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Concert recording 2015-04-19a

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Kristine Mezines

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The University of Arkansas
Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences
Department of Music presents

Evan Johnson, trombone

Kristy Mezines, piano

Sunday, April 19th, 2015

8:00 p.m. – Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall

Deux Danses (1953)

Jean Michel-Defaye (b.1932)

- I. Danse Sacree
- II. Danse Profane

Romance (p.1932)

Carl Maria von Weber (1786-1826)

Sonata in A Minor, Wq 132 (1747)

C.P.E. Bach (1714-1788)

- I. Poco adagio
- II. Allegro

Intermission

Concerto for Trombone (1956)

Henri Tomasi (1901-1971)

- I. Andante et Scherzo
- II. Nocturne
- III. Tambourin

"E lucevan le stelle" (1900)
from *Tosca*

Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924)

Sonata 'Vox Gabrieli' (1973)

Stejpan Šulek (1914-1986)

We hope you enjoy tonight's performance.

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please visit our calendar of events online – www.music.uark.edu

Ushering and stage management for this concert
are provided by Sigma Alpha Iota and Phi Mu Alpha.

Deux Danses

Defaye wrote *Deux Danses* at the behest of the Selmer Company, who was interested in showcasing the abilities of their manufactured trombones. Originally premiered by Gabriel Masson, the piece redefined what the trombone was capable of doing. The two movements share a name with and are reminiscent of the two movements from Debussy's 1904 composition, *Danses sacrée et profane*.

Romance

A short Romantic-style work for trombone and piano first published in 1932 (six years after the alleged composer's death). Few are sure if the work was originally written by Weber, or if it was even meant for trombone. There is no mention of the composition in Weber's own catalogue, and many of the lower notes would have been impossible without a horn equipped with an 'F' valve, an innovation which did not appear until after Weber's death. Despite this, *Romance* is a beautiful piece that encapsulates the essence of the Romantic era.

Sonata in A Minor

Partially named after the earlier Baroque composer, Georg Philipp Telemann, Carl Philipp Emanuel (C.P.E.) Bach was one of Johann Sebastian Bach's many children. C.P.E. lived during the end of the Baroque through the beginning of the Classical period, though his compositions did not reflect the emerging Classical style until the mid-1770s. A three-movement Baroque flute sonata, this unaccompanied piece has a slightly irregular form, which begins with a slow "Poco adagio" movement that is followed by two fast-paced "Allegro" movements. This evasion of the more conventional "fast-slow-fast" arrangement, in addition to the soloist being required to play melody and also accompaniment, place *Sonata in A Minor* as one of C.P.E. Bach's most interesting and unusual works.

The version you will hear tonight has been transposed to C minor by Alan Raph, and will be performed, in lieu of the soloist's flute proficiency, on the trombone.

Concerto for Trombone

One of the first concertos for trombone to gain a permanent place in the repertoire, Henri Tomasi's *Concerto for Trombone* was originally written for trombone and orchestra, and is still performed frequently as a popular favorite among trombonists. The first movement begins with reminiscences of Tommy Dorsey's "I'm Getting Sentimental Over You," albeit influenced by Tomasi's impressionistic touches. The second movement presents a disturbed theme which slowly metamorphoses into a blues section, while the last movement presents a song-like melody that drives forward until the end.

"E lucevan le stelle"

From the third act of Giacomo Puccini's *Tosca*, this aria is sung by Mario Cavaradossi, a man in love with the girl Tosca, while he waits for his execution on the roof of his prison.

E lucevan le stelle ...
ed olezzava la terra
stridea l'uscio dell'orto ...
e un passo sfiorava la rena ...
Entrava ella fragrante,
mi cadea fra le braccia.

And the stars were shining,
And the earth was scented.
The gate of the garden creaked
And a footstep grazed the sand...
Fragrant, she entered
And fell into my arms.

O! dolci baci, o languide carezze,
mentr'io fremente le belle forme disciogliea dai veli!
Svani per sempre il sogno mio d'amore.
L'ora è fuggita, e muoio disperato!
E muoio disperato!
E non ho amato mai tanto la vita,
tanto la vita!

Oh, sweet kisses and languorous caresses,
While feverishly I stripped the beautiful form of its veils!
Forever, my dream of love has vanished.
That moment has fled, and I die in desperation.
And I die in desperation!
And I never before loved life so much,
Loved life so much!

Sonata 'Vox Gabrieli'

Written for William Cramer, former professor of trombone at Florida State University, and commissioned by the International Trombone Association, the title of this neo-Romantic composition by Croatian composer Stejpan Šulek references the voice of the archangel Gabriel. In biblical tradition, he is sometimes referred to as the angel of death, or the messenger of God. Although mostly non-programmatic, the piece masterfully consolidates beauty, nostalgia, anxiety, and terror within the soundscape of the trombone and piano.