



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Presents

Joe Harris, Horn
Edward Newman, Piano

April 5, 2024

7:00 PM

PepsiCo Recital Hall

Program

Concerto for Horn and Orchestra,
III. Pastoral
IV. The Hunt

John Williams
(1932-)

Vocalise, Op. 34

Sergei Rachmaninoff
(1873-1943)

Woodwind Quintet No. 1 "Stormclouds"

Joe Harris
(2001-)

Allison Durocher, flute
Kameryn Arsenault, oboe
Yotham Ishak, clarinet
Matt Assis, bassoon

Horn Sonata (1939)

Paul Hindemith
(1895-1963)

Joe Harris is a student of Heather Test.
The use of recording equipment or taking photographs is prohibited.
Please silence all electronic devices including watches, pagers, and phones.

Program Notes

John Williams is a contemporary composer, born in 1932. He made a name for himself with his film scores, including *Star Wars*, *E.T.*, *Back to the Future*, many more. Stylistically, his popular film scores combine Romantic, Impressionist, and modern styles to create lush, expansive orchestrations and pieces.

The ***Concerto for Horn and Orchestra*** sharply contrasts John Williams' body of film work. The piece is an interpretation of Medieval life, which is where the titles of each movement come from. *Pastoral* is serene, depicting farms and nature, and *The Hunt* is wild chase, organized chaos. Williams explores dissonance and complex rhythms and creates a virtuosic piece that combines technical virtuosity with lush, sweeping melodies and textures. The piece was completed in 2003 on a commission from the Edward F. Schmidt Family Commissioning Fund of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and dedicated to the late Dale Clevenger.

Sergei Rachmaninoff was a Russian musician and lived from 1873 to 1943. His early fame came through his virtuosic piano skills. His compositions gained popularity later in life and post-mortem. He draws incredible influence from the major Russian composers of his time, namely Tchaikovsky and Rimsky-Korsakov. He adopted the Romantic ideals of his idols through his rich melodies and expansive textures.

Vocalise, Op. 34 is originally composed as the final piece in a collection of songs for voice and piano. The piece is notable for its long, hauntingly beautiful melodies, brimming with expressive potential. Without words, the piece is a blank canvas for the musician to find meaning in every note and gesture. The piece achieved such great popularity that Rachmaninoff himself arranged it for orchestra just three years after the original was completed, and many arrangements for solo instruments have been made since.

Joe Harris is a horn player and TCU student whose musical background goes back to his childhood, learning to play the horn from his older brother after school. While performing has been his focus, he occasionally finds time to compose in his spare time.

Woodwind Quintet No. 1 "Stormclouds" is a piece which began in 2019 as an exploration of basic techniques learned in music theory. As it took shape, it took inspiration from nature and a love for rainy days to form an idea for the theme of the piece. Throughout the piece, the *dies irae* theme appears in many forms, sometimes in its original conception, others in retrograde or inversion, as well as in other keys. This theme is used as a reference to the gloom and often frightening nature of a thunderstorm, but is contrasted with gentle melodies to represent the beauty which comes after.

Paul Hindemith lived from 1895-1963 in Hanau, Germany. He was educated as a violinist, and toured with a string quartet before pursuing a career as a conductor. As a composer, he championed contemporary styles and explored chromaticism in much of his work. He combined traditional classical forms with modern harmonic and rhythmic ideas to create his iconic 20th century sound.

Horn Sonata (1939) is a work that investigates tonality and offers a look into the composer's life and mind. Drawing upon his contemporary inspiration, Hindemith combines traditional forms with modern harmonies and rhythmic variety. The piece has vast dynamic contrast, and through this, he creates a complex, mature piece that challenges the performer to embrace Hindemith's unique style and create their own narrative.