



27 April 2023 | THURSDAY

Stefan Bencic

Trombone Recital Rachel Chen, *piano* **Programme**

ANTE GRGIN

Trombone Concerto

- I. Allegro*
- II. Adagio*
- III. Waltz*

BENEDETTO MARCELLO *Sonata in F Major for Trombone and Piano*

- I. Largo*
- II. Allegro*
- III. Largo*
- IV. Presto*

Intermission 10 Minutes

JACQUES CASTEREDE

Sonatine for Trombone and Piano

- I. Allegro Vivo*
- II. Andante Sostenuto*
- III. Allegro*

STJEPAN SULEK

Sonata (Vox Gabrieli)

About The Performer

Stefan Benčić began his trombone studies in 2014 learning from Aleksandar Benčić, trombone professor University of Arts in Belgrade. He continued his studies under Miloš Radonjić and later graduated from the Music High School Mokranjac under Nikola Petrović. Stefan has won several international competitions in Serbia and has appeared as soloist with two youth orchestras. He has participated in several music festivals, including Curtis Summerfest, the Verbier Festival, and the Hungarian Trombone Camp. Stefan was a member of Youth Philharmonic Orchestra “Borislav Pašćan,” Belgrade Wind Orchestra and has also performed as a substitute musician with the Belgrade National Theatre Opera. In 2019, Stefan was accepted to the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music in Singapore where he is currently studying with Samuel Armstrong and Marques Young. In the summer of 2022 Stefan has taken part in the American Brass quintet seminar at the Aspen Music Festival. His brass quintet from Singapore has been awarded the New Horizons Fellowship which covered all their expenses. Stefan will attend the Aspen Music Festival orchestral program in the summer of 2023 on a full scholarship sponsored by the Aspen Music Festival.

Programme Notes

ANTE GRGIN

Ante Grgin was born in 1945. He attended the Music School in Split and in 1965 began his clarinet studies at the Music Academy in Belgrade, in the class of Brun Bruno. He graduated in 1969 and completed his postgraduate studies in 1972 with the highest possible grades. Even as a student he took part in prestigious international competitions in Geneva, Munich and Prague, as well as at the competition Jeunesse Musicale in Belgrade, where he was awarded the second prize in 1970. Since 1975, Ante Grgin has been actively involved in the music world as an outstanding concert performer, chamber musician and first clarinet of the Belgrade Philharmonic. He has performed with many orchestras in his homeland and in many other countries. He is a member of an ensemble for new music. As a composer, Ante Grgin has distinguished himself in works for piano, violin, viola, flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, trumpet and horn. The dominant features of his works are a tendency to free form, a certain jazz influence, tonal harmony, Balkan folk rhythms and striking melodies which exploit the character of the instrument used. He has taught at the Music Academy since 1995. Many of his pupils now play in Belgrade orchestras and have obtained prizes in music competitions. Ante Grgin has received many awards such as Dositej Obradovic, the Remembrance Medallion of Belgrade City, a Letter of Recognition from the Faculty of Musical Art, the Golden Medal of the Belgrade Philharmonic on the Orchestra's 75th anniversary, a Silver Medal of the University of Arts and an award from the Association of Musical Artists of Serbia.

Grgin's Trombone Concerto his first trombone concerto and it was dedicated to Stefan Bencic who will be performing it for the first time at his Senior Recital.

BENEDETTO MARCELLO

Born in Venice, Benedetto Marcello was a member of a noble family and in his compositions he is frequently referred to anonymously as Patrizio Veneto (Venetian patrician, i.e. aristocrat). Although he was a music student of Antonio Lotti and Francesco Gasparini, his father wanted Benedetto to devote himself to law. Benedetto managed to combine a life in law and public service with one in music. In 1711 he was appointed a member of the Council of Forty (in Venice's central government), and in 1730 he went to Pola as Provveditore (district governor). Due to his health having been "impaired by the climate" of Istria, Marcello retired after eight years in the capacity of Camerlengo (chamberlain) to Brescia where he died of tuberculosis in 1739.

JACQUES CASTEREDE

Born in Paris, Castérède studied at Lycée Buffon. He earned his baccalauréat in elementary mathematics, then entered the Paris Conservatory in 1944 and began studying piano under Armand Ferté, composition under Tony Aubin, and analysis under Olivier Messiaen. While at the Conservatory, between 1948 and 1953 he received five first prizes (in piano, chamber music, analysis, composition, and harmony). He also won the Grand Prix de Rome in 1953 with his cantata *La Boîte de Pandore* (Pandora's Box). The following year, he went to Rome, where he stayed at the Villa Medici until 1958.

In 1960, he was appointed professor of solfège in the Paris Conservatory, then counsellor of piano studies (Conseilleur aux Études) in 1966, and analysis in 1971. In addition, he taught composition at the École Normale from 1983 to 1988, and analysis from 1988 to 1998. On an invitation from the Chinese government, he became a professor of composition at the Central Academy in Beijing. He received numerous awards as a composer, among them the Paris Civil Award in 1991, the Charles Cros Award, and the Record Academy Award in 1995. His many works, which include symphonies, concertos, ballets, and ensemble and chamber music, have been performed throughout France, Germany, and Italy as well as in the United States and Canada.

His music is essentially melodic, often using modal scales over rich and varied structures.

STJEPAN SULEK

Born in Zagreb in 1914, Šulek began his music study very early by learning piano, violin, and composition. In 1936 he received his diploma from the Zagreb Academy of Music, where he studied violin with Vaclav Huml (1880–1953) and composition with Blagoje Bersa (1873–1934), the founder of Croatian modern music movements. Until 1952 Šulek was an active soloist who gave numerous recitals. He was also an active chamber music performer of the highest level, as he was the first violin of the Zagreb String Quartet from 1936 to 1938 and was a member of the Maček-Šulek-Janigro Trio from 1939 to 1945. At the Zagreb Conservatorium, Šulek began teaching violin in 1939, composition in 1948, and orchestration in 1953.

His works were played on a national and international level beginning in 1945 in Europe, South America, and the United States. Šulek became a corresponding member of the Croatian Academy of the Arts and Sciences in 1948 and an official member and secretary of the Department of Music for the academy in 1954. He launched a successful conducting

career in building up an international reputation for the Chamber Orchestra of the Zagreb (now Croatian) Radio and Television. From 1958 to 1964 he was the principal conductor of both the chamber and symphony orchestras of Zagreb and undertook numerous European tours with these orchestras. He was frequently invited to be a guest conductor for the symphony orchestras of Zagreb, Belgrade, and Slovenia.

In his teaching career, Šulek was a distinguished professor of musical composition and mentor of many leading Croatian composers. his students including Milko Kelemen, Stanko Horvat, Krešimir Šipuš, Sandro Zaninović, Pavle Dešpalj, Dubravko Detoni, Igor Kuljerić etc.

Šulek died in Zagreb in 1986.