ABSTRACT

Title of Dissertation: Transcriptions and Arrangements of String, Vocal, and

Woodwind Repertoire Adapted for Trombone

Stephen Omelsky, Doctor of Musical Arts, 2014

Dissertation Directed by: Dr. Michael Votta,

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As a trombonist and teacher of music, it is essential to be knowledgeable of standard and current trombone repertoire. Although there are some brilliant works for the instrument such as concertos by Ferdinand David and Lars Eric Larson, the amount of repertoire available to trombonists is small compared to that available to other instruments.

This dissertation focuses on solo and chamber music originally composed for strings, voices or woodwinds, and later transcribed for trombone. My intention is to expand the trombone repertoire for college level players by presenting music that has artistic merit and that will advance the education of trombone students.

The first recital featured music originally for strings, the second consisted of music originally for voice, and the final recital featured music originally for woodwinds. Each recital included music of all style periods, from either the Renaissance or baroque through the twentieth century. While most of the music I performed was for solo trombone and piano, The Bach *Cello Suite No.2* was for unaccompanied trombone, and

there were two chamber works including a Corelli *Trio Sonata* and a brass quintet arrangement of a madrigal by Gesualdo.

Performance and detailed research of this repertoire has opened up new depths of musical knowledge and understanding for me. In studying string, vocal, and woodwind repertoire I explored each instrument's technical and musical accessibilities, unique approach to phrasing, limitations, and learned how composers from different time periods wrote for them. This project will serve as a pedagogical guide by exposing repertoire of various musical instruments and time periods, in conjunction with standard and new trombone repertoire.

Transcriptions and Arrangements of String, Vocal, and Woodwind Repertoire Adapted for Trombone

by

Stephen Omelsky

Dissertation submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of the University of Maryland, College Park, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts

2014

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Dr. Michael Votta, Chair Professor Robert Dorfman, Dean's Representative Professor Craig Mulcahy Professor Matthew Guilford Professor Robert DiLutis

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RECITAL REPERTOIRE LIST

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PROGRAM FROM RECITAL #1

Sonata No. 2 in F Major for piano and cello

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) Transcribed by Ralph Sauer

I. Allegro vivace

Sonata No. 3 for cello and basso continuo

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

I. Largo

II. Allegro

III. Largo

IV. Allegro

Meditation from Thaïs

Jules Massenet (1842-1912) Transcribed by Scott Hartman

- - Intermission - -

Suite No. 2 in D minor for unaccompanied cello

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) Edited by Mark Lusk and Stephen Omelsky

I. Prélude

II. Allemande

III. Courante

IV. Sarabande

V. Gigue

Sonata for Cello and Piano

Claude Debussy (1862-1918) Edited by Janos Starker and Stephen Omelsky

I. Prologue

Sonata De Chiesa, Op.3, No.7

Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713) Edited by Janos Starker

I. Grave

II. Allegro III. Adagio IV. Allegro

PROGRAM NOTES FROM RECITAL #1

Transcriptions and Arrangements of String, Vocal, and Woodwind Repertoire Adapted for Trombone

Recital 1, String Transcriptions

Johannes Brahms Sonata No. 2 for Cello and Piano, 1st movement (1886)

Johannes Brahms followed in the footsteps of Johann Sebastian Bach and Ludwig van Beethoven. Brahms composed for voice, chorus, piano, symphony orchestra, and chamber ensembles. Among his most famous compositions are the *Two Serenades for Orchestra*, four symphonies, a *Violin Concerto*, a *Double Violin Concerto* and his *Academic Festival* and *Tragic* overtures.

Sonata No. 2, the second of two cello sonatas, was written for the cellist Robert Hausmann, a good friend of Brahms and member of the Joachim String Quartet.

Hausmann premiered many of Brahms' works, and surely inspired his cello writing. At the time of the sonata's premier, critic Eduard Hanslick wrote "In the Cello Sonata, passion rules, fiery to the point of vehemence, now defiantly challenging, now painfully lamenting. How boldly the first Allegro theme begins, how stormily the Allegro flows!" The influence of Beethoven's classical boldness was showing an influence in the form of a Brahmsian romantic boldness. At the time of Brahms' death in 1897, the sonata was widely considered unpopular due to its use of fragments rather than the common practice of continuous melody, as well as use of dissonant harmonies and minor key areas.

