

Alex Austin, horn

Miriam Hickman, piano
Alex Holste, flute

Junior Recital
Recital Hall | March 3, 2013 | 12:00 pm

Program

En Forêt

Eugène Bozza
(1905-1991)

Elègie

Francis Poulenc
(1899-1963)

Appel Interstellaire
from *Des canyons aux étoiles...*

Olivier Messiaen
(1908-1992)

****Intermission****

Canon à l'octave

Jean Françaix
(1912-1997)

Ballade, Pastorale, and Dance

Eric Ewazen
(1954-)

Alex Holste, flute

ASU Herberger Institute
FOR DESIGN AND THE ARTS
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

School of Music

***En Forêt* - Eugène Bozza (1905-1991)**

Well-known for his chamber music, Eugène Bozza was the winner of the *premier prix* at the Paris Conservatory where he studied violin, conducting, and composition, eventually winning the Prix de Rome in 1934. His opus 40, *En Foret* is an example of his mastery of the mid-20th century character piece. The composition portrays scenes from a medieval hunt, featuring imitations of hunting horn calls, Gregorian chant, and exciting chase music.

***Elégie* - Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)**

On September 1, 1957, at the age of 36, Dennis Brain was tragically killed in an automobile accident on his way home to London from the Edinburgh Music Festival. By September 2, 1957 Francis Poulenc had completed *Elégie* in memoriam of the great horn virtuoso. Poulenc's angst over the tragedy is expressed in the tone row at the opening of the piece (the only full tone row in any of his compositions) along with grief-stricken fanfares and forceful outbursts of despair.

***Appel Interstellaire* - Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)**

In the genre of French religious music, Olivier Messiaen's supremacy is challenged only by our previous composer and member of *Les Six*, Francis Poulenc. However, Messiaen drew inspiration for *Appel Interstellaire* from a very different source. The piece is for unaccompanied horn and is part of a larger, twelve movement work called *Des canyons aux étoile...* was commissioned in 1971 for the bicentennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. In 1972, Messiaen took a trip to

Utah to visit Bryce Canyon and was immediately struck by the wildlife and colors of the landscape. He subsequently centered *Des canyons*, premiered in 1974, around Bryce Canyon. *Appel Interstellaire*, as the central movement of the piece is meant as a horn call that reaches into the vastness space and the stars so clearly visible in the canyon at night. The piece features many extended techniques, including half-valved passages that are meant to sound like the howl of a coyote in the night.

***Canon à l'octave* - Jean Françaix (1912-1997)**

Maurice Ravel once said that besides his virtuosity at the piano, Jean Françaix's true gift was his insatiable curiosity. This was reflected in Françaix's prolific output of over 200 pieces written in various styles and for every orchestral instrument and standard ensemble. *Canon à l'octave* is a short musical "palate cleanser". The horn and piano play a beat apart in direct imitation: a sound that the listener does not acclimate to until, facetiously, the piece ends.

***Ballade, Pastorale, and Dance* - Eric Ewazen (1954-)**

Having studied with musical greats such as Babbitt, Schuller, and Schwantner, Eric Ewazen has composed a wealth of chamber music repertoire in his position of professor of composition at The Julliard School. *Ballade, Pastorale, and Dance*, composed for David Wakefield and Bärli Nugent, is one such treasure of his output and one of the few works for flute and horn. The piece is at once raucously exciting and exceedingly delicate and is meant to depict the beautiful scenery and tumultuous storms of the winter months.

Program Notes by Alex Austin
March 3, 2013