

SYMBIOSISDUO



GAIL ROBERTSON, EUPHONIUM
&
STACY BAKER, TUBA

In Symbiosis with
Alex Thio, piano
&
Deborah Eastwood, cornet & flugelhorn



Thursday, October 29, 2009
7:30 PM
UNCG School of Music Recital Hall

**program to be selected from the following:*

“Au fond du temple saint”
Temple Duet from *The Pearl Fishers*

Georges Bizet (1838-1875)
arr. Gail Robertson

Ave Maria, Op. 52, No. 6

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
arr. Susan Slaughtner

Cats in the Kitchen

Phillip Bimstein (b. 1947)

1. Eggs and Toast

2. O Sole Meow

3. Where's Your Mouse, McGee?

"Cats in the Kitchen is scored for euphonium, tuba, meows, purrs, cracked eggs, sliced onions, buttered toast, sizzling skillet, spoons, knives, pepper grinder, toaster oven, pots, pans, draining dishwater, and pretty much everything else in the kitchen 'sync.' The sound score also features feline duets and trios, cat food crunches, waterdrums, and the composer's partner Charlotte Bell speaking to her beloved cat, Fiona McGee, who sadly passed on shortly after this piece was composed. *Cats in the Kitchen* was originally commissioned for oboist Michele Fiala and flutist Heidi Pintner."

– Phillip Bimstein

“Dio che nell'alma infondere” from *Don Carlo*

Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)
trans. by Joe Kreines

The Harmonious Blacksmiths

George Frederick Handel (1685-1759)
arr. Gail Robertson/Alex Thio (piano)

I Got Your Bach

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
arr. Chris Sharp

"I Got Your Bach is an adaptation of J.S. Bach's *Two-Part Invention, No. 4*, originally intended for the keyboard. Over the years instrumentalists have since discovered that these exercises make delightful duets for pairs of like or unlike instruments. This version goes a step farther, taking the piece temporarily into the realm of jazz, adding a swing interpretation with improvisation-like passages accompanied by quarter note 'walking' bass lines that are shared by both players. This allows the musicians the opportunity to display their command of the two diversely opposed styles. After the jazz flirtations in the middle of the number, the stoic dignity of the original composition returns to close the piece.

– Chris Sharp

Intrada

Brian Balmages (b. 1975)

"Intrada is a short fanfare-style work that is based mostly on rhythmic pulse and a type of 'minimalist interplay' between the euphonium and tuba. Despite its short length, it follows a very specific form, which includes six sections: theme, development, transitional material, recapitulation, transitional material (variation on previous transitional material), and coda. Brief episodes in the transitions hint at minimalism, but the overall form prevents them from being overly developed."

– Brian Balmages

“Let these among themselves contest”
from ***Ode for St. Cecilia's Day (1692)***

Henry Purcell (1659-1695)
trans. Joe Kreines

Orlando Lakes

1. Eola Stroll

2. Lotus Trail

Christopher Marshall (b. 1956)

"On arrival in Orlando in 2006, one of the first things that struck me was the great number of lakes and the huge variation in their size and character. It would be hard to find a more contrasting pair than Eola and Lotus. Lake Eola, in the heart of downtown Orlando, boasts a large illuminated fountain. Yet it also features an extraordinary richness of bird and other animal life – a thriving natural world unperturbed by the constant procession of humanity – joggers, picnickers, office workers and buskers – in such close proximity.

Lake Lotus is named for the native plant whose leaves cover much of the water's surface. Here nature seems wary of human intrusion. Forest creatures appear furtively and disappear in a flash. Large alligators briefly break the water's surface before sinking back into the green depths. The bird life keeps its distance also. Nature reveals its untamed beauty. The musical themes of *Orlando Lakes* actually came to mind while visiting Lake Eola and Lake Lotus respectively and so they are a record of my feelings towards these two unique locations.

