

Programme Notes

Jean-Michel Defaye: À la manière de Stravinsky

Defaye has been a significant French composer of brass solo and chamber music since the middle of the 20th century. The piece captures Stravinsky's stylistic hallmarks, such as rhythmic vitality, sharp contrasts, and a neoclassical aesthetic. Defaye's clever use of harmony, syncopation, and unexpected twists creates a playful yet sophisticated work, blending humor with technical challenges.

Launy Grøndahl : Concerto pour Trombone et Piano

The concerto, composed in 1924 by Danish composer Launy Grøndahl, was written during his time in Italy. It was inspired by the trombone section of the Orchestra of the Casino Theatre in Copenhagen, where Grøndahl had been a violinist since the age of thirteen. The premiere took place in Copenhagen, performed by the Orchestra of the Casino Theatre with Vilhelm Aarkrog, the orchestra's principal trombonist, as the soloist. This renowned work has been recorded by esteemed trombonists such as Joseph Alessi, Håkan Björkman, Jesper Juul Sørensen, Massimo La Rosa, Christian Lindberg, Jacques Mauger, and Branimir Slokar, among others. The concerto consists of three movements: I. Moderato assai ma molto maestoso, II. Quasi una Leggenda: Andante grave, III. Finale: Maestoso

Stjepan Šulek: Sonata for Trombone and Piano

This sonata was published in 1973. This beautiful and deeply expressive 20th-century piece has become a staple in the recital repertoire for trombonists. The title of the sonata is Vox Gabrieli, according to Sacred Scripture, the archangel Gabriel is the messenger angel who appeared to people in the Old Testament and the New Testament on many different occasions.

It has been recorded by renowned trombonists including Joseph Alessi, Christian Lindberg, Stefan Schulz, Ralph Sauer, and Michael Buchanan.