

Brass Ensemble Takes 'Peter and the Wolf' on the Road

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The Shenandoah University Brass Ensemble, under the direction of Steven Trinkle, associate professor of trumpet, will be performing at seven different elementary schools in Frederick, Fauquier, Warren and Loudoun counties as part of an educational outreach program developed by Dr. Genie Burkett, associate professor of music education at SU.

The program will expose fourth and fifth graders to ideas about musical elements, concert etiquette and what the conductor does during a performance.

This program is funded by a grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts, Trinkle Brass Works, Isabelle Koons and Shenandoah University.

The ensemble has performed Donald Waldrop's arrangement of Sergei Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf" at two different elementary schools so far and is scheduled to present this educational program at six more schools this spring.

"Peter and the Wolf" is often used by elementary music teachers to introduce instruments of the orchestra and themes in music. It is appropriate for children because Prokofiev created it for his own children.

The piece tells the story of a young boy and his animal friends who save the day from an evil wolf.

In the original work, each character in the story is portrayed by a different instrument of the orchestra and each character also has its own theme. The story comes to life with the assistance of a narrator.

The arrangement for brass ensemble is unique in that it beautifully tells the tale with 13 musicians and a narrator and not with a complete orchestra of 65 members. Additionally, traveling to many schools — often with small performance spaces — is a



SUN Photo by CATHY KUEHNER

Brass Ensemble Director Steven Trinkle responds to a question from a fourth-grade student at Red Bud Run Elementary prior to a performance of "Peter and the Wolf." The ensemble will present this work to a number of schools.

lot easier with a small brass ensemble rather than a large orchestra.

Prior to a performance, the music teacher at each school is given an educational packet designed by Burkett to accompany the performance.

Each concert begins with Trinkle introducing each character in the story, what instrument it is played by, followed by an ex-

cerpt of the character's theme by a member of the brass ensemble.

In addition to the performance of "Peter and the Wolf," the brass ensemble will also play "Aquarela Do Brasil (Ary Baroso)" arranged by Duda.

"The reason we do this is because we want children to hear the music of the great composers and, hopefully, it will inspire

them to listen to other kinds of music," Trinkle said. "Additionally, we encourage the students to become inspired to learn an instrument or voice."

The Shenandoah Brass Ensemble will also perform "Peter and the Wolf" as part of its program at its concert on Wednesday, April 3, at 8 p.m. in Armstrong Concert Hall. Admission is free.