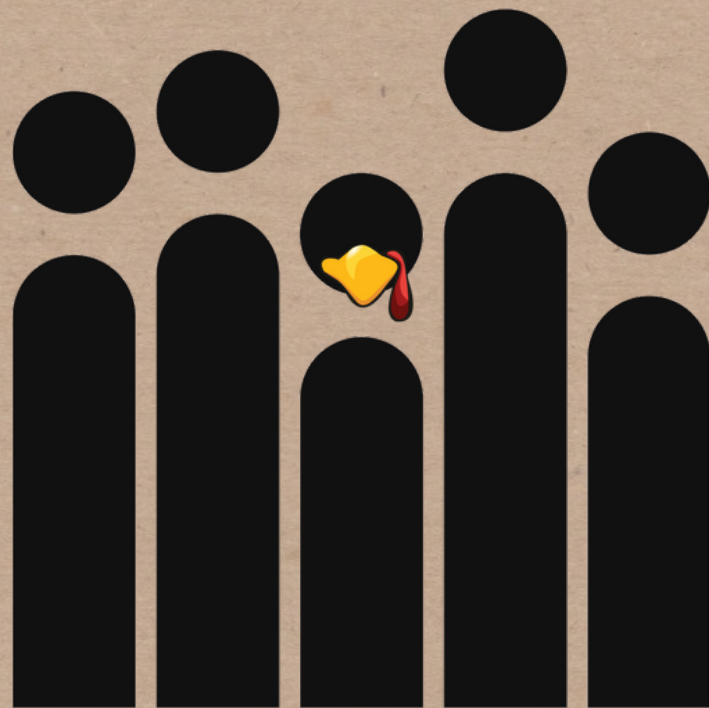


Official Press Kit



BILLI BRASS

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BIOGRAPHY

Billi Brass is a brass quintet created by five young musicians in 2012. To date, they boast collaborations with important symphonic institutions. The repertoire of the quintet ranges from classical to jazz music, as well as folk and contemporary compositions, soundtracks from famous movies and original brass quintet pieces. The group, besides having commissioned to the English composer Mark Hamlyn the music for the dutch short film *De Brug* (Joris Ivens, 1928) and to the American one David Short the piece for the famous film *Le Voyage dans la Lune* (Georges Méliès, 1902), has interpreted several contemporary works. The ensemble, which is based in Perugia, has taken part to a broad range of projects and festivals, both in Italy and abroad. Its activity includes the *Spoletto "Festival dei 2 Mondi"*, the *Stresa Festival*, the *International competition Prix Italia 2018* (Capri, the live concert was broadcasted by Rai Radio Classica), the *Chigiana Summer Festival & Academy* (Siena), the *Atlante Sonoro Festival* (Rome), *Giardini La Mortella* (Ischia, Naples), the *VII and X edition of Eolie in Classico* (Messina), the *XVI International Puppet Festival The Golden Dolphin* (Varna, Bulgaria), the *Festival Balade Cévenole avec Maurice André* (Saint-André-Capcèze, France) and the *Festival delle Nazioni* (Perugia). In April 2016 the Billi Brass Quintet won the first place at the *8th International Music competition for young musicians in Treviso*. The group also participated to the selection for the final round of the *Philip Jones International Brass Ensemble Competition (PIJBEC)* at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester (UK) in July 2019.

SILENT CINEMA PROJECT

The silent cinema project consists in the live soundtracking of some of the most famous auteur short films of silent cinema. The filmography includes shorts by *Joris Ivens*, *Buster Keaton* and *Georges Méliès*, while the original and unpublished music is the result of stable collaboration with *Mark Hamlyn* and *David Short*, two of the most brilliant composers on today's music scene.



