

Boston Brass – Member Bios

Jeff Conner, Trumpet

Jeff Conner is the only original member of Boston Brass. He founded the group with some fellow Boston musicians while a student at Boston University and has engineered the meteoric rise of this ensemble's fame in the world of popular chamber music. Jeff received his master's degree in Music from Boston University and his bachelor's degree in music from Boston Conservatory. He has presented his Entrepreneurial Clinic, "The Portfolio Musician" at The Yale School of Music, New England Conservatory of Music, Boston Conservatory of Music, Belmont School of Music, University of South Carolina, University of Las Vegas, University of Missouri, Syracuse University, Kansas State University, University of Kansas, Iowa State, Kansas City Conservatory and the Indiana Music Educators Conference. He is co-author of "The Portfolio Musician, Case Studies in Success" with Grammy Nominated Musician John Laverty

Jose Sibaja, Trumpet

Jose brings an incredible level of artistry, humor and personality to Boston Brass. A native of Costa Rica, he studied at the New World School of the Arts and at the University of Miami in Gilbert Johnson's studio. He held positions in the Miami Symphony, the Sinfonietta de Caracas and the Orquesta Sinfonica Venezuela and has performed as soloist with the Springfield Symphony, Orquesta Sinfonica Venezuela, and Orquesta Sinfonica Nacional de Costa Rica. Jose is active in South Florida's Latin music scene and toured the world extensively in Ricky Martin's band for eight years. He appears in more than 150 commercial recordings with artists such as Celia Cruz, Gloria Estefan, Alejandro Sanz. Jose has performed on Late Night with David Letterman, The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, Saturday Night Live and the Grammys.

Chris Castellanos, Horn

A lifelong resident of Las Vegas, Chris Castellanos received his formal education at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Chris is a former member of the Dallas Brass and the Las Vegas Philharmonic, with whom he has also been a soloist. In addition Chris has shared the stage many times with the Utah Symphony, Miami Ballet, Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass, Nevada Chamber Orchestra, Las Vegas Jazz Connection, and the TAD Wind Symphony of Japan.

As a top call freelancer, Chris has played over 1700 performances of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Phantom – The Las Vegas Spectacular" and additional performances with Disney's "The Lion King" and the musical "Spamalot". Chris has backed countless headliners on the Las Vegas Strip. Most notably – Frank Sinatra Jr., Tony Bennett, Johnny Mathis, Peter Cetera, Peabo Bryson, Kenny G, Robert Goulet, Olivia Newton-John, Placido Domingo, Luciano Pavarotti, Michel Legrand, Mannheim Steamroller, Yes, Josh Groban, Michael Bubl , Charlotte Church, Ricky Martin at the Latin Grammys

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and David Foster (“Hit Man” live album and DVD). He has also toured with Andrea Bocelli.

As an educator, Chris has performed and given masterclasses and clinics in every state of the US, as well as 30 countries. These include The Juilliard School, New England Conservatory of Music, The Sibelius Academy in Finland, Yong Siew Toh Conservatory in Singapore, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, The Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts, The Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic and the Texas Bandmasters Association, to name but a few.

Domingo Pagliuca, Trombone

A native of Venezuela, trombonist Domingo Pagliuca has performed as Associate Principal Trombonist of the Orquesta Sinfonica Venezuela for thirteen years and also served as a member of the Artistic Committee. Among his teaching positions, he was trombone professor of the Simon Bolivar Music Conservatory, as well as trombone professor of “EL SISTEMA,” the Simon Bolivar Youth Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela’s musical and orchestral program. He has presented master classes in universities and music festivals in the United States, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela, Germany, Austria, Singapore, Malaysia, China, Thailand, and Hong Kong. In 2008, Domingo was appointed Principal Trombonist of the Miami Symphony Orchestra from 2008 – 2013. In addition, he is the Principal Trombonist of the Florida Grand Opera Orchestra and Palm Beach Symphony Orchestra. His versatility as a Latin music player has made him one of the most in-demand trombonists in Venezuela and Latin America for recording sessions and musical productions in the commercial business. He has toured throughout the US, Latin America and Europe with the OSV and artists such as Franco De Vita, Juan Luis Guerra & 4:40, Gilberto Santa Rosa, Luis Enrique, Raphael, and Oscar D’Leon.

He was invited to Peru as guest Faculty to the First Music Festival of the REALMUSIC foundation. In 2011 he participated in the Latin Grammy Winner Album “EN PRIMERA FILA” by FRANCO DE VITA, as trombonist, arranger and Brass Post-Producer receiving 4 Latin Grammy Winner Certificates as well as receiving another Latin Grammy Certificate for the 2013 Best Rock Album appearance in “SERA” by LA VIDA BOHEME. He was the trombone Professor at Florida International University from 2011 to 2015. In October 2015, will perform as guest soloist at Kansas State University, where he will premier The Beckel Trombone concerto in Kansas State. Currently, he is working on his solo CD among his artistic projects.

Sam Pilafian, Tuba

Renowned tuba artist Sam Pilafian, B.M. ’72, joined the Frost School of Music faculty at the start of the 2012-2013 academic year. In addition to his private teaching, he is the faculty mentor to the Stamps Brass Quintet. Pilafian was named Distinguished Alumnus

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of the University of Miami Frost School of Music in 1996 and is perhaps best known as a founding member of the internationally renowned Empire Brass Quintet. Versatile in both classical and jazz realms, Pilafian has recorded and performed with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, the Duke Ellington Orchestra, Lionel Hampton, and Pink Floyd. As a solo jazz artist, Pilafian has recorded fifteen CDs. He was also a member of the large brass ensemble Summit Brass. He is an arranger, composer and recording producer and is the coauthor of the best selling pedagogy texts “Breathing Gym” and “Brass Gym.” Sam Pilafian was formerly professor of music in the ASU Herberger College School of Music, having previously served for 20 years on the faculties of Boston University and their summer Tanglewood Institute. As a past president and chairman of the board of the International Tuba Euphonium Association, Pilafian now serves on its board of directors.