



Rudi E. Scheidt
School of Music

NATHAN HIERS

TROMBONE RECITAL

Maeve Brophy, pianist

OCTOBER 30, 2024 | 7:00 PM

HARRIS CONCERT HALL

Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music
Albert Nguyen, Interim Director
College of Communication and Fine Arts
Debra Burns, Dean

PROGRAM

Romance Op. 21 for Trombone and Piano Axel Jorgenson
1881-1947

Concerto for Trombone and Piano Reduction Launy Grondahl
1886-1960

- I. *Moderato Assai ma Molto Maestoso*
- II. *Quasi una Leggenda: Andante Grave*
- III. *Maestoso: Rondo*

Intermission

Sonata (Vox Gabrieli) for Trombone and Piano Stepjan Sulek
1914-1986

Canzone for Solo Trombone Girolamo Frescobaldi (1583-1643)
Arranged by Eddie Koopman

PROGRAM NOTES

Romance Op. 21 for Trombone and Piano

Axel Jorgenson

1881-1947

Born in 1881, Axel Jorgenson was a Danish composer, composing music in various mediums of expression. He attempted to contribute much solo repertoire for the trombone, but much of this has been lost or is no longer used. Written in 1916 and premiered by Anton Hansen, this piece employs much of what defines the Romantic style. It has lush melodies with distinctive harmonies and leaves lots of room for expressivity and rubato. It is written in ABA format, distinguishing characters of a seemingly loving lyricism against a vehement longing that seems to evoke frustration. The accompanying orchestral accompaniment was lost in the conflicts of the second world war, necessitating a piano accompaniment. The piece has become a standard of trombone repertoire and is often shown to showcase expressive vocality.

Concerto for Trombone and Piano

Launy Grondahl

1886-1960

Another Danish Composer, Launy Grondahl was born in 1886. He began music at a young age, playing the violin. Later in life, he fashioned himself a career, playing as an orchestral violinist. He would later become a conductor, as well as a well-known composer. He is most notably known for his composition of the trombone concerto, which was written to showcase the high level of musicianship from the trombonists of the Orchestra of the Casino Theatre of Copenhagen. This piece has three movements, each with starkly different characters. The first movement involves a declamatory beginning of the piece, presenting and expanding upon a recognizable motif. This movement also has a few ad libs, giving the soloist an opportunity to play with an expressivity that juxtaposes the technicalities within. The second movement presents slow and labored lines of beauty that seem to evoke an internal conflict. This movement dances between consonance and dissonance, still maintaining rhythmic consistency, with mixed meter. The last movement rehashes some of the material from the first movement before lightening into a bouncy, playful rondo. It marches to a furious and adept end, doing much to show the depth that the trombone can have in virtuosity.

PROGRAM NOTES

Sonata (Vox Gabrieli) for Trombone and Piano

Stjepan Sulek
1914-1986

A composer of Croatian descent, Stjepan Sulek was born in 1914. He began as a violinist, playing a few solo tours in his early career. He soon became a conductor and composer, becoming internationally recognized through the Zagreb Chamber Orchestra for Radio and Television. In 1973, he was commissioned by a young International Trombone Association to compose a piece to be showcased at the international festival of the same group. It was premiered by trombonist William Cramer as Sonata (Vox Gabrieli), meaning the voice of the archangel Gabriel from the pantheon of the Christian religion. The piece utilizes mixed meter, adding depth to its beautiful evocations. It starts with a vocal, declamatory phrase, which sweetens into a dance-like bounciness. These two ideas are then juxtaposed by a portion that evokes feelings of disparities before returning to its initial phrase style. The piece ends in a triumphant exclamation.

Canzone for Solo Trombone

Girolamo Frescobaldi
1583-1643
Arranged by Eddie Koopman

Of a different ilk, this piece is arranged from a few Canzona written by the famous Italian composer Girolamo Frescobaldi. Frescobaldi wrote much music for solo keyboard. This type of music expands upon many rhythmic ideas that utilize much polyphony. Eddie Koopman arranged this piece for bass trombone with an electronic backing track. The solo parts have musical styles from both the Baroque and Renaissance eras, keeping a consistent tempo as the meter changes to accommodate for the change. A fun, dancelike piece that seems reminiscent of the music meant to accompany folklore of the olden days.