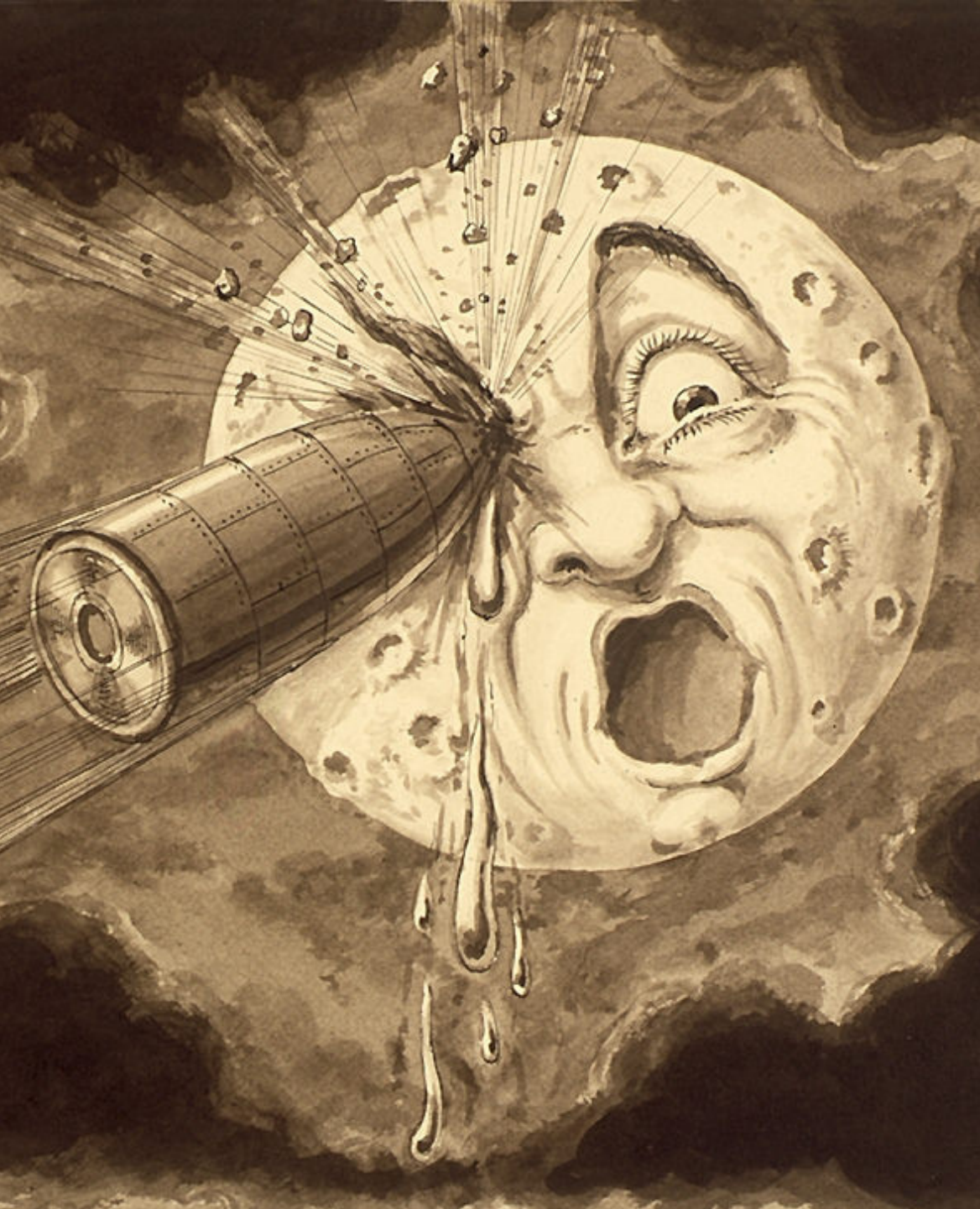
LE VOYAGE DANS LA LUNE - GEORGE MELIES

From the Greek goddess Selene to Jules Verne, from the full moon of medieval witches and werewolves to Georges Méliès, up to the present day, the history of humanity (and music) is full of lunar references.

