

Music

AT EASTERN

The EWU Department of Music presents

Johnathan Weisgerber Senior Recital

Assisted by Andrea Hope and Joshua Lindberg, piano

With trombonists,

Kirk Ferguson

Luke Brockman

Luke Manasco

Joseph Boucher



May 21, 2011

1:30 p.m.

Music Building, Recital Hall

Presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for

Bachelor in Music Performance, Bass Trombone

Studio of Professor Kirk Ferguson

Allegro Maestoso

Jan Koetsier

1911-2006

Andrea Hope, piano

Drei Leichte Stucke

Paul Hindemith

I. *Massig schnell, munter*

1895-1963

II. *Langsam*

III. *Lebhaft*

Joshua Lindberg, piano

Duets for Tenor and Bass Trombone

Tommy Pederson

Pumpkin Eggs

1919-1998

Spider Rider

The Peanut Butterfly

Hog in the Fog

Kirk Ferguson, trombone

---- *Brief Intermission* ----

Famous Puccini Opera Arias

Giacomo Puccini

Tosca-

1858-1924

E lucevan le stelle (And the Stars Were Shining)

Suor Angelica-

Senza Mamma (Without a Mother)

Madama Butterfly-

Un bel di, vedremo (One Fine Day, He will Return)

Andrea Hope, piano

New Orleans

Eugene Bozza

1905-1991

Andrea Hope, piano

Impression of a Parade

Samuel Barron

1925-1997

arr. *Mike Suter*

Luke Brockman

Luke Manasco

Joseph Boucher

Jan Koetsier (1911-2006)-Allegro Maestoso

I chose to begin my recital with *Allegro Maestoso* because it is such a powerful opener. Koetsier's writing is idiomatic and *Allegro Maestoso* is extremely satisfying to both play and listen to. It is a rondeau that switches back and forth between the strong opening theme, a singing, lyrical section, and a challenging technical section. The piece fully exploits the strengths of the bass trombone.

Jan Koetsier was born in Amsterdam but has spent most of his artistic life in Germany. He studied at the Berlin College of Music and worked as conductor of the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and as professor of music in Munich. He spent his final years composing in Bavaria.

Paul Hindemith (1895-1963) -Drei Leichte Stucke (Three Easy Pieces)

Drei Leichte Stucke (Three Easy Pieces) was composed for cello in 1938 when Hindemith was in the middle of some of his most productive years as a chamber music composer. Although this piece is not considered to be one of Hindemith's most important works for cello, the work does benefit from his imaginative focus on chamber music during this time. The solo part is melodic with interesting rhythm, while the piano accompaniment compliments it in very unique ways. The work is considered to be a part of the standard repertoire for the modern bass trombone.

Paul Hindemith was not only one of the most important composers in the twentieth century, but he was also an accomplished violin/viola player, music theorist, teacher and conductor. As a player he was the concertmaster of the Frankfurt Opera orchestra and gave the world premier of the Walton Viola concerto. Hindemith was a controversial theorist who fought against the tide of serial music. In the first volume of his theoretical treatise, *The Craft of Musical Composition*, Hindemith wrote, "Music, as long as it exists, will always take its departure from the major triad and return to it. The Musician cannot escape it any more than the painter his primary colors, or the architect his three dimensions..."

Tommy Pederson (1919-1998) - Duets for Tenor and Bass Trombone

These duets are just a few of the many fun trombone duets written by Tommy Pederson. A great quote about Tommy Pederson comes from the liner notes of an album he recorded in the 1960's: "Tommy is a complete musician; a fantastic trombone player and a serious student of composition; having been playing, writing and studying since he was four years old. Prior to that, he was a complete wastrel." Tommy began his professional career traveling with great bands led by Gene Krupa and Tommy Dorsey while still in his teens. After World War Two, he came to Hollywood and started his own band, The Tommy Pederson Orchestra. From the Early 1950's and continuing well into the 1970's, Tommy Pederson was THE trombone player in Hollywood. He was featured in literally thousands of movie soundtracks, television and radio shows, and recordings.

Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924) - Famous Opera Arias

The operas of Italian composer Giacomo Puccini are among the most popular in the world. With their soaring melodies and expressive harmonies, they are the some of the most directly emotional pieces ever written for lyric theater.

E lucevan le stelle (And the stars were shining) from *The Opera Tosca*.

This popular melodrama is set in Rome, June 1800. The Painter Mario Cavaradossi is in love with Floria Tosca, a famous singer. Cavaradossi comes across Angelotti, an escaped political prisoner who is also secretly in love with Tosca, and offers to help him by hiding him at his house. When Angelotti's captor

Scarpia finds out that Cavaradossi is hiding him, Scarpia demands that Tosca must give herself to him or Cavaradossi will be sentenced to death.

This aria takes place in prison the night before Cavaradossi's execution as he remembers his dear Tosca and their love.

Senza Mamma (without a mother) from the opera Suor Angelica

This opera, the second part of a three part series, *Il trittico*, is set in the convent near Siena, Italy in the seventeenth century. Sister Angelica, the daughter of a noble Florentine family, was forced to enter a convent after bearing a child out of wedlock seven years prior. Her aunt, the Princess, comes to ask her to sign away her inheritance. When Angelica asks for news about her child, she is told coldly that he has been dead for two years.

After learning this news, Sister Angelica decides to commit suicide by drinking poison. *Senza Mamma* is sung as the poison begins taking its effect. In her dying moments, Sister Angelica prays for forgiveness and sees a vision of the Virgin Mary bringing her child to her.

Un bel di, vedremo (One fine day, he will return) from the opera Madama Butterfly

The opera takes place in Nagasaki, Japan in the early 1900's. Lieutenant Benjamin Franklin Pinkerton is an American naval officer stationed in Japan. 15 year-old Madame Butterfly agrees to a broker-arranged marriage with him, giving up her religion for his and suffering the reproof of her family on her wedding day. Pinkerton departs for America while promising to return. Butterfly waits for him with his newborn son in hope of his return. Years later Pinkerton returns with an American wife. Unwilling to live in such dishonor, Madame Butterfly says goodbye to her child and stabs herself with her father's sword.

This aria is sung during the time of waiting as Madame Butterfly describes to a skeptical house servant in great detail of how glorious her husband's return will be.

Eugene Bozza (1905-1991) New Orleans

Written for French bass trombonist Paul Bernard, this piece has three clearly defined sections and contains many of the motifs characteristic of Bozza. The influence of the jazz style is unmistakable, and the imagery of the emotional extremes of New Orleans are vividly evoked by the music. Although through-composed, the compositional style of the piece allows for a wide degree of interpretation, especially in the opening cadenza.

Eugene Bozza was born in Nice and died in Valenciennes France. While at the Paris Conservatoire, he studied violin, composition and conducting. He won numerous prizes as a student before becoming the Head of the Conservatoire in Valenciennes in 1948. Although he composed many large-scale works, his worldwide reputation happened as a result of the popularity of his many solo and chamber works, which were written for an impressive variety of instruments and instrumental ensembles.

Samuel Baron (1925-1997) (arr. Mike Suter) - Impression of a Parade

This exciting piece based on the popular Civil War time song, "When Johnny Comes Marching Home", is a fun piece to close with. It contains a combination of jazz and classical elements that make it a rewarding challenge for any trombone player. Although it was originally written for brass quintet, Suter's trombone quartet arrangement works very well and has been recorded on National Slide Quartet's album titled *Trombania*.

Samuel Baron is an American flutist, conductor and teacher. Throughout his career he was a member of the New York Symphony Orchestra, New York City Opera, and the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra. In 1948 Baron founded and conducted the New York Brass Ensemble.