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¹ Henken, John. "Cello Sonata No. 2 in F Major", Accessed on October 24, 2013, http://www.laphil.com/philpedia/music/cello-sonata-no-2-f-major-op-99-johannes-brahms

Antonio Vivaldi Sonata No.3 for Cello and Piano (1720-1730)

The Italian composer Antonio Vivaldi is recognized as one of the greatest baroque composers due to his prolific violin writing and establishment of the three-movement concerto form. He composed over 400 concerti for one or more instruments. A violinist himself, he composed mostly for the instrument, but wrote for other string and wind instruments as well. His best-known compositions are a set of four violin concertos called the *Four Seasons*, published in 1725. Vivaldi's compositions are known for their playful style and innovative harmonic and melodic contrasts. His concertos in particular had a deep influence on Johann Sebastian Bach's compositions.

Vivaldi composed about 60 sonatas for violin, cello and wind instruments. Six cello sonatas were published in 1740, each following a four-movement structure of *Largo, Allegro, Largo, Allegro*. He composed three additional cello sonatas that were never published. The cello sonatas closely resemble Vivaldi's twelve "Manchester" violin sonatas in that each movement is a binary form with two repeated sections. The third movements are usually different from the others as they are in a different key. Vivaldi used the cello to exploit two things: its versatility including wide leaps, string crossings and wild scale passages, and second as a bass instrument that could play a bass line and ornament. The first and third movements of the *Third Sonata* contain a unique and expressive quality in a thoughtful, contemplative, and even melancholic way that is captured so well by Vivaldi.

Jules Massenet Meditation from Thaïs (1894)

The French composer Massenet is best known for his operas and beautiful melodies. He composed over 30 operas, oratorios, cantatas, works for orchestra, incidental music, songs and song cycles. Unlike most prolific composers who created their compositions at the piano, Massenet developed his completely from his imagination. This unique ability helped him to become such a great orchestrator. His most popular operas are *Manon*, *Werther*, *Esclarmonde*, *and Thaïs*.

Meditation is a symphonic intermezzo featuring a violin solo in between the scenes of act two. In act one, Athanael, a cenobite monk, encounters Thaïs. She is an upper class, hedonistic courtesan who values her outward beauty and worships Venus, the goddess of love. Athaniel tries to save her by converting her to Christianity. In scene one, he tells her of the difference between her love (profane), and his love (holy). She becomes confused when she is convinced that eternal life can come only through Athanael's religion, Christianity. She demands to be alone, as she needs time to settle her confused thoughts. Her thoughts are suggested in the beautiful Meditation intermezzo in between scene one and scene two. The next day Thaïs has decided to travel with Athanael to the dessert to lead a holy life.

Johann Sebastian Bach Cello Suite No. 2 (1720)

To strip human nature until its divine attributes are made clear, to inform ordinary activities with spiritual fervor, to give wings of eternity to that which is most ephemeral; to make divine things human and human things divine; such is Bach, the greatest and purest moment in music of all time. - Pablo Casals ²

Regarded as one of the greatest composers of all time, J.S. Bach was also an organist, harpsichordist, violist and violinist. In addition to his six *Cello Suites*, some of his best-known works include the *Brandenburg Concertos*, the *Mass in B minor*, *The Well-Tempered Clavier*, partitas, cantatas, among many other great works. Bach had a special talent for contrapuntal and motivic control in his compositions.

The six *Cello Suites* highlight the cello's low register and are considered extremely difficult to perform for any cellist. Bach took the common baroque dance suite form: *allemande*, *courante*, *sarabande*, *and gigue*, then added the *prelude* and *minuet and trio* movements to his *Second Suite*. The *prélude* is an introductory movement that establishes the key with a sense of rhythmic freedom and loose thematic construction. The *allemande* in a binary form, played moderately slow, and lacks a clear sense of melodic phrasing. The *courante* translates literally to running, is written in a fast triple meter, with triadic and scalar configuration. The *sarabande* is slow and majestic, in a triple meter, including a characteristic accented dotted note on the second beat, and has a simple melody that allows for plenty of ornamentation. The *gigue* has elements of both the French and Italian schools of this dance movement. This movement features triadic

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² Gordon, David, "Reflections on Bach". Carmel Bach Festival, 2004, Accessed November 18, 2013, http://www.spiritsound.com/bachquotes.html

and sequential lines, a fast triple meter, and four to eight measure phrases. The *Cello Suites* have been arranged for many different instruments. For trombonists it is particularly challenging to choose places to breathe to maintain a sense of natural phrasing. Trombonists must also choose which notes to play in the three- and four-part chords that Bach wrote for the cello. This suite also includes a *minuet and trio* movement that will be omitted from todays program.

