



## CHAMELEON BRASS

[www.chameleonbrass.com](http://www.chameleonbrass.com)  
[mail@chameleonbrass.com](mailto:mail@chameleonbrass.com)

### Chameleon Brass press kit

For more information, contact; [mail@chameleonbrass.com](mailto:mail@chameleonbrass.com)

Fonts: Chameleon Brass name: Copper Plate Gothic Bold  
Text: Ariel

#### Biography of Group

Chameleon Brass was formed in 1997. The current personnel of Giles Fowler and Matthew Wells on trumpet, Ian Stott on French horn, Steve Thompson on trombone and Richard Fox on tuba has remained constant from the first rehearsal, to this day.

Each of the five members of the group bring to the ensemble a completely different experience of music. Giles, Matt and Steve all come from a formal conservatoire education, while Ian attended one of the finest military music schools in the world, with Richard studying music as a science degree at London's City University.

Individually the members experience of the music industry is just as diverse, playing for many of the London Orchestras, in countless shows in London's West End and with world famous names, such as the Glenn Miller Orchestra.

The group has given many recitals across the UK, and have accompanied the BBC singers at St John's, Smith Square in London.

In 2010 the Chameleons were guests of the Spraoi Festival in the Republic of Ireland, giving six informal 'street' recitals amongst some of the finest acts in Europe.

Chameleon Brass currently have two CD's available. The first 'It's All Been Arranged' featured many original arrangements for brass quintet by members of the group, while the second, 'Colours of Christmas' received airplay on BBC Radio 2. The group have also played live on the CBBC channel on a children's television show.

Chameleon Brass is passionate about music education and regularly hold master classes and recitals at some of the countries finest schools.

## **Official Biographies of members**

### **Giles Fowler - 1<sup>st</sup> Trumpet**

Originally from Sedgley in the West Midlands, Giles began playing the cornet aged 8, and went on to study at the Junior Department of Birmingham Conservatoire before studying at the Royal College of Music in London. Whilst there, he won a number of prizes for brass playing, gave the first performance of a Trumpet Concerto by Neil Crossland and studied with David Mason and Michael Laird. He also performed in several master classes with John Wallace, and was lead trumpet in the RCM Big Band under Don Lusher.

Whilst still at the RCM Giles was Principal Trumpet with the Ernest Read Symphony Orchestra, the Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra and was a member of the European Community Youth Orchestra. Since leaving the RCM Giles has been involved in a variety of freelance work including the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra.

Giles is also currently Principal Trumpet with the All Souls Orchestra, with whom he has travelled as far a field as Moscow, France and Bulgaria, where he was soloist in the Haydn Trumpet Concerto. He has also been soloist in several events in the UK including Symphony Hall Birmingham, the Royal Albert Hall, London, and more recently on the 2006 summer tour of Scotland.

He has appeared with Noël Tredinnick and All Souls musicians in numerous broadcasts including Songs of Praise and the BBC Radio 4 Daily Service. Giles is also a regular member of the Word Alive Orchestra playing at Spring Harvest. He is married to Sharon and they have a son, Ryan.

### **Matthew Wells - 2ns trumpet**

In 1992, Matthew was awarded a scholarship to study at the Royal College of Music in London. During his four years there he studied with Michael Laird and Malcolm Smith and Baroque Trumpet with Mark Bennett. He was awarded many prizes during his time at the college including the Keith Falkner Bach/Handel Prize and the Royal College of Music Senior Brass Prize.

Since graduating in 1996, Matthew has freelanced as a professional trumpet player, working and recording both on the Modern and Natural trumpets, and has appeared on television, radio and film including BBC 'Songs of Praise' and 'Elizabeth - The Golden Age'. He has completed tours all over the world and has performed in most of the major concert venues in the UK and across Europe. Matthew has worked with many leading orchestras and ensembles including the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, London Concert Orchestra, Ulster Orchestra, English Baroque Soloists, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Gabrielli Consort, and regularly deputises in the West End show 'Les Miserables'.

Alongside his professional playing career, Matthew also enjoys teaching the trumpet and currently teaches at Highgate School and Bishop's Stortford College, and also regularly teaches talented students at the Junior Department of The Royal College of Music.

