

Trombone Senior Recital

Gu Hongyi
and
Rachel Chen
Vivien Chong
YST Trombone Choir

Works by:
Walter Hartley
John Williams
Johannes Brahms
Steven Verhelst

Livestream:



28th April 2021 5pm
YST Concert Hall

Yong Siew Toh
Conservatory
of Music



PROGRAMME NOTES

For my senior recital, I choose 4 pieces. Because I want to present audience all the different kinds of style of music. So I divided the 4 pieces into 2 halves.

The first one is Sonata Breve by Walter Hartley. It is a 20th Century piece with no piano accompany and also A standard piece in the bass trombone repertoire (also played by euphonium). A 12-tone work that's approachable, with a second movement that's a little tongue-in-cheek. In two movements, Allegro Moderato and Presto. So I think it will be a good choice to start my recital.

Second piece is a tuba concerto by John Williams. In addition to the film music for which he is so widely known, John Williams has written many concert pieces, including two symphonies and concertos for violin and flute. For the 350th anniversary of the city of Boston, he composed the Jubilee 350 Fanfare; and for the Boston Pops he wrote Esplanade Overture and Pops on the March. Additional concert works include Essay for Strings and numerous chamber pieces. The Tuba Concerto, written in 1984-85 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Boston Pops, was premiered on May 8, 1985 by that orchestra with Chester Schmitz, principal tubist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Boston Pops. Why I want to use this piece for my recital is because it shows good technique and beautiful melody. Especially on bass trombone. It will challenge the bass trombone player even more than a tuba player.

These are the pieces for the first half.

For the second half I will be playing 4 serious songs by Johannes Brahms. This is a cycle of four songs originally for bass and piano with beautiful melody and expressive emotions. The texts of the first three songs are taken from the Old Testament and deal with death, the transience of life and oppression . The text of the fourth song is taken from the New Testament and is focused on faith, hope and charity.

I will play Colores by Steve Verhelst as my last piece with YST trombone choir. Colores is written for Martin Schippers, bass trombonist of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra.

This spectacular and energetic piece features the bass trombone as a versatile instrument. Both solo parts as well as ensemble parts are challenging, but fun to play and listen to.

Programme notes by Gu Hongyi.