– Christopher Marshall

Pavane, Op. 50/Whisper of Angels (by Amy Sky)

Gabriel Fauré (1845–1924)

arr. Gail Robertson/Alex Thio (piano)

The Prayer

Carole Bayer Sager (b. 1947)/**David Foster** (b. 1949)

arr. Gail Robertson/Alex Thio (piano)

Symbiosis

Chris Sharp (b. 1959)

"Symbiosis is defined as, 'A relationship of mutual benefit or dependence.' In this composition, the symbiotic entities are the euphonium and tuba, with the piano providing the harmonic 'environment.' The dependence of the entities is reflected in the identical rhythmic movements that often occur. The distinction between the entities is established through a variety of devices including parallel motion, inverted intervals and periods of question-and-answer dialogue. Though a tonal center of 'F' is employed, the vertical chordal structures (which often employ jazz harmonies) are used texturally, rather than in conventional harmonic progressions. The technical and range requirements for each solo instrument are comparable, suggesting a 'separate but equal' relationship." – Chris Sharp

Three Florida Orchids

T.O. Sterrett (b. 1953)

I. Wild Coco orchid: *Eulophia alta*

II. Night Fragrance orchid: *Epidendrum nocturnum*

III. Water Spider orchid: *Habenaria repens*

"*Three Florida Orchids* presents a variety of musical moods: raucous rhythm & blues; pensive tranquility; and playful mischief. These match more the names than the appearances of the orchids in question. In the first movement – Wild Coco – the euphonium and tuba are hot-dogging for pure fun. The second movement – Night Fragrance – gives them a chance to show off melodic beauty, and the last movement - Water Spider – is an opportunity to romp and play. *Three Florida Orchids* was commissioned by DEG Music Products/Willson USA for Gail Robertson."

– T.O. Sterrett

"Viens, Mallika, les lianes en fleurs"

Flower Duet from *Lakmé*

Léo Delibes (1836-1891)

arr. Gail Robertson

SYMBIOSISDUO formed in 2007 to increase awareness of the tuba/euphonium duo as a performance medium and to promote and disseminate new works for this unique combination of instruments. The duo chose the name “**SYMBIOSISDUO**” from the concert duet of that name written for them by composer Chris Sharp. In the program notes for the work he writes: “Symbiosis is defined as, ‘A relationship of mutual benefit or dependence.’ The technical and range-requirements for each solo instrument are comparable, suggesting a ‘separate but equal’ relationship.” This is an innovative and challenging approach to duet writing for tuba and euphonium producing ‘the symbiosis effect’ as the tuba is not relegated to an accompanying role, but is equal in all aspects of music with the other voice in the duo, the euphonium.

For more information about, **SYMBIOSISDUO**, visit symbiosisduo.com

Stacy Baker is Professor of Music - Tuba/Euphonium at Morehead State University in Morehead, Kentucky. Originally from Harsen’s Island, MI, she received her M.M. and B.M. degrees from the University of Michigan. She holds a D.M.A. from the University of Illinois. Dr. Baker has toured and recorded throughout the United States and Europe as a founding member of the tuba/euphonium quartet **JUNCTION**, and with the Lexington Brass Band and Monarch Brass Ensemble. She is a member of the Athena Brass Band and the Horizon Brass Quintet. Dr. Baker serves on the International Women’s Brass Conference Board of Directors. Her teachers include Jeff Funderburk, Wes Jacobs, Tommy Johnson, Fritz Kaenzig, and Mark Moore.

Gail Robertson is Instructor of Euphonium and Tuba at The University of Central Florida. Originally from Pompano Beach, FL, she received her B.M. degree from the University of Central Florida and her M.M. degree with Performer’s Certificate from Indiana University. Ms. Robertson was a founding member/leader/chief arranger of Walt Disney World’s “Tubafours” tuba/euphonium quartet. She has toured and recorded in the U.S. and internationally with Keith Brion’s “New Sousa Band,” the Brass Band of Battle Creek, **SYMPHONIA**, Euphoniums Unlimited, and Monarch Brass. She is President of the International Women’s Brass Conference. Ms. Robertson is a York Brass International Euphonium Artist performing on a York Eminence YO-EU4052 with a Warburton/Gail Robertson mouthpiece.

Alex Thio is a collaborative pianist based in Cincinnati, OH. A native of Singapore, Mr. Thio received his B.S. degree from Grace College. He earned his M.M. degree at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and continues to pursue his D.M.A. degree at the conservatory. He serves as choral accompanist to the Sycamore Junior High and High School choirs in Blue Ash, OH, and is a private piano instructor offering piano and music theory instruction to students of all ages and performance levels.

Deborah Eastwood is Instructor of Music at Morehead State University, Morehead, KY. Originally from Wytheville, VA, she earned her B.M. degree from James Madison University, M.M. degree from the Peabody Conservatory of Music-John Hopkins University, and D.M.A. degree from the University of Illinois. Dr. Eastwood has toured and recorded as a member of the Athena Brass Band, the Lexington Brass Band, and the Horizon Brass Quintet.