



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Presents

Anthony Tinsley, tenor trombone
Syuzanna Kaszo, piano

March 30, 2025

7:00 pm

PepsiCo Hall

Program

Red Sky

Anthony Barfield
(b. 1983)

Intermission

Dance of the Blessed Spirits

Christoph Willibald Gluck
(1714-1787)

Energy!

Anthony Tinsley Jr.
(b. 2003)

Hannah Luna, trombone
Seth York, trombone
Dylan Sims, trombone
Theda Leeka, trombone
Trey Mulkey, bass trombone

A Song For Japan

Steven Verhelst
(b. 1981)

Nick Shea, trombone
Nick Richa, trombone
Zach Long, bass trombone

Brooklyn (2016)

Nat McIntosh
(b. 1978)

Axel Bevensee, trombone
Brian Clark, sousaphone
Jett Schnackenberg, tenor saxophone
Kenneth Ebo, trumpet
Dhruv Patel, trumpet
Zachary Bourgeois, drums

Program Notes:

Red Sky

by Anthony Barfield

American born composer, Anthony Barfield's *Red Sky* is a powerful and dynamic work for brass ensemble that explores themes of space, time, and human experience. Composed in 2010, the piece is often performed by professional and collegiate brass groups due to its challenging yet rewarding musical content. *Red Sky* features bold brass writing, rich harmonies, and a sense of urgency throughout. The piece opens with a mysterious and atmospheric introduction before launching into an intense, rhythmically driving main section. Barfield employs powerful brass fanfares, dynamic contrasts, and intricate counterpoints to create a sense of motion and energy.

Dance of the Blessed Spirits

by Christoph Willibald Gluck

Dance of the Blessed Spirits is one of the most famous orchestral excerpts from Christoph Willibald Gluck's opera *Orfeo ed Euridice*. The opera, first performed in 1762, is one of the most significant works of the Classical period, and it marked a shift towards simplicity, clarity, and emotional expression in opera, moving away from the more ornate style of Baroque opera. *The Dance of the Blessed Spirits* comes from Act III of *Orfeo ed Euridice*, where the hero, Orfeo, has descended into the underworld to try to rescue his wife, Euridice. After failing to bring her back, Orfeo is granted a moment of consolation in the Elysian Fields, the realm of the Blessed Spirits. The music that accompanies this scene is serene, ethereal, and beautifully evocative of peace and transcendence. This piece is typically performed as an orchestral interlude and has become famous in concert settings as a standalone work. It is characterized by its flowing, lyrical melodies and the graceful, almost otherworldly quality of the music. The instrumentation is lush, with prominent use of strings, and the use of woodwinds adds a touch of lightness and airiness. *The Dance of the Blessed Spirits* is often described as a perfect example of Gluck's ability to blend emotional depth with elegant simplicity. It conveys a sense of calm and serenity, in contrast to the more dramatic moments of the opera. In many ways, it represents the souls of the Blessed Spirits in a peaceful, almost otherworldly dance, a representation of eternal rest and happiness.

Energy!

by Anthony Tinsley Jr.

Anthony Tinsley Jr.'s "*Energy!*" is a 2025 lyrical and rhythmic trombone quintet piece that teaches humans how to match the same intensity when reaching their goal. The common problem in this day and

age is how everything gets extremely opinionated, to the point where everyone turns against each other. The best way to prevent these conflicts is to understand each other, work together, and enjoy what we have, which is life. With the same amount of positive energy, the world can be what God wants it to be. This piece opens with a lyrical bass trombone solo while the powerful Bb chords interrupt the soloist. The piece then slowly builds positive energy with unique rhythms on each trombone part until the whole ensemble performs a powerful Bb chord with funky rhythms in between.

A Song For Japan

by Steven Verhelst

“A Song for Japan” by Steven Verhelst is a deeply moving and poignant composition, originally written for brass band but also arranged for various other ensembles, including concert band and wind ensemble. The piece was composed in response to the devastating 2011 earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan, and it stands as a musical tribute to the resilience and strength of the Japanese people in the face of such tragedy. The composition captures a wide range of emotions, from sorrow and mourning to hope and unity. Verhelst uses a mix of tender, reflective moments and sweeping, powerful passages to represent the grief and the collective spirit of recovery. The piece begins with a somber and quiet opening, with delicate melodies that evoke a sense of loss and sorrow. As the music progresses, it gradually builds in intensity, incorporating more bold and assertive statements to represent strength, resilience, and the eventual healing process. Musically, “A Song for Japan” employs beautiful, lyrical lines and harmonies that resonate emotionally with listeners. The brass section, with its rich, full sound, plays a central role in conveying both the sorrow and the hope. Throughout the piece, Verhelst uses dynamics and orchestration to create a profound sense of atmosphere, and the way the music moves between different moods is powerful. This work is often performed at memorials or events dedicated to honoring the victims of the disaster and celebrating the strength of the Japanese people. Its emotional depth and ability to connect with audiences on a human level have made it a meaningful piece within the brass band repertoire.

Brooklyn

by Nat McIntosh

Brooklyn by Nat McIntosh, written in 2016, is an electrifying and genre-defying composition by the Youngblood Brass Band, blending the raw power of brass band instrumentation with the rhythmic complexity and flow of hip-hop. The Youngblood Brass Band, renowned for their innovative fusion of jazz, funk, and hip-hop, brings an urban, high-energy vibe to brass music, making it accessible and exciting for a wide range of audiences. “Brooklyn” is not only a tribute to the borough but also a reflection of the band's commitment to creating music that is both fresh and inclusive, connecting brass band traditions with contemporary musical forms. The result is a compelling piece that blends the power of brass with the soul of urban music, making it a unique and exciting addition to the modern brass repertoire.

Anthony Tinsley is a student of Dr. David Begnoche.

The use of recording equipment or taking photographs is prohibited.

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