Our journey begins precisely from Méliès. *Le Voyage Dans la Lune*, the first science fiction film in history (1902), is presented again with an unpublished and original soundtrack, composed for the Billi Brass Quintet by the well-known American composer *David Short*. The musical itinerary will then continue through different eras, with a repertoire that will see the Moon as the protagonist, ranging from classical music to jazz, from pop music to rock up to timeless soundtracks.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZNAHcMMOHE8&t=469s>

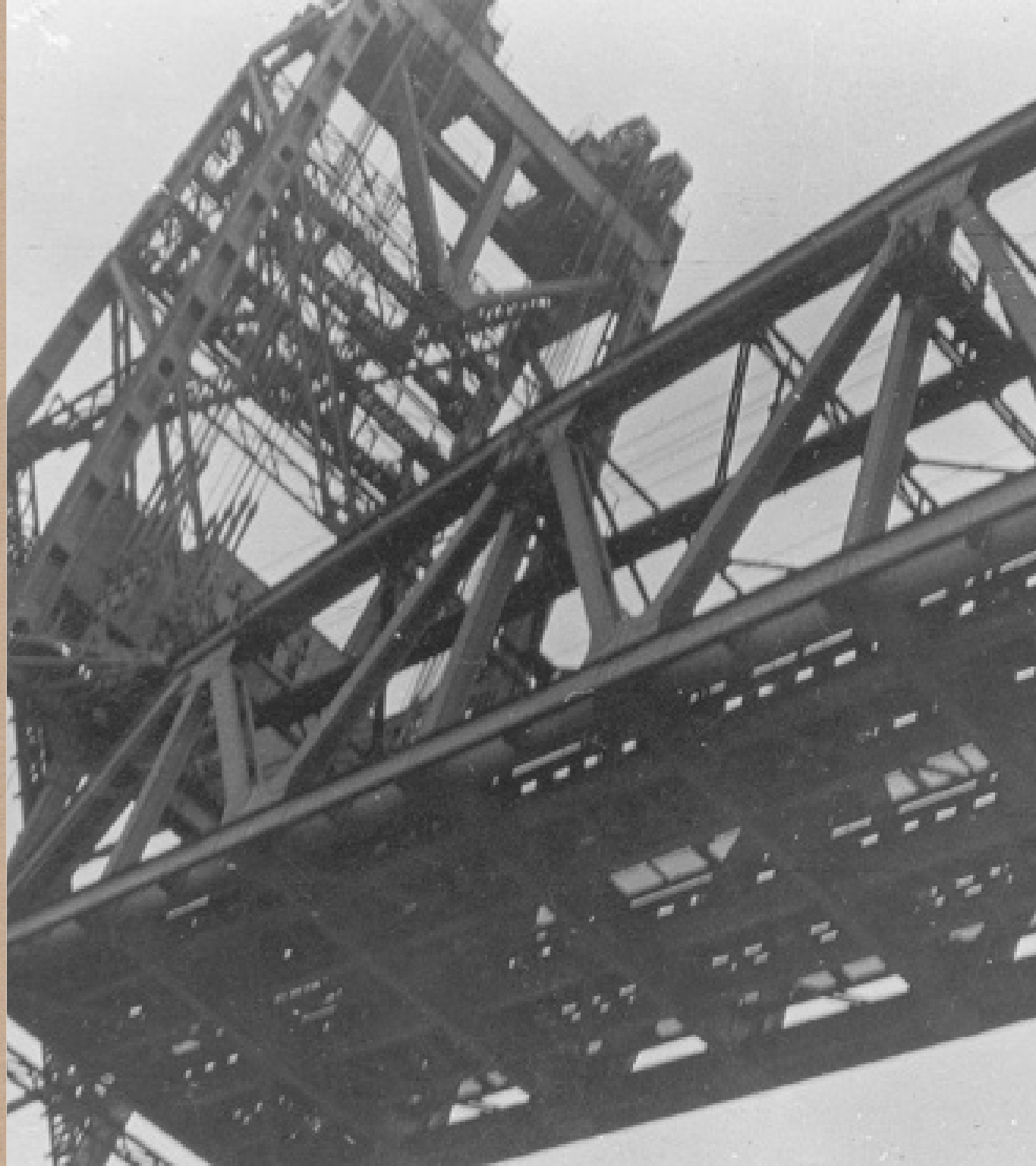
DANS LA LUNE. EN PLEIN DANS L'OEIL !! (9^e TABLEAU)



