



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Presents

Emily J. Martin, horn
Edward Newman, piano

April 21, 2024

12:30 pm

PepsiCo Recital Hall

Program

Scherzo Concertante

Václav Nelhýbel
(1919-1996)

Concertino for Horn, Op.74

I. Allegro Molto

II. Intermezzo

III. Rondo

Jan Koetsier
(1911-2006)

Suite for Four Horns

Prelude

La Chasse

Danse

Eugène Bozza
(1905-1991)

Emily Koch, Joshua Wheeler, James Brandt, horns

Intermission

Hunting Songs for Low Horn

The Crow

The Owl

The Falcon

Brett Miller
(b. 1976)

Mythological Creature Suite for Horn

Imps

Adoggio

Dove

Caladrius

Jackalope

Justino Eustacio Pérez

(b. 1990)

This recital is given in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Master of Music degree in Horn Performance. Emily Martin is a student of Mrs. Heather Test.

The use of recording equipment or taking photographs is prohibited.

Please silence all electronic devices including watches, pagers, and phones.

***Scherzo Concertante* – Václav Nelhýbel**

Czech composer Václav Nelhýbel was born in 1919 and died in 1996. He studied composition and conducting at the Prague Conservatory, later earning conducting positions in the Czech Republic, Germany, and Switzerland. In 1957 he moved to the United States, where he stayed for the rest of his life as a teacher, composer, and conductor. As a composer, Nelhýbel has been described as a “synthesist,” constantly combining various compositional techniques.

Scherzo Concertante was written in 1966. It is fast-paced and exciting, with constantly shifting rhythms. A more lyrical middle section is interjected, smoother and softer but with the same driving energy and rhythmic intensity. The development and alterations to the thematic material make the piece challenging in its own right.

***Concertino for Horn, Op. 74* – Jan Koetsier**

Jan Koetsier, born in 1911 in Amsterdam, was a Dutch composer, conductor, and pianist. At a young age, he moved to Berlin with his family, where he later attended the Berlin Hochschule für Musik. He developed his conducting career in Germany. Koetsier’s compositions include orchestral works, instrumental chamber and solo music, and choral works. Post-retirement, he established the Jan Koetsier Competition in order to encourage young brass ensembles, and spent time working with brass ensembles and soloists.

Koetsier’s *Concertino for Horn* was written in 1977. It is dedicated to the great German hornist Hermann Baumann, who premiered the work in 1979 in Amsterdam with the Netherlands Chamber Orchestra. Koetsier wanted this work to be different from typical horn concerti, choosing to use a small chamber orchestra with strings only, to allow the horn’s sound to “unfold freely.” He chose to structure the *Concertino* traditionally, while still allowing the soloist to “show every element of his virtuosity.”

The first movement, marked *allegro molto*, is high-energy from the very beginning. Energetic technical passages contrast with lyricism, all while continually pushing forward. The piece’s middle movement, *Intermezzo*, is highly mysterious. It uses thinner textures and simpler lines, contrasting with the flourish of the previous movement. The extended techniques of half- and fully-stopped notes “conjure a feeling of impressionism” according to Koetsier. The final movement, “*Rondo*,” is lively and bouncy with a recognizable recurring theme. It is highly virtuosic with fast technicality and shifting time signatures.

***Suite for Four Horns* – Eugène Bozza**

Eugène Bozza was a French composer, conductor, and violinist, who was born in 1905 and died in 1991. He matured as a composer in Paris in between the World Wars, exploring all sorts of musical styles during that time. Though he wrote some large-scale symphonic works, he is best-known for writing chamber music for brass and woodwinds, using superior lyricism, elegance, and sensitivity.

Bozza wrote the solo horn works *En Forêt* (1950) and *En Irlande* (1951), both of which are popular staples in the horn's repertoire today. His *Suite for Four Horns* was written in 1952 and displays many of the same features which have made his other horn works so successful, while also showing Bozza's varied use of compositional techniques.

