A4 Brass Quartet
Biography

Jamie Smith cornet / flugelhorn
Jonathan Bates tenor horn
Michael Cavanagh baritone horn
Chris Robertson euphonium

A4 Brass Quartet comprises of principal players from some of the UK's top brass bands, including Grimethorpe Colliery, Brighouse & Rastrick and Foden's. With "technical virtuosity in abundance" (Brass Band World), these four astonishing musicians come together to perform both lyrical and high-octane works, forming a distinctive and new take on chamber music.

The Quartet has a unique blend of instruments, with a cornet, tenor horn, baritone and euphonium creating an exclusive sound that stands out from the standard brass quartet. With this unusual instrumentation, A4 Brass has actively developed their repertoire, commissioning new music, composing and arranging music themselves.

Formed in 2013 at the Royal Northern College of Music, in their first year the Quartet won the coveted Philip Jones Brass Ensemble of the Year prize. They went on to represent the brass department in the College's overall chamber music prize, winning the Christopher Rowland Ensemble of the Year Award and claiming both the jury and the audience's votes. In June 2018 the Quartet completed the prestigious International Artist Diploma in Chamber Music course at the RNCM as John Fewkes scholars.

The Quartet has performed widely throughout the UK appearing at major venues and festivals including Wigmore Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Bridgewater Hall, Cadogan Hall, Purcell Room, St. Margaret's Church Westminster Abbey (for Park Lane Group), Lake District Summer Music and King's Lynn Festivals. More recently they have completed engagements which included a residency at the Lieksa Brass Week in Finland, a concert in the Ceresio Estate Festival in Switzerland and a re-invitation to the Trakai Fanfare Week in Lithuania.

The Quartet has featured on national television and radio, appearing three times on ITV's Christmas Carol Concerts and on BBC Radio 3's 'In-Tune' twice with Sean Rafferty and Katie Derham. In 2016 they released their debut CD at the RNCM Brass Band Festival featuring new, original music composed for them, including works by Martin Ellerby, Edward Gregson, Oliver Waespi and Nigel Clarke.

A4 Brass have won numerous prizes and awards including the 2018 Royal Over-Seas League Chamber Music Competition, a Tunnell Trust Award, the Tillett Trust Young Artists' Platform series and the Musicians' Company Concert Series. In September 2018 they were selected to become City Music Foundation Artists and the following month won the Royal Philharmonic Society Henderson Chamber Ensemble Award. They regularly work with Live Music Now and Music in Hospitals & Care scheme and are committed to expanding and diversifying their work.

www.a4brassquartet.co.uk