Claude Debussy Sonata for Cello and Piano (1915)

Of all the musicians who ever lived, Claude Debussy was one of the most original and most adventurous; at the same time, unlike many original adventurers, he was a consummate master within the limits of his exquisite style"

- William W. Austin ³

Along with Maurice Ravel, Claude Debussy's composition style was very much associated with the impressionistic art movement in 19th century Paris. The famous impressionistic painter Claude Monet used a painting technique that created smoky, hazy and somewhat blurred images to provide an impression of a scene rather than a precise one. Debussy drew parallels with impressionism in music by creating ambiguous tonal centers and fragmented melodies. He frequently used non-traditional whole-tone, chromatic, and pentatonic scales in his music that stretched the boundaries of tonal music.

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³ Jezioro, Jan. "Cello Sonata", *A Musical Feast*, November 14, 2010, Accessed October 18, 2013, http://www.amusicalfeast.com/program_notes_-_november_14__2.html

Of six planned sonatas for different instruments, the *Cello Sonata* was one of only three sonatas completed before the composer's death. The work as a whole is relatively short and is considered one of the finest masterpieces in the cello repertoire. The prologue makes use of characteristic mode changes, whole-tone and pentatonic scales. The sonata also uses extended techniques for cello that cannot be replicated exactly on the trombone. The original score asks for harmonics, and cello mute. Some of these techniques are omitted in this performance, however the written harmonic notes are played at pitch. The sonata is very challenging even with limited use of these extended techniques.

Arcangelo Corelli Sonata da Chiesa Op.3, No.7 (1689)

The Italian violinist and composer Arcangelo Corelli was one of the most significant composers of the baroque era. He is known for developing the concerto grosso and trio sonata. One of his most famous works is the *Christmas Concerto* written for four strings and continuo in six movements. Corelli's model of the concerto form influenced composers after him such as Torelli, Vivaldi, and Handel.

Many style characteristics of Corelli's music come across clearly in his *Sonata de Chiesa Op. 3, No.7*. Opus 3 set is originally scored for two violins, cello and continuo, and consists of only12 of Corelli's 48 trio sonatas. In the two largo movements, there is clearly directional harmony with lots of harmonic suspensions that create a beautiful color with dramatic tension. The allegro movements have imitation between the three voices and melodic sequencing.

PROGRAM FROM RECITAL #2

Three Madrigale Carlo Gesualdo (1561-1613)Arranged by Horst Hoffer I. Gia piansi nel dolore II. Ancide sol la morte III. Quando ridente e bella Four Serious Songs Op.121 Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)Edited by Barnaby Kerekes I. Andante II. Andante III. Grave IV. Andante con moto ed anima Vocalise Op. 34, No.14 Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)Edited by Keith Brown - - Intermission - -Beau Soir Claude Debussy (1862-1918)Transcribed by Alexandre Gretchaninoff Songs of a Wayfarer Gustav Mahler (1860-1911)Transcribed by Douglas Sparks I. Wenn mein Schatz Hochzeit macht II. Ging heut' morgens ubers Feld III. Ich hab' ein gluhend Messer IV. Die zwei blaumen Augen von meinem Schatz

Kaddish, from Deux melodies hebraiques

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937) Transcribed by Scott Hartman PROGRAM NOTES FROM RECITAL #2

Transcriptions and Arrangements of String, Vocal, and Woodwind Repertoire

Adapted for Trombone

Recital 2, Vocal Transcriptions

Carlo Gesualdo Three Madrigale (1611)

The late renaissance Italian composer Carlo Gesualdo is best known for his

madrigals of five or more voices. He composed six books of madrigals over his lifetime,

all of which were written for singers with no instrumental accompaniment. Particularly

his late madrigals display melodic extravagance, wide variations of rhythm, frequent

pauses, and heavy use of chromaticism and dissonance to emphasize text expression.

