they have enjoyed lately. I also ask them about whether they have been reading their Bible or praying recently. It's short and sweet, and nothing is forced. I want to build a relationship, a sense of trust and develop a mentorship with each student. If nothing is new, we get back to the lesson.

Another aspect of our lesson is working on a project. Perhaps this is recording a solo for a service, a school music project, or an audition. This allows a balance of working on lessons with practical application.

With each passing week, more and more young people are missing out on their musical development. As well, we know the impact that musical groups in corps have on

our spiritual lives. We can likely name a music leader who mentored us throughout various stages of our lives. Are we neglecting our young people during this time? I challenge myself and anyone reading this article to take on a student and help keep music ministry alive during these challenging times.



NO TEACHER? NO PROBLEM! CHECK OUT THESE ONLINE VIDEO LESSONS AND START PRACTICING!



On our website you will find a collection of lyric videos available to use in the Advent season. Resources are also available with topic suggestions, responsive readings, and activities and skits for young people. Many thanks to our fellow Music and Gospel Arts departments around the world for also sharing their Christmas resources.

<https://salvationist.ca/music-gospel-arts/online-service-resources/christmas-resources/>



CANADA AND BERMUDA TERRITORY

PRESENTS

STREAMING LIVE AT
SALVATIONIST.CA/CHRISTMAS



AT ROY THOMSON HALL

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

AT 7:30 PM EST

SPECIAL GUEST
ELIZABETH SHEPHERD

FEATURING
CANADIAN STAFF BAND
BANDMASTER JOHN LAM
CANADIAN STAFF SONGSTERS
SONGSTER LEADER MAJOR LEN BALLANTINE

Maple Leaf Brass

Recent Maple Leaf Brass titles:

No. 85	Song Arrangement	Grace	[Ty Watson]
No. 86	Hymn Arrangement	Londonderry Air	[Olaf Ritman]
No. 87	Meditation	Thy Will	[Mike Brooks]
No. 88	March	The First Noel	[Aaron Dyke]

<https://salvationist.ca/music-gospel-arts/publications/maple-leaf-brass/>

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS

Feel free to send us your ideas, articles, videos, posters and pictures. This newsletter is meant to cover all music ministry types from across the territory, and we need your help to reach every corner. Forward any information to Marcus.Venables@salvationarmy.ca and we'll do our best to put you in our next issue!

