PORTLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
TOSHIYUKI SHIMADA, MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

66TH SEASON 1990-91

Teacher’s Guide

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General Concert Theme

Broadly speaking, this program examines two musical topics with strong American associations.

The Chestnut Brass Company has thoroughly explored the history of brass instruments, and explains that history in its presentation, "Hot Air: The Story of Brass Instruments." This quick tour of 400 years of brass, with demonstrations of some of the 150 instruments in the CBC's collection, forms a major part of the program.

The history of brass is obviously not limited to this country; but, as the CBC will demonstrate, brass is key to two very American styles, jazz and patriotic band music.

George Gershwin, of course, is one of the best-known American composers, and one uniquely able to unite pop and art music. That's a very American hybrid, for two reasons: our resistance to the Old World elitism sometimes perceived in art music; and the fact that there's more money in pop than art.

Gershwin and the brass band come together in the program's last selection, "Strike Up the Band!"

The Program

Toshiyuki Shimada, Conductor
Chestnut Brass Company

Smith
George Gershwin
Peter Schickele
Chestnut Brass Company
Gershwin
Gershwin
Gershwin

The Star-Spangled Banner
An American in Paris (excerpt)
Five of a Kind (movement TBA)
Hot Air: The Story of Brass Instruments
I Got Rhythm
Porgy and Bess (excerpt)
Strike Up the Band!