The *Suite* is a collection of six short character pieces, tracking the most traditional styles and idioms found in horn music while still bringing Bozza's own style. Each movement features a descriptive, programmatic title: *Prelude*, *La Chasse*, *Chanson Ancienne*, *Danse*, *Chorale*, and *Fanfare*. Bozza truly captures the essence of each movement's self-contained and highly specific style; the result is a high level of diversity and contrast, as well as challenge for the players involved.

The *Prelude* can best be described as Impressionistic harmonically, using vague tonal centers, parallelism, and colorful pitches. It is through-composed and without sectional divisions. Smaller melodic lines are often non-climactic, but the movement as a whole does reach a satisfying high point, with its tonal center as far as possible from where it started. The use of mutes and stopped horn add timbral points of contrast.

La Chasse is in the style of a traditional hunting song, using the expected lively 6/8 time signature and frequent horn fifths. Bozza brings some modern flavors such as frequent tritones; he also interjects some slower-moving sections to give additional dialogue within the movement.

The final movement to be performed on this program is *Danse*, which is in the style of a folk dance. Texturally, it also features a solo line with the other voices accompanying. The movement has two main structural sections, both of them lively and exciting.

Hunting Songs for Low Horn – Brett Miller

Brett Miller, born in 1976, is an American hornist and composer. His horn performance degrees earned include a BM from Youngstown State University, an MM from Indiana University, and a DMA from the University of Maryland. During his time at Indiana University, he also completed a cognate in music composition. Miller is currently Principal Horn of the United States Air Force Band, Washington, D.C.

Hunting Songs for Low Horn was commissioned by Denise Tryon and performed on her album *So-Low* in 2015. The piece has three movements: *The Crow*, *The Owl*, and *The Falcon*. Each one embodies the image of a different hunter.

Mythological Creature Suite for Horn – Justino Eustacio Pérez

Justino Pérez was born in 1990 in Porterville, California. He holds a Bachelor's in Music Composition from Humboldt State University and a Master's in Music Composition from the University of Northern Colorado. Pérez is a passionate educator, having taught elementary and middle school orchestra students across the country. He is dedicated to writing accessible and enjoyable music for students and performers, and highly values musical expression and connection.

The *Mythological Creature Suite for Horn* was completed in 2024 for Emily Martin. It is a series of five movements, each representing a different fabled creature. The character of each movement is unique, evoking clear images and narratives.

Notes from the composer:

Imps are considered to be the spawn of the devil. They serve their master by spreading confusing lies or fear, which they do quite well. Imps are associated with Hell and fire, being a real threat to humanity and finding joy in manipulating with heat. They are minor magical creatures with a big appetite for the spotlight. Always desirous of attention, they act out through practical jokes and small outbursts of magic, trying to get anyone to pay attention to them.

Dogs have been a common aspect of cultural folklore and mythology for as long as human history has recorded stories. The stories of mythological dogs range from Fenrir the wolf of Loki who wreaked havoc in Norse mythology, to the story of the Afghan whose wet nose plugged up the holes in Noah's Ark so it wouldn't sink. One thing that is consistent is the love and loyalty dogs have for their companions. *Adoggio* is an emotional adagio written in the memory of Annie, the long-time companion of Emily Martin, the hornist for whom this suite was written. Annie was a truly special friend who passed away in September 2023 at the age of 14; her absence is felt deeply but her memory lives on.

The **dove** in mythology represents romance. Doves have often been depicted with Aphrodite, Venus, and Inanna-Ishtar, all goddesses of love.

The **caladrius**, according to [Roman mythology](#), is a snow-white bird that is said to be able to take the sickness into itself and then fly away, dispersing the sickness and healing into both itself and the sick person. In the Christianity the caladrius represents Christ, who is pure white without a trace of the blackness of sin.

The **jackalope** was specially requested by the performer for its adorable portrayal of a jackrabbit with antelope horns. Little did she know the jackalope is actually a fearsome critter, often described as a virile, hostile creature that could mimic human voices, and would attack humans by goring their legs with their antlers. This movement contains two very contrasting themes that represent the contrast between the antelope and the jackrabbit. The two themes eventually combine together to end the work in a wild representation of the dangerous creature.