Winona Brass Band celebrates 20 years

By: Shawn Kennedy-Lee

Photo by: Kayla Thompson

The Winona Brass Band will be presenting its 20th Anniversary finale concert on Sunday, May 11, 2014 at 2:00 pm at St. Cecilia Theater in Winona. The band is comprised of 25 brass players and percussionists from Winona and the surrounding area including Wisconsin and Iowa. In addition to the familiar brass instruments, the band uses British brass instruments that are not commonly seen in the United States such as Eb tuba, Eb alto horn, and Eb soprano cornet.

Throughout its history, the band has performed at local and regional venues including Chatfield's Music in the Park summer concert series, Decorah's Nordic Fest, Rushford Society for the Arts' concert series, and many more. Under the direction of Richard Lindner, the Winona Brass Band continues to delight audiences with its variety of music programming, impressive technical flourishes, and vibrant musicality.

You may recognize a local face in the band. Shawn Kennedy-Lee of Lewiston, formerly of Zumbro Falls plays Eb alto horn with the group. She enjoys participating in the Winona Brass Band as a way to stay connected to her love of music. She enjoys going to weekly rehearsals because they have such a wide range of ages and interests in the group, and they come together as friends to make music.

Selections for this concert include a variety of concert pieces. The program includes the premiere of an original work for brass band by Winona composer, Eric Heukeshoven. The work is based on three popular hymn tunes. The band's opening piece Brass Triumphant was used as

a contest piece for the 2013 Midland Area Brass Band Championships in Great Britain. Contest pieces are chosen for their difficulty and the way they showcase the talents of the band members. Other pieces include Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, and Men of Music March by Karl King.

All concerts are held at St. Cecilia Theater on the Winona Cotter campus at 1115 W Broadway St. in Winona. The theater entrance is at the grand staircase on 7th Street. If you prefer to use an elevator, enter the door to the left of the grand staircase. Concerts are supported by a free will offering.

The Winona Brass Band invites you to attend the 20th anniversary celebration. Like us on Facebook for information on upcoming concerts.