

Program Notes

Robert Margolis, tuba
Gail Novak, piano
April 9, 2016 / ASU Recital Hall / 5:00pm

Sonata Capricciosa – Jenő Takács (1902-2005)

Filled with humor and beauty, this piece, written by Hungarian-born composer Jenő Takács, features frequent dialogues between the tuba and the piano. In these dialogues, the tuba plays a lyrical line while the piano interjects with quick, sweeping gestures. The main body of the work is reminiscent of a highly stylized circus march, with a spoofed excerpt from a certain work by Georges Bizet you may recognize.

Concertino for Tuba and Band – Rolf Wilhelm (1927-2013)

Commissioned by Robert Tucci in 1983, this three-movement work written by German film composer Rolf Wilhelm features a fast-slow-fast composition style. According to Wilhelm, he wanted to “create an easily comprehended, uncomplicated work of a pleasant nature for the tuba.” In addition, he wanted to “contradict in a jovial manner the ever-prevailing prejudice that the tuba was an uncultivated monster suitable only for march music.” The first movement is a heavily thematic and rhythmic movement in classic sonata form with a coda. The second movement shows off the lyricism of the tuba in a beautiful triple meter. The third movement demonstrates the whimsy that the tuba is capable of with a bouncy, upbeat, and jovial 6/8 time.

Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major BWV 1007 – J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

The cello suites were believed to be written from 1717-23, though an exact date is unknown. The pieces didn't experience widespread fame until 1936, when Pablo Casals, who discovered the suites in a thrift shop, recorded them for the first time. Ever since then they have become some of Bach's most known works.

Like all of his cello suites, this piece features movements based on Baroque dance suites. The first movement I'll be playing, the courante, is characterized by fast sequences of eighth and sixteenth notes broken up by cadences.

The second movement, the sarabande, is also in triple meter, but is considerably slower, leaving behind the briskness of the courante for a more meditative, ruminating tempo. This is a very gestural movement featuring trills and multiple stops.

The last movement, the gigue, is a brisk, effervescent dance in duple meter. Much less gestural than the other two movements, this movement is built on eighth notes with sixteenth notes occasionally adding some excitement.

Sonata for Tuba and Piano - Anthony DiLorenzo (b. 1967)

Commissioned for and recorded by Pittsburgh Symphony principal tubist Craig Knox, this work was written by Emmy Award winning composer and trumpeter Anthony DiLorenzo. Though he has composed works like this for brass, DiLorenzo is best known for his film trailer scores, including many Disney trailers such as Pocahontas and Toy Story. The first movement begins in duple meter and later transitions to a waltz, eventually returning to the main theme from the beginning, before ending with power chords in both parts. The second movement is almost entirely in 6/8 time, coming in with a main melody that sees many transformations throughout the movement all while floating over an ethereal piano part. Finally, the third movement enters with a demanding theme that permeates the entire movement while culminating in a rousing conversational coda between the parts before finally bringing the piece to an exciting end.

***One of three recitals performed in partial fulfillment of the DMA.**