DE BRUG - JORIS IVENS

De Brug (*The Bridge*) is a 1928 documentary, directed by *Joris Ivens*. The film describes the structure, mechanisms and functioning of the De Hef (*Koningshavenbrug*) railway lift bridge in Rotterdam, completed in 1927. Original music by *Mark Hamlyn*, composed for the Silent Film Project, premiered by the Billi Brass Quintet for the *Koningsdag* 2016.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BMsMOi_d7kY



THE PLAYHOUSE - BUSTER KEATON

The story begins and develops inside a theatre, where Keaton is a sort of factotum, a technician assigned to the most varied tasks; but, in the first few minutes, we see him acting, playing, dressing up, doing cabaret, multiplying into actors and spectators, women and children, so much so that in an "evening program" his name appears in all possible roles, no less than 27 times. But reality is never what it seems...

The Playhouse (1921) is one of Buster Keaton's masterpieces of silent cinema, with original and unpublished music written for the group by American composer David Short. The musical itinerary will then continue through different eras, with a repertoire that will see the theater as the protagonist, ranging from Italian opera (serious and comic, Verdi and Rossini), up to the most beloved Broadway musicals (Gershwin and Bernstein).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HfqI91IdJMs&ab_channel=BilliBrassQuintet



ANIMATED SHORT FILM PROJECT: REVELATION

This project originated from the desire to combine music with animated drawing, because music and image, non-verbal forms of communication, are able to convey the understanding of the intrinsic message of the work even better (and even earlier) than verbal language itself.

The collaboration with the artist *Michele Bernardi* was born with this assumption and he gave life, with paper and pencil, to one of the most important and particular original compositions of modern literature for brass quintet: *Call* by Luciano Berio.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8xi6dUp_ums&ab_channel=BilliBrassQuintet



FROM RENAISSANCE TO JAZZ

07

From the Renaissance to Jazz offers a real journey through the history of music from the sixteenth century to the present day with an eclectic repertoire in which the various musical genres mix together, dragging the audience and playing with the thin line that separates the series from the fun. On the notes of the most famous authors, the Billi Brass Quintet offer a varied and heterogeneous program that ranges from Monteverdi to Duke Ellington, through opera, soundtracks, light and popular music, jazz, rock up to the South American dance and Balkan folklore.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QcTP40FJeQo>



MORRICONE & FRIENDS

The program includes a musical itinerary through the soundtracks of the most famous films and TV shows of the last century: from *Nino Rota* to *Nicola Piovani*, from *John Williams* to the legendary *Ennio Morricone*. An entertaining concert suitable for audiences of all ages, from curious children to nostalgic adults, where even the most demanding listener will be satisfied and never bored.

KLEZMER TIME

Klezmer music gives us the pretext for investigate the popular connotation of different genres that would seem far from this tradition. But the game is to alternate, mix pieces and atmospheres that are apparently distant from each other but have common roots. So the most attentive listener will not miss the popular and folkloric matrix of European cultured music, American spirituals and jazz. These elements, which connote a precise stylistic code and which can only lead our journey back to the point from which we started.



EIN SYMPHONISCHER SPASS

“... it is not easy to define the border separating fun from seriousness. The union of jazz and symphonic music lightens and dresses of ironic seriousness this repertoire, giving the sensation of a style out of time and fashions...”

With these words Maestro *Ennio Morricone* defines the music and the composition style of *David Short*, American composer and former first trumpet of the Rai Symphony Orchestra in Rome, Italy.

Billi Brass Quintet homage Short with this album, *Ein Symphonischer Spass*, entirely dedicated to his original works for brass quintet, never recorded before.

The compositions on this album alternate in a sort of divertissement: in fact Short borrows famous motifs from the most famous composers (*Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Stravinskij* and many others) quoting them in an unusual and original key, with an almost “chameleonic” character.

With *Ein Symphonischer Spass* the Billi Brass Quintet presents a journey into a new brass repertoire, where different genres and styles mix, always playing with the subtle line that separates seriousness from fun.



ONLINE PRESS

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In Puntata
di note

Billi Brass Quintet

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- Flavio Pannacci, *trombone*
- Guglielmo Pastorelli, *tuba*

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