



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Presents

**Eric Liu, Trumpet**  
**Cecilia Lo-Chien Kao, Piano**

April 4, 2025

5:30 PM

PepsiCo Recital Hall

### **Program**

Liebeslied, Op.22, No.2

Oskar Böhme  
(1870-1938)

Hymne

Jean-Michel Damase  
(1928-2013)

Of Wind & Weeping (2015)

Christopher Bond  
(b. 1992)

Beautiful View of Grassland at Night

Wang Hesheng  
(b. 1955)

Concerto for Two Trumpets (2013)

Erik Morales  
(b. 1966)

- I. Boldly
- II. Rubato-Flowing-Rubato-Maestoso
- III. Allegro

Featuring Mr. Manny Arellano, second trumpet

# Three Trumpet Trios with Piano

Rafael Méndez  
(1906-1981)

Kiko

Jumping Bean

Gallito

featuring Mr. Manny Arellano & Frank Cárdenas, trumpets

This recital is given in partial fulfillment of the requirements for Artist Diploma in Trumpet Performance. Eric Liu is a student of Dr Jon Burgess.

The use of recording equipment or taking photographs is prohibited.

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

## **Acknowledgements**

First, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Jon Burgess, trumpet professor at TCU, whose unwavering passion for the trumpet and meticulous approach to teaching have deeply inspired me. I admire Dr. Burgess's understanding of trumpet performance, especially his remarkable trumpet tone. I am also sincerely grateful to Dr. Lo-Chien Kao, the pianist for this recital. Her artistry and profound musical interpretation have been a great source of inspiration. Additionally, I extend my appreciation to Mr. Manny Arellano and Mr. Frank Cárdenas, my guest artists for this recital. Both are outstanding young trumpet players.

When planning this recital, I had already decided on its title: "A Journey Around the World." The diverse and vibrant cultures of our world are what make it so fascinating. The repertoire spans across continents, from Europe to Asia, then across the vast Pacific to the Americas. Each piece represents a distinct country and its cultural essence. Just as different languages symbolize different cultures, music serves the same role. We often say that music is a universal language, and I believe this recital will allow you to experience a journey through the world via music.

## **Program Notes**

### ***Liebeslied* – Oskar Böhme**

This piece was composed by Russian-German composer Oskar Böhme. For trumpet players, Böhme is a familiar name, just like his contemporaries Willy Vasily Georgiyevich Brandt and Wilhelm Wurm. These German musicians brought their musical heritage to Russia, where they laid the foundation for Russian trumpet performance, ultimately shaping a distinctive Russian trumpet school. This cultural migration continues to influence trumpet playing even a century later.

*Liebeslied* is a quintessential Romantic-era piece, resembling an art song in which the trumpet assumes the role of a lyrical singer. To me, this piece embodies a Russian interpretation of the German art song tradition. This will be my first time performing *Liebeslied*, originally composed for B-flat trumpet and piano. However, I will be performing it on a C trumpet, which offers a brighter timbre. The title *Liebeslied* translates to "Love Song" in English.

### ***Hymne* – Jean-Michel Damase**

Jean-Michel Damase (1928–2013) was a renowned French pianist from Bordeaux. As a soloist with the Cologne Concert Orchestra and the Concert Society of the Paris Conservatory, he also performed for French radio and television as well as the BBC. Damase held great admiration for Gabriel Fauré and Maurice Ravel, frequently performing their works while also engaging with contemporary French composers.

As a composer, Damase focused on symphonic and instrumental music. In *Hymne*, he blends flowing melodic lines with distinctive harmonies and irregular rhythmic accents, evoking imagery reminiscent of French Impressionism.

### ***Of Wind & Weeping* – Christopher Bond**

My connection with British-style brass bands is quite special. In 2015, after completing my master's degree in the United States and returning to Shanghai, I met Philip, a music teacher at the British International School in Shanghai. He suggested forming a British brass band, and soon, a group of us—including friends from the UK, Switzerland, Germany, and other countries—established the Shanghai British Brass Band, the first of its kind in China. Within a year, we gained attention from brass players across China, and a British brass band emerged in Beijing as well.

I was the principal cornet in our early days, initially playing on a trumpet until we secured funding six months later, allowing our entire cornet section to use proper cornets, including soprano cornets. *Of Wind & Weeping* was composed in 2015 by British

composer Christopher Bond for flugelhorn and brass band. The flugelhorn solo represents the Greek warrior Achilles, mourning the death of Patroclus. In this moment, Achilles shifts from an indomitable warrior to a vulnerable and grieving figure. The solo should be played with deep expression, embodying a character torn by sadness, shock, and vengeance.

### ***Beautiful View of Grassland at Night – Wang Hesheng***

This piece was composed in 1984 by Chinese famous composer, Wang Hesheng, a resident composer of the People's Liberation Army Band. The song vividly portrays the magnificent nightscape of the Inner Mongolian grasslands, with romantic and poetic lyrics earning it the reputation of "China's Nocturne."

#### **Lyrics (Translated):**

The grassland's night is beautiful,  
The melodies of the zither and flute are clear,  
The evening breeze carries the Milky Way's stars!  
Glistening over the yurts.

The grassland's night is beautiful,  
The bright moon always accompanies it,  
The gentle evening breeze caresses dreams of green fields!  
As cattle and sheep drift like clouds on the border.

The grassland's night is beautiful,  
One is intoxicated even before raising a golden cup,  
The evening breeze sings sweet songs!  
While the horsemen ride under the moon, reluctant to leave.

The 1980s marked a new era for China, following a decade of hardship during the Cultural Revolution. As restrictive ideologies began to fade, people rediscovered the joys of beauty and romance, rekindling dreams of a brighter future. Wang Hesheng later arranged this song as a flugelhorn solo with symphonic wind band.

### ***Concerto for Two Trumpets – Erik Morales***

Commissioned by Professor James Ackley of the University of South Carolina, *Concerto for Two Trumpets* by Erik Morales is a vibrant three-movement work celebrating the brilliance of the trumpet. Premiered two years after its conception, this concerto was made possible through the dedication of a consortium.

The piece highlights the trumpet's expressive and melodic capabilities, treating both soloists as equals. It features passages in unison that create a rich choral effect, while demanding endurance from the performers due to its seamless three-movement structure.

In 2018, I invited Dr. Jon Burgess to visit Soochow University in China, where he not only gave a memorable masterclass for my trumpet studio students but also performed this concerto in a recital. My first impression of this piece was that it felt quintessentially American—reminiscent of the heroic characters in American cinema. Privately, I’ve come to refer to it as the “Marvel Concerto.” I particularly love the second movement, which brings to mind the *Adagio* from *Concierto de Aranjuez*.

### ***Three Trumpet Trios with Piano – Rafael Méndez***

Rafael Méndez, a Mexican-born American trumpeter, was often called "The World's Greatest Trumpeter." Although he never personally subscribed to this title, his remarkable career and contributions to trumpet playing left a lasting legacy.

I discovered these three trios in the catalog of trumpet educator David R. Hickman's publishing house. Upon first hearing them, I was captivated by their rich Latin American character. Méndez composed these trios during the 1950s–1960s, performing them with his twin sons, Robert and Rafael Jr. Although both sons became highly skilled trumpet players, they ultimately pursued careers in medicine. Today, they remain active in the arts community, serving on the Executive Board of Summit Brass and supporting the Rafael Méndez Brass Institute.