### **Ian Stott - French Horn**

Ian Stott started his career as a military musician in the Household Cavalry, playing at many state occasions at venues such as Buckingham Palace and often on horseback! Whilst in the Army he studied at the Guildhall School of Music with Jonathan Lipton and Anthony Halstead. After 11 years service, Ian left to become a freelance horn player .

Since leaving the army, Ian has worked with the London Concert Orchestra and the National Symphony Orchestra amongst others and is frequently a deputy on 'Phantom of The Opera' in London's West End. He tours extensively with 'Candlelight Opera' and works with the

'Chamberhouse Winds and Horn Quartet'.

A committed teacher, he currently coaches the horns for the 'National Children's Orchestra' and teaches horn at Cranleigh School, Epsom College, Tiffin Boys and Girls, Reigate and Kingston Grammar Schools and Putney High and has many scholarship students.

### **Steve Thompson - Trombone**

Steve Thompson was born in 1971 in London. He was trained at the Trinity College of Music in London between 1990 and 1995 where he studied the trombone, composition & arrangement and electronic music. During this time he also received the Associate Diploma from the Royal College of Music (ARCM). In 1995 he continued his studies for a further year at Trinity as a Jazz scholar.

After leaving college Steve played with many orchestras and ensembles including the London Concert Orchestra, The London Mozart Players, the Virtuosi of London and the Glenn Miller Orchestra.

In 1995 Steve was asked to write a short fanfare for the opening of a new opera house in central London, an event that was attended by HRH The Prince of Wales. Later that year he was asked to write a similar composition for HRH The Princess Royal. Other requests followed including an invitation from Rt Hon John Major MP to play at 10 Downing Street, and at the Launch of 'Classic FM magazine' at the 'Royal Festival Hall'.

In 2004 Steve was asked to contribute music for the Feature film 'Love' by Cat Films.

He has performed in almost every major concert venue in the UK and has toured most countries in Europe. Steve has worked with many virtuoso contemporary musicians including Nigel Kennedy and Diego Mason. He has also appeared numerous times on Television and Radio including ITV's 'Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Take Away' and 'The Two Ronnie's Sketch Book', where he appeared with 'Lisa Stansfield'.

His arrangements for brass quintet and large brass group have been sold around the world and performed in Italy, USA and Australia and Japan.

He currently has two solo albums in production - a solo Jazz recording entitled 'Betcha Bottom Dollar' and a collection of classical trombone works entitled 'Lore'.

His first book, a tutor for budding young trombonists, was published in 2006 by Warwick Music Steve is currently Head of Brass at Eltham College in London and also teaches at The James Allen's Girls School and St Dunstons College.

### **Richard Fox - Tuba**

Richard Fox first started playing the tuba at the age of 12, having been inspired by a recording of 'Jabba the Hut' from the 'Return of the Jedi' soundtrack. He subsequently won an award from Surrey County Council to go to the Junior Department of the Guildhall School of Music where he studied tuba with Oren Marshall. Richard went on to study music at City University, and tuba at the Guildhall School of music with Jim Anderson, where he gained a first class honours degree.

Richard's diverse musical education has led him to develop interests in many areas of music, such as jazz, free improvisation, and 'world music' as well as the kinds of music more associated with tuba playing. As a result of this Richard has performed with a wide variety of different artists and ensembles including the London Sinfonietta, Paul Whiteman Orchestra, The Brasshoppers, English National Opera, June Tabor and the Creative Jazz Orchestra, Billy Cobham and the London Jazz Orchestra, the Philharmonia, and Paul Rutherford's Iskastra.

Richard works as a freelance tuba player in the London area, he taught brass for Surrey County Arts for nine years and is tuba teacher at The University of Surrey. He has written and arranged

a number of works for brass including 'Tuba Tooter' a tutor book for beginner tuba players, 'Brace Yourself for Brass' a collection of pieces for players with braces and numerous arrangements for brass quintet.

Richard is married, has 2 beautiful daughters and lives in Surrey where he also pastors a church.