Compared to his contemporaries, Gesualdo's music was much more adventurous and

wild. Perhaps his music reflects some of his personal life as he was married twice. His

first wife was Maria d' Avalos who hid an affair from Carlo for about two years. Upon

learning of his wife's unfaithfulness, he murdered her and her lover. While Gesualdo's

style did not significantly influence composers immediately following him, he made a

larger imact on twentieth century composers like Franz Hummel, and Igor Stravinsky.

Horst Hoffer selected these three madrigals from Gesualdo's book six collection

of five-voice madrigals completed in 1611. The titles translate as follows: Giá painsi nel

dolore (Yes I cried in pain), Ancide sol la morte (Death alone can kill), and Quando

ridente e bella (When lovely and laughing).

1. Gia piansi nel dore

because my sweetheart says:

Formerly I wept in my grief;

"I, too, burn for you".

now my heart rejoices

11

Then let troubles fly, and let sad weeping

now be changed to sweet and happy singing.

2. Ancide sol la morte

Death alone can kill,
and you, my heart, who are my life,
cannot kill me
with the sweet blows of your beauteous
eyes.

should issue from your lively beauty.

3. Quando ridente e bella

When smiling and beautiful, prettier than any star,

Licori reveals herself to me,
and lascivious Cupids play with her;
I rejoice and with such joy abound,
that the whole world rejoices at my joy.

I, dying for you, would die happily if my mortal wound

Johannes Brahms Four Serious Songs Op.121 (1896)

As on of the most influential composers of the nineteenth century, Johannes

Brahms followed in the footsteps of Johan Sebastian Bach and Ludwig van Beethoven.

Brahms composed for voice, chorus, symphony orchestra, and chamber ensembles. He composed 196 German Lieder in 32 published collections. Opus 121 was composed the year before his death and the same year as his good friend Clara Schumann's death.

Brahms was a close friend with the Schumann family and when Robert attempted suicide and was put into a mental hospital, Johannes and Clara became very close. He moved

into the Schumann household to help take care of the children. While there is no proof that they were ever lovers, they shared a life-long, emotionally passionate relationship.

In a letter to Marie and Eugenie Schumann, just after Clara's passing, Brahms gives an ambiguous intent on his new composition. Clara Schumann passed away on May 20, 1896.

I wrote them (*Four Serious Songs*) during the first weeks of May. I though that I had no need to fear worse news about your mother. But something often stirs and speaks within a person, almost unconsciously and sometimes it manifests itself as poetry or music. ⁴

The text of the first three songs is from the Old Testament and they describe death and how short life is. The text of the fourth song is taken from he New Testament and focuses on faith, hope, and charity.

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⁴ Frisch, Walter. *Brahms and His World*, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009), 270.

Song 1

For that which befalleth the sons of men

befalleth beasts;

even one thing befalleth them:

as the one dieth, so dieth the other;

yea, they have all one breath;

so that a man hath no preeminence

above a beast:

for all is vanity.

--All go unto one place;

all are of the dust,

and all turn to dust again.

Who knoweth the spirit of man

that goeth upward,

and the spirit of the beast that goeth

downward

to the earth?

Wherefore, I perceive that there is

nothing better,

than that a man should rejoice in his

own works;

for that is his portion:

for who shall bring him

to see what shall be after him?

Song 2

So I returned, and considered

all the oppressions that are done

under the sun:

and behold, the tears of such

as were oppressed, and they had no

comforter;

and on the side of their oppressors

there was power;

but they had no comforter.

Wherefore I praised the dead

which are already dead

more than the living

which are yet alive.

--Yea, better is he than both they, which

hath not yet been,

who hath not seen the evil work

that is done under the sun.

Song 3

O death, how bitter

is the remembrance of thee to a man

that liveth at rest in his possessions,

unto the man that hath nothing to vex

him,

and that hath prosperity in all things:

yea, unto him that is yet able to receive

meat!

O death, how well you serve.

O death, acceptable is thy sentence unto

the needy,

and to him whose strength faileth, that is

now in the last age,

and is vexed with all things,

and to him that despaireth,

and hath lost patience!

O death, how acceptable is thy sentence!

Song 4

Though I speak with the tongues of men

and of angels,

and have not charity,

I am become as sounding brass,

or a tinkling cymbal.

And though I have the gift of prophecy,

and understand all mysteries,

and all knowledge;

and though I have all faith,

so that I could remove mountains,

and have not charity,

I am nothing.

