

Christmas special with brass

The Annapolis Brass Quintet is featured in a public broadcasting special.....B8



TV & radio

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Sounds of Christmas brass on TV, radio

The TV channels are flooded with specials featuring Christmas music these days, so it becomes difficult to find anything really all that special about any of them.

But if you're looking for one that does stand out, consider the effort on Channels 22 and 67 tonight at 9. What's so different about it? Well, for one thing, it's the only one that's also on radio.

It's also the only one that doesn't feature "The 12 Days of Christmas" sung country-style.

As a matter of fact, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" doesn't get sung at all. It does get played, however, and more ambitiously than you've probably ever heard it played before. The performers are the members of the Annapolis Brass Quintet, one of this area's most noted musical ensembles.

They have put together "Christmas with the Annapolis Brass Quintet," a half-hour special for the Maryland Center for Public Broadcasting, one that features a nice mix of traditional Christmas music—adapted for brass, of course—and several pieces more associated with brass arrangements.

The sound of brass is distinctive, and those

Bill Carter



show will be accessible to children viewers, which is the one unfortunate thing about the scheduling.)

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The phone company doesn't like people to call directory assistance just for the heck of it, but a lot of people have been doing it this week anyway.

The sequence goes like this: Somebody calls for a number and a tape comes up urging the caller to have a pen handy to write down the number for future reference. The voice on the tape is very familiar. So the caller dials 411

calls directory assistance. He said yesterday that Stu's message will probably be on the 411 tape for the next year—which means Stu Kerr may be reaching more people for the telephone company than he ever did for the television station.

The message has only been on since Monday, but Mr. Haschert said C&P has already received hundreds of calls from people asking if that voice really is Stu Kerr's. "The comments have been very favorable," Mr. Haschert said. "One lady even asked why we don't have Stu doing the weather."

The reason why it's Stu Kerr on 411 now and not that anonymous lady who used to try to browbeat callers into using the phone book first is because C&P decided it was time to change the approach on the tape.

"We decided we wanted to change the message—we wanted to get people to write the number down quickly so they didn't make our operators wait while they found a piece of paper. We also decided we wanted to switch to a male voice. And we wanted to do it professionally. Stu's name came up right away." Mr. Haschert admitted the reason Stu's name came