



department of **music**  
EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

## STUDENT RECITAL SERIES

presents a

\*Senior and a Junior Recital

featuring

Haley Hsu, flute  
\*Justin Wheeler, trombone

with

Victor Cayres, piano

April 22, 2023, 2:00 pm  
Doudna Fine Arts Center  
Recital Hall

## Program

Concert Piece for Bass Trombone

Cameron Nollman  
(b. 1998)

\*World Premiere Performance\*

Sunset

Nicola Ferro  
(b. 1974)

Morceau Symphonique

F.A. Guilmant  
(1837-1911)

Justin Wheeler, trombone

Flute Sonata in F Major, Op. 1 No. 2

Anna Bon de Venezia  
(1738-1767)

- I. Largo
- II. Allegro
- III. Allegro

Trillium

Elizabeth Brown  
(b. 1953)

Haley Hsu, flute

Concerto for Trombone and Piano

Launy Grøndahl  
(1886-1960)

- I. Moderato assa ma molto maestoso

Sicut Cervus

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina  
(1525-1594)  
Arr. Justin Wheeler

Daniel Torres, Marlee Hafley, John Herder, trombones

Justin Wheeler, trombone

## **Justin Wheeler: Trombone Senior Recital Program Notes**

Saturday April 22nd, 2023, 2 pm

Justin Wheeler - Trombone

Dr. Victor Cayres - Piano

Daniel Torres, Marlee Hafley, and John Herder - Trombone Quartet\*

### **Concert Piece for Bass Trombone by Cameron Nollman (b. 1998)**

\*World Premiere Performance\*

From the composer:

“*Concertpiece for Bass Trombone* is part of a larger group of pieces that I have, and am currently writing for friends who have had a major impact on myself musically and personally. This piece, written for my great trombonist friend, Justin Wheeler, is an attempt to show the barbaric, raw power the bass trombone possesses, while also presenting the beauty of its warm, rich timbre. The piece is split into four miniatures that continuously flow into one another; each section with their own personalities that become amplified by the aforementioned timbres. Although this is a straightforward piece of absolute music, I hope you enjoy *Concertpiece for Bass Trombone* and strive to make a connection with the performer, whether it be before the performance with an uplifting text, afterwards with a hug and a congratulations, or even during the piece with a chuckle at a bone-rattling low note.” - Cameron Nollman

### **Sunset by Nicola Ferro (b. 1974)**

Nicola Ferro is widely recognized as a talented trombonist and composer, having made a name for himself in the world of music. He has worked closely with Joseph Alessi Publications, collaborating on several trombone solo works and other musical projects. His dedication to his craft is reflected in his work, and *Sunset* is no exception. *Sunset* was originally composed as part of a set of pieces that also included *Daybreak*, *Midday*, and *Midnight*. Each piece is dedicated to Joseph Alessi, who is also a renowned trombonist and Ferro's collaborator. The pieces were featured in Alessi's *Return to Sorrento* album and were meant to capture the different moods and emotions of the day. In particular, *Sunset* is the perfect companion piece to *Daybreak*, as it portrays the end of the day with great beauty and poignancy. The simple, yet evocative melodies of the piece allow the performer to showcase their skill in tone color and phrasing. With its expressive, lyrical qualities, *Sunset* offers a wonderful opportunity for trombone players to demonstrate their artistry and musicality. Overall, *Sunset* stands as a testament to Nicola Ferro's talent as a composer and his deep understanding of the trombone. Through his work, he has helped to enrich the world of music and inspire countless performers to reach new heights of creativity and expression.

## **Justin Wheeler: Trombone Senior Recital Program Notes**

### **Morceau Symphonique by F.A. Guilmant (1837 - 1911)**

*Morceau Symphonique* by French composer Félix-Alexandre Guilmant is a charming work for solo trombone and piano, which has become a staple in the trombone repertoire since its composition in 1902. The piece begins with a stately introduction in the piano, establishing the work's regal character. The trombone then enters with a lyrical melody, which is developed throughout the piece. The music is full of charm and elegance, with a sophisticated use of harmony and counterpoint. The soloist is given plenty of opportunities to showcase their virtuosity, particularly in the demanding cadenza towards the end of the work. Guilmant's skill as an organist and composer for brass instruments is on full display in this piece, which features rich harmonies and expressive melodies. The music is both playful and grand, with a sense of joie de vivre that is characteristic of Guilmant's work. *Morceau Symphonique* is a perfect showcase for the expressive capabilities of the trombone, and its charming melodies and technical demands make it a favorite of trombonists worldwide. Its popularity has also led to numerous arrangements for other instruments, including brass ensemble and orchestra. Overall, *Morceau Symphonique* is a delightful work that captures the essence of the French Romantic tradition. Its memorable melodies and demanding technical requirements make it a tour-de-force for any trombonist, and its expressive qualities make it a joy to listen to for any audience.

