

Repertoire:

Aria and Variations/ G. F. Handel / Ed. Chris Olka

Adagio & Allegro/ Robert Schumann / Ed. Floyd Cooley

Syrinx/ Claude Debussy / Ed. Jun-Jia Liu

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Programme Notes

Aria and Variations/ G. F. Handel / Ed. Chris Olk

George Frideric Handel, a master of the Baroque era, is renowned for his expressive melodies and intricate variations. *Aria and Variations* is a beautifully structured work that showcases both lyrical elegance and virtuosic brilliance. Originally composed for keyboard, this version for tuba solo with piano, edited by Chris Olk, highlights the instrument's rich tonal qualities and expressive range.

The piece begins with a graceful Aria, setting a foundation for a series of inventive variations. Through ornate embellishments, dynamic contrasts, and technical flourishes, Handel's music is brought to life in a new and compelling way for the tuba. This arrangement not only pays homage to Handel's original brilliance but also explores the depth and agility of the modern tuba.

Adagio & Allegro/ Robert Schumann / Ed. Floyd Cooley

Robert Schumann's *Adagio & Allegro*, originally composed in 1849 for horn and piano, is a deeply expressive and technically demanding work that has been adapted for various instruments, including the tuba. Edited by Floyd Cooley, this version allows the tuba to showcase both its lyrical warmth and virtuosic agility.

The *Adagio* opens with a heartfelt and singing melody, rich in romantic expression and longing, highlighting the instrument's ability to convey deep emotion. The transition into the *Allegro* brings a striking contrast, bursting with energy and rhythmic drive. The rapid passages and soaring lines challenge the performer while maintaining Schumann's signature passion and intensity.

This piece is a testament to Schumann's gift for melody and drama, and in this adaptation, the tuba emerges as a compelling voice, seamlessly blending lyricism and bravura.

Syrinx/ Claude Debussy / Ed. Jun-Jia Liu

Originally composed in 1913 for solo flute, *Syrinx* by Claude Debussy is one of the most evocative and hauntingly beautiful solo works in the impressionist repertoire. This adaptation for tuba, edited by Jun-Jia Liu, reimagines the piece with the instrument's deep, resonant timbre, offering a unique perspective on Debussy's timeless work.

Inspired by the ancient myth of Pan and Syrinx, the piece unfolds in a free and flowing manner, capturing an almost improvisatory quality. The music's wandering phrases, subtle dynamic shifts, and chromatic inflections create an atmosphere of mystery and longing. While originally conceived for the flute's ethereal and delicate sound, the tuba's rich sonority brings a new depth and introspective quality to the piece, transforming it into a meditative and intimate musical experience.

This arrangement challenges the performer to maintain fluidity, expression, and nuance, highlighting the tuba's ability to sing with lyricism and sensitivity.

Tuba Concertino/ Jan Koetsier

Jan Koetsier's *Tuba Concertino*, Op. 77 is a significant and beloved work in the tuba repertoire. Composed in 1978, this piece highlights the tuba's lyrical and virtuosic capabilities, blending elements of traditional classical form with Koetsier's distinctive harmonic language and playful character.

Structured in three contrasting movements, the *Concertino* showcases the instrument's full expressive range. The first movement opens with a stately and expressive theme, setting the stage for a dialogue between the soloist and the accompaniment. The second movement, often described as lyrical and introspective, allows the tuba to sing with warmth and sensitivity. The final movement bursts with energy, featuring lively rhythms and technical flourishes that challenge the performer's dexterity and agility.

Koetsier, known for his contributions to brass repertoire, masterfully balances humor, charm, and depth in this piece. The *Tuba Concertino* remains a staple for tubists, offering both a musical and technical showcase while celebrating the instrument's versatility.

L'invite de Marc/ Jean-Philippe Vanbeselaere

Jean-Philippe Vanbeselaere's *L'Invité de Marc* is a captivating and expressive work that showcases the tuba's lyrical and dramatic potential. Composed for solo tuba and piano, this piece blends contemporary harmonies with a strong sense of melody, creating an evocative and engaging musical journey.

The composition explores a wide range of emotions, from introspective and delicate passages to moments of bold, rhythmic intensity. Vanbeselaere's writing highlights the tuba's ability to sing with warmth and depth while also embracing its agility and dynamic range. The interplay between the soloist and piano accompaniment creates a rich and textured dialogue, enhancing the storytelling aspect of the music.

As a modern addition to the tuba repertoire, *L'Invité de Marc* offers performers and audiences a fresh perspective on the expressive possibilities of the instrument. With its blend of lyricism and technical challenges, the piece is both rewarding to play and compelling to experience.

The birdcatcher from Magic Flute/ W. A. Mozart / Ed. Wei-Zhen Tung Rita

Mozart's *The Magic Flute* (*Die Zauberflöte*), composed in 1791, remains one of the most beloved operas of all time. One of its most charming and recognizable melodies is *Der Vogelfänger bin ich ja* (*The Birdcatcher's Aria*), sung by the playful and lighthearted Papageno, a birdcatcher in search of love.

This duet arrangement for tuba and trumpet preserves the joyful and whimsical spirit of the original aria. The dialogue-like nature of the piece lends itself perfectly to this instrumentation, with the trumpet capturing the bright, nimble character of Papageno's voice, while the tuba provides a warm and rich counterpoint, adding depth and humor to the interplay.

The music is full of playful rhythmic gestures and buoyant phrases, reflecting Papageno's carefree and optimistic nature. Despite its simplicity, Mozart's genius shines through in the elegant phrasing and subtle harmonic shifts, making this a delightful and entertaining piece for both performers and audiences alike.