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CDS-13,678

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University of Washington  
THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

I 45

2000

3-28

presents a Debut Faculty Recital:



# DON IMMEL, *TROMBONE*

March 28, 2000

8:00 PM

Meany Theater

School

## PROGRAM

of

CD-13,678

[1] ROMANCE.....(7:25).....CARL MARIA VON WEBER  
(1786-1826)

Music

[2] SONATA FOR TROMBONE AND PIANO.....(13:10).....JURAS FILAS  
(b. 1955)

University

[3] CADENZA DE LA MANCHA.....(9:33).....JAN SANDSTRÖM  
I. Introduction—Cadenza (b. 1954)  
II. To Walk Where the Bold Man Makes a Halt  
III. To Believe in an Insane Dream  
IV. Cadenza—Finale

of

[4] OP 35, No 10 - Quiet Tears .... R. Schumann (3:50)

Washington

## INTERMISSION

CD-13,679

[1] SEASONS: SYMPHONY  
FOR BRASS QUINTET.....(30:27).....JOHN STEVENS (b. 1951)

[2] COMMENTS

[3] AFRICAN FLOWER.....(6:18).....DUKE ELLINGTON  
(1899-1974)

[4] Flight of The Bumblebee .... Rimsky Korsakov  
(1:02)

There is much speculation as to the authenticity of *Romance* being written by CARL MARIA VON WEBER. Music for solo trombone in this period is extremely rare, Mozart and Beethoven were just beginning to use the instrument for melodic purposes even in symphonic idioms, and few other composers wrote for it at all. Regardless of the controversy, it is certainly typical of romantic music from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and is an excellent addition to the literature. Passionate and lyric, the work is a wonderful opportunity to explore the beautiful vocal qualities of the trombone.

JURAS FILAS was born in 1955 in Kosice, Slovakia. He studied at the Prague Conservatory majoring in voice performance and composition. His output includes chamber, symphonic and opera music as well as scores for film and television for which he received the Salzburg Prize in 1989. This sonata is a single movement work unified by the hauntingly lyrical initial theme statement. Mr. Filas clarifies it as a cyclical piece consisting of two parts: *Praeludium* and *Sonata*. The opening pattern of falling thirds heard from the piano gives way to an heroic theme which explores fully the ranges and sonorities of the trombone. Near the end of the work, a reflective tranquillo section echoes in the rhythms and wistful melodic material of the *Praeludium*. Filas describes this piece as an expression of his feelings about the contemporary world with its contrasts, hopes and disappointments.

The Cadenza for trombone and piano was derived from *Don Quixote de la Mancha: Concerto #2* for Trombone and Orchestra by JAN SANDSTRÖM. The composer converts several stories from the famed Cervantes novel into colorful and imaginative musical depictions. The titles speak for themselves. In *To Walk*, it is not a question of succeeding, but rather of daring to lose one's foothold for a while, of being carried away by feelings even if punishment follows. And punished Don Quixote was, time and again, but he nonetheless believed in his insane dream and held his lance high! Also included in the Cadenza are scenes from various fictitious battles fought by our hero, as well as one of two lovely and ridiculous verses Don believes himself to have written about his lovely Dulcinea of Toboso.

As the title suggests, *Seasons: Symphony for Brass Quintet*, by JOHN STEVENS, was inspired by the changes of seasons in the northern climes

of the United States. The music is programmatic in that the most important compositional aspect is Stevens' attempt to create a distinct seasonal mood for each movement. The overall structure of the piece parallels that of the classic symphony, including a long opening movement, scherzo, slow movement and finale. The work begins and ends with the arrival of spring; the time for growth, returning warmth and change.

Born in 1951, Stevens has earned degrees in Tuba from Eastman School of Music and Yale University. He is currently Director of the School of Music at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

DUKE ELLINGTON is unquestionably one of America's most important and prolific composers. Even as early as 1938, Aaron Copland offered encouraging praise regarding the jazz pianist's ability to organize "what was once a reckless kind of improvised playing" into a "refreshing variety...of jazz, particularly along harmonic and instrumental lines." *African Flower* is a relatively unknown song, here arranged for trombone choir by Steve Allee.

DON IMMEL, Assistant Professor of Trombone at the University of Washington, has established himself as one of the most sought-after trombonists in the Pacific Northwest. In addition to being an active soloist and clinician, Don is currently Principal Trombonist with the Tacoma Symphony, performs frequently with the Seattle Symphony and Opera orchestras, and can be heard on numerous television and movie sound tracks. In 1998 he performed the American premiere of Jan Sandström's *Don Quixote de la Mancha: Concerto #2* for Trombone and Orchestra, which has led to several additional performances of the work throughout the Northwest. He has initiated several successful grants for his project titled "Jazz Talk" which brings young musicians and the community in direct contact with internationally renowned jazz musicians for lectures, clinics and performances. Immel holds undergraduate degrees from Central Washington University and a Master of Music degree from Rice University. In addition to his position at the University of Washington he has also served on the faculties of Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma and St. Thomas University in Houston. His teachers include Joseph Alessi, David Waters, Ralph Sauer, Larry Gookin and Per Brevig.

KIMBERLY RUSS is a graduate of the Juilliard School's Collaborative Artist Program. She is in high demand as an accompanist, appearing frequently with members of the New York Philharmonic and Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. Last summer she was awarded the Orchestral Piano Fellowship at the Aspen Music Festival. Currently, she is accompanist for the Juilliard Pre-College Division Choral program and serves as the pianist for the widely acclaimed professional choral company Cantabile. Mrs. Russ works as a staff pianist at the Juilliard School and continues to perform in solo and collaborative concerts worldwide.

#### SOUND CITY BRASS QUINTET

RICHARD PRESSELY holds the position of Assistant Principal Trumpet with the Seattle Symphony Orchestra. He remains active as a chamber musician and soloist throughout the region.

JONATHAN MICHALAK is completing a Master of Music degree in trumpet performance at the University of Vancouver in British Columbia. He recently completed his undergraduate studies at Northwestern University in Chicago.

KATHLEEN VAUGHT FARNER is the Professor of French Horn at Pacific Lutheran University. She performs regularly with the Northwest Sinfonietta, the Lyric Brass and Camas Woodwind Quintet.

CHRIS OLKA currently performs as Principal Tuba of the Seattle Symphony. He is a recent winner of the prestigious Music Teachers National Association Brass Solo Competition and is a graduate of The Juilliard School.

#### SEATTLE TROMBONE CHOIR

The Seattle Trombone Choir includes members of the Seattle Symphony, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Seattle Opera, Tacoma Symphony and Spokane Symphony orchestras, teachers from several of our region's universities, public schools and private studios, as well as students from the University of Washington and Pacific Lutheran University. Special thanks to our own Stuart Dempster, Professor Emeritus of Trombone.