And though I bestow all my goods to

feed the poor,

and though I give my body to be burned,

and have not charity,

it profiteth me nothing.

For now we see through a glass,

darkly; And now abideth faith, hope, charity,

but then face to face: these three;

now I know in part; but the greatest of these is charity.

but then shall I know

even as also I am known.

Sergei Rachmaninoff *Vocalise* Op. 34, No.14 (1912)

Known as one of the greatest pianists of his time, Rachmaninoff was also one of the last great romantic Russian composers. Initial influences of his early works came from Tchaikovsky but he soon developed into his own style. His composition style features flexible rhythms, sweeping lyricism, and passionate thematic material. His most famous works include the *Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini*, the *Second and Third Piano Concertos*, the *Second Symphony*, and his *Vocalise*.

The *Vocalise* is the last song in his Op. 34 set of songs and is written for soprano or tenor voice. The piece has no text and is intended to be sung on a vowel sound of the performer's choosing. He work was dedicated to the famous Russian soprano Antonina Nezhdnova.

Claude Debussy Beau Soir (1883)

Claude Debussy's early works were mainly influenced my Richard Wagner. His texts and musical settings were greatly influenced by symbolist themes. Symbolism was a late nineteenth century art movement in France that used characteristic themes of

mysticism and otherworldliness, with a strong sense of mortality. The text is from a poem by Paul Bourget. Debussy's most famous composition from his early period was *Clair de Lune* from his *Suite Bergamasque* in 1890. The title *Beau Soir* translates to beautiful evening.

Beau Soir:

When the rivulets are rosy in the setting sun,

And a mild tremor runs over the wheat fields,

An exhortation to be happy seems to emanate from things

And rises towards the troubled heart.

An exhortation to enjoy the charm of being alive

While one is young and the evening is beautiful,

For we are going on, as this stream goes on:

The stream to the sea, we to the grave.

Gustav Mahler Songs of a Wayfarer (1885)

The Austrian conductor and composer Gustav Mahler is known for bridging the gap between the late romantic to the twentieth century modernism style. Among his best-known works are his ten symphonies and art songs. He was only a part-time composer as he earned his living as a conductor. Mahler combined aspects of the art song into his symphonies, as he quotes parts of his *Songs of a Wayfarer* in his *First Symphony*. As he

conducted most of his career in Europe, he made his American debut at the Metropolitan Opera in 1908, and later became the music director of the New York Philharmonic.

Songs of a Wayfarer was his first song cycle, although he had composed other art songs previously. The work is intended for low voice but is frequently performed by female vocalists. This song cycle is a reflection of Mahler's personal life as he wrote it during his broken love affair with the soprano Johanna Richter. Mahler wrote the lyrics himself, with a strong influence from a collection of German folk poetry called *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*.

1. Wenn mein Schatz Hoch zeit macht

Do not sing; do not bloom!

When my darling has her wedding-day,

Spring is over.

her joyous wedding-day,

All singing must now be done.

I will have my day of mourning!

At night when I go to sleep,

I will go to my little room,

I think of my sorrow,

my dark little room,

of my sorrow!

and weep, weep for my darling,

for my dear darling!

2. Ging heut' morgens ubers Feld

I walked across the fields this morning;

dew still hung on every blade of grass.

The merry finch spoke to me:

Hey! Isn't it? Good morning! Isn't it?

You! Isn't it becoming a fine world?

Chirp! Chirp! Fair and sharp!

Blue flower! Do not wither!

Sweet little bird - you sing on the green

heath!

Alas, how can the world be so fair?

Chirp! Chirp!

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How the world delights me!"

I have a red-hot knife,

a knife in my breast.

Also, the bluebells in the field O woe! It cuts so deeply

merrily with good spirits into every joy and delight.

tolled out to me with bells (ding, ding)

Alas, what an evil guest it is!

their morning greeting: Never does it rest or relax,

"Isn't it becoming a fine world? not by day or by night, when I would

Ding, ding! Fair thing! sleep.

How the world delights me!"

O woe!

And then, in the sunshine, When I gaze up into the sky

the world suddenly began to glitter; I see two blue eyes there.

everything gained sound and color O woe! When I walk in the yellow field,

in the sunshine! I see from afar her blond hair

Flower and bird, great and small! waving in the wind.

"Good day, is it not a fine world? O woe!

Hey, isn't it? A fair world?"