### **Concerto for Trombone and Piano by Launy Grøndahl (1886 - 1960)**

#### **I. Moderato assai ma molto maestoso**

Launy Grøndahl's Concerto for Trombone and Piano is a virtuosic showcase for the solo trombone, accompanied by piano. Composed in 1924, this work is one of the most well-known and frequently performed trombone concertos in the repertoire. The first movement, marked "Moderato assai ma molto maestoso," opens with a fanfare-like motif in the piano, which is soon echoed by the trombone. This leads into the main theme, a lyrical melody introduced by the trombone. The piano provides rhythmic support and accompaniment as the trombone weaves its way through the theme and its variations. The music builds in intensity and culminates in a dramatic cadenza for the trombone, showcasing the soloist's technical abilities. The movement ends with a return to the main theme, bringing the music full circle. Throughout the movement, Grøndahl displays his skill as an orchestrator, using the piano to create a rich and varied sound palette. The trombone and piano parts are intricately intertwined, with each instrument complementing and responding to the other. Overall, the first movement of Grøndahl's Concerto for Trombone and Piano is a thrilling introduction to this beloved work. Its soaring melodies, technical demands, and virtuosic displays make it a tour-de-force for both the soloist and accompanist.

## **Justin Wheeler: Trombone Senior Recital Program Notes**

### **Sicut Cervus by G. Palestrina (1525 - 1594) Arr. Justin Wheeler (b. 2000)\***

Sicut Cervus is a motet by the Italian Renaissance composer Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina. It was written in the late 16th century and is one of Palestrina's most famous and enduring works. The motet is in four parts and is based on Psalm 42, which begins with the words "Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum," meaning "As the heart longs for the water-springs." The piece begins with a gentle, flowing melody in the tenor voice, which is soon joined by the other voices in imitation. The music is characterized by its smooth, mellifluous harmonies, with each voice contributing to the overall texture of the piece. The second section of the motet features a more elaborate and florid melody, which is passed between the voices in a series of intricate polyphonic textures. The third section returns to the more restrained and introspective mood of the opening, before building to a powerful climax in the final section. Sicut Cervus is a testament to Palestrina's mastery of polyphonic writing and his ability to create music of great beauty and emotional depth within the constraints of Renaissance polyphony. The work's enduring popularity is a testament to its universal appeal and its ability to speak to listeners across the centuries. Today, Sicut Cervus is often performed in a variety of settings, including church services, concerts, and recitals. Its simple yet profound text and elegant, expressive music continue to inspire and move audiences around the world.

Junior Recital Program Notes – Haley Hsu  
April 22, 2023

*Flute Sonata in F Major, Op. 1 No. 2* – Anna Bon di Venezia

Born sometime between 1738-1740 in either Russia or Venice, Italy, Anna Bon was an Italian composer who was primarily known for her chamber works and sonatas for harpsichord. Though she was a composer in the late Baroque era, Bon also incorporated early classical elements into her music. Bon began her music career in Venice, Italy at Antonio Vivaldi's Ospedale della Pietà in 1743. In 1755, Bon became the Chamber Music Virtuosa at the court of Frederick Margrave of Brandenburg-Bayreuth until 1762. Bon's Chamber Sonatas, Op. 1 was also dedicated to the court. From 1762 until around 1765, Bon took on a new position where she worked for Prince Nikolaus of Esterhazy in Eisenstadt. All other information on Bon after 1767 has been lost.

*Flute Sonata in F Major, Op. 1 No. 2* includes three movements: "Largo", "Allegro", and "Allegro". Incorporated into the sonata are a variety of Baroque and Classical elements. For example, little indication of stylistic elements, such as dynamics and articulations, are written in the score. The piece is also meant to be played with the frequent use of ornamentations. Both of these are common elements found in Baroque style music. The sonata also has an accompanying piano part. The flute carries the main melody as the piano plays a more simple line to accompany. This style of music is commonly recognized from the early Classical era.

*Trillium* – Elizabeth Brown

Born in 1953 in Camden, Alabama, Elizabeth Brown is a composer who is well versed on the flute, shakuhachi, and theremin. In 1977, Brown received her Master's in Flute Performance from Juilliard. Since then, Brown's compositions have been played worldwide, and she has released two solo CDs, which are "Elizabeth Brown: Mirage (New World)" and "Blue Minor: Chamber Music by Elizabeth Brown (Albany)". Brown has also been awarded grants and commissions from Orpheus, St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble, Newband, the Asian Cultural Council, the Japan/US Friendship Commission, Meet the Composer, the Electronic Music Foundation, the Cary Trust, and NYFA. She has won awards from the Makino Yutaka Composition Competition in 2011 for Japanese traditional instrument orchestra and the SGCM Shakuhachi Composition Competition in 2010. Brown currently resides in Brooklyn, NY.

*Trillium* was commissioned in 2000 by the National Flute Association. Trillium is a spring woodland wildflower that has leaves and white petals that come in three. In the piece, Brown included influences from Japanese shakuhachi music. The music also incorporates birdsong

through the use of extensive flute techniques. One can listen for the use of microtones, and a variety of distinct timbres and trills.