

# **Southington Brass seeks trumpeters for record-breaking performance**

**Kimberly Primicerio | Posted: Wednesday, October 26, 2011 6:00 am**

SOUTHINGTON - In 2006, 1,166 trumpeters performed in Bolivia, setting the Guinness world record for largest trumpet ensemble.

In April, Southington Brass will attempt to break the record with 1,200 trumpeters playing a compilation of songs on Fontana Field.

"Let's use music to raise money for music," said Southington Brass member Erik Semmel. Southington Brass consists of adult and student trumpet players. The ensemble has played at a variety of functions and civic organizations over the past year.

Semmel came up with the idea for the record-breaking fundraiser. Students have sold pies, candy and other goods to raise money for the community, but the group wanted to do something bigger, Semmel said.

"Let's try and break a record," Semmel said. "If we don't try, we'll never know."

Every trumpet player who signs up for the April 21 event will pay a registration fee. Money raised will go to the SHS Band Backers, the Connecticut Music Educators Association and the Mill Foundation. "I thought it was a little insane at first," said Martin Semmel, principal of Southington High School and a member of Southington Brass. "But then I thought why not? Why not raise money for other organizations?"

Martin, Erik's brother, said it's a great opportunity for the town and those who want to get involved.

It will also allow parents of trumpet players to dust off their old trumpets and be a part of the event, Erik said. Students and parents can download the music and practice together before they set a record, he said.

Music will include "The Star Spangled Banner," a five minute compilation of patriotic tunes and the "Rocky" theme song.

"We don't want to make this hard," Erik said. A range of trumpet parts will be available for beginner trumpet players to professionals. Soon the sheet music will be posted to the group's website, [www.southingtonbrass.com/brassblast.html](http://www.southingtonbrass.com/brassblast.html).

Now that the ensemble has established its goal and picked songs, now it has to recruit people.

Through word of mouth, social networking sites and radio the event is getting out to the public, Erik said. He's reached out to the University of Hartford and the University of Connecticut.

"Not only will we break a record, but we're giving kids a worthwhile musical experience," said Tim Johnson, Kennedy Middle School band director. "This won't be a great mass of noise."

People won't just be given a trumpet and told to play. Participants will be trumpet players capable of performing their specific parts.

Johnson said he hopes he doesn't conduct the huge band but he's excited about performing.

"It would be cool to bring a guest conductor," he said. "It would add to the experience."

The world record attempt will happen at noon on April 21, 2012, at the high school. Those interested are encouraged to register in advance. The registration form is available at [www.southingtonbrass.com](http://www.southingtonbrass.com)

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