The Musical Arts Quintet (MAQ) is one of the country’s oldest and most distinguished chamber ensembles of its kind. Established in 1957 as faculty ensemble-in-residence at Ball State University, the quintet has gained national attention for its varied programming, including the traditional quintet repertoire with new works written by contemporary American composers. At Brandeis University, the ensemble gave the first performance of Irving Fine’s Romanza (then unpublished) for Fine’s memorial concert and presented the premiere of Morris Knight’s Concerto for quintet and piano with Michael Bourgeot under the auspices of the Georgia State Arts Commission’s Project Radius. The group also gave the premiere performance of Karen Thomas’ Sopravento for quintet and percussion at the National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors’ 1994 conference.

In 2010 MAQ was awarded an American Masterpieces grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The grant supported performances, educational activities, touring, and the recording of American Breeze which was released on the Albany Records label. The CD includes works by Bruce Adolphe, Amy Beach, Jenni Brandon, Jennifer Higdon, David Maslanka, and Steven Stucky, as well as the world premiere recording of Maslanka’s Quintet No. 4.

In addition to its regular series of concerts on the campus of Ball State University, MAQ has performed at conferences of the American Society of Composers, Music Educators National Conference, Music Teachers National Association, Indiana Music Educators Association, National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors National Symposium, Society of Composers Inc., and International Double Reed Society, and regularly performs recitals and presents master classes at universities and colleges across the nation.