

Program Notes

Jan Koetsier – Allegro Maestoso

Born August 14, 1911 in Amsterdam, Jan Koetsier was composer of the 20th century renowned for his compositions for solo brass. He received his education from the Musikhochschule in Berlin. Koetsier spent the first decades of his musical career as a conductor in Berlin and then in the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. After this he conducted for the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra. After his sixteen year stint with the Bavarian Radio, Koetsier shifted towards composition where he greatly contributed to brass instruments, including bass trombone, euphonium and tuba. Koetsier passed on April 28, 2006 in Munich.

Allegro Maestoso is one of his better known solo compositions, written for bass trombone. A key feature of the piece is a frequent change in time-feel throughout. It begins in a three-feel before shifting to a two-feel and going back and forth during the piece. *Allegro Maestoso* is a challenge for the performer to play, pushing them to their limits as far as range and musical independence. A particular thing to pay attention to is a shift in character in the piece, from big and loud bombastic character to a squeamish, timid and soft one.

Ernst Sachse – Konzert

Sachse was born in 1810 in Germany. In his time he was known as a *virtuoso* trombonist and trumpeter. He was an accomplished soloist who performed in front of orchestras in different venues around Europe, as well as performing in the orchestra as well, having performed in the orchestra that first performed *Lohengrin* by Richard Wagner. Many of Sachse's compositions included solos for trombone, trumpet and bass trombone. Some of his

other compositions include the Concertino in E-flat for cornet and Concerto in F major for bass trombone as well as etude books and pedagogical studies.

Konzert was originally composed for tenor trombone and piano. It received two different arrangements, one of which that is arranged by Martin Göss – the Göss arrangement is a popular arrangement that is frequently performed today and is a stalwart of the bass trombone repertoire. The tone of this piece is typical of Sachse's time – 19th century ideas and influences with a German, romantic style. There is a majestic, grand theme that starts in Konzert, followed by an Andante section in the middle and then a theme and variations at the end.

Alexej Lebedjew – Konzert Nr. 1

The last composer of this program is Alexej Lebedjew (also spelled Alexei Lebedev), a Russian who was born on January 9th, 1924 and lived into 1993. Lebedev's early life saw him go to public school and upon graduating from school in 1942, Lebedev enlisted in the Red Army to take part in one of the bloodiest conflicts in history, the Eastern Front of WWII. It was not until he was wounded in 1943 that he endeavored in music. Lebedev would go on to begin studying tuba and composition after receiving surgery for his wounds. He would establish himself as an accomplished tubist who performed solos in concert venues and recordings, as well as orchestral playing. He is most renowned today as a teacher and pedagogue, as well as his numerous original solo compositions, exercises and etudes for tuba.

As tuba and bass trombone are closely related, bass trombone repertoire borrows from the tuba very frequently and Konzert Nr. 1 is no exception. Konzert Nr.1 is probably a top five

most frequently performed work for bass trombone. This work would perhaps sound like one composed by Rachmaninov or Wagner. Although being composed in the 1950s, it's very heavily influenced by the Romantic to late-Romantic era, vesting deeply into Romantic themes and ideals, from the dark opening theme to the subtle nuances that happen in between, to the big, majestic ending that ends in a happy tone.