When I start from a dream

Now will my happiness also begin? and hear the tinkle of her silvery laugh,

No, no - the happiness I mean O woe!

can never bloom! Would that I lay on my black bier

Would that I could never again open my

3. Ich hab' ein gulhend Messer eyes!

To me no one bade farewell.

4. Die zwei blaumen Augen von Farewell! My companions are love and

meinem Schatz sorrow!

The two blue eyes of my darling -

they have sent me into the wide world. On the road there stands a linden tree,

I had to take my leave of this well- and there for the first time I found rest in

beloved place! sleep!

O blue eyes, why did you gaze on me? Under the linden tree

Now I will have eternal sorrow and that snowed its blossoms onto me -

grief. I did not know how life went on,

and all was well again!

I went out into the quiet night All! All, love and sorrow

well across the dark heath. and world and dream!

Maurice Ravel Kaddish, from Deux melodies Hebraiques (1915)

Along with Debussy, Maurice Ravel was a prominent composer in the French impressionistic movement. Much of his compositions in piano, chamber, orchestral and vocal music are standards in the concert repertoire. Among his best known works for orchestra include *Daphnis et Chloe*, his arrangement of Modest Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, and *Bolero*.

Kaddish is the first of two songs from his *Deux melodies Hebraiques*, written at the beginning of World War One. *Kaddish* is a hymn of praise found in the Jewish prayer service. Its central theme is the magnification and sanctification of God's name.

It is most commonly used as a mourning prayer for a funeral. Mourners use the prayer to show that despite the loss, they still praise God.

Kaddish Prayer:

Glorified and sanctified be God's great name throughout the world which He has created

according to His will. May He establish His kingdom in your lifetime and during your

days, and within the life of the entire House of Israel, speedily and soon; and say, Amen.

May His great name be blessed forever and to all eternity.

Blessed and praised, glorified and exalted, extolled and honored, adored and lauded be

the name of the Holy One, blessed be He, beyond all the blessings and hymns, praises

and consolations that are ever spoken in the world; and say, Amen.

May there be abundant peace from heaven, and life, for us

and for all Israel; and say, Amen.

He who creates peace in His celestial heights, may He create peace for us and for all

Israel; and say, Amen.

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PROGRAM FROM RECITAL #3

Sonata No.1

Johann Ernst Galliard

(1687-1749)

Arranged by John Glenesk Mortimer

Edited by Stephen Omelsky

- I. Cantabile
- II. Moderato spiritoso
- III. Largo
- IV. Hornpipe
- V. Vivace

Three Romances Op.94

Robert Schumann (1810-1856) Edited by Keith Brown

- I. Nicht schnell
- II. Einfach, inning
- III. Nicht schnell

-- Intermission --

Sonata for Bassoon

Paul Hindemith (1895-1963)

- I. Leicht bewegt
- II. Langsam. Marsch. Pastorale

Sonata for Bassoon

Camille Saint-Saëns (1860-1911) Edited by Stephen Omelsky

- I. Allegro moderato
- III. Molto adagio / Allegro moderato

PROGRAM NOTES FROM RECITAL #3

Transcriptions and Arrangements of String, Vocal, and Woodwind Repertoire Adapted for Trombone Recital 3, Woodwind Transcriptions

Johann Ernst Galliard Sonata No.1 (1733)

As a talented oboist and recorder player, Galliard began his musical career by performing his own compositions. He performed in a chamber ensemble for George, Prince of Denmark. Later he became chapel-master of Somerset House in England. His status as a composer was always beneath that of his contemporaries, as Handel and Bononcini worked for the highest royalties. He joined Handel's Italian Opera in 1713 as oboe soloist. He composed music for The Morning Hymn of Adam and Eve and Milton's Paradise Lost, in the cantata style. He composed and published several cantatas, songs, and pieces for various orchestral instruments. He also composed music for several plays including Julius Caesar, Pan and Syrinx, Jupiter and Europa, among others. His instrumental compositions include *Six Sonatas for Flute*, *Six solos for the Violoncello*, and *Six Sonatas for Bassoon or Violoncello and Harpsichord*.

As a characteristic work of the baroque, the *First Sonata* is filled with contrasting movements and sections within movements. Repeated sections are intended to give way for virtuosic ornamentation by the bassoon for embellishment. The first movement, Cantabile, is a slower and more lyrical introductory movement with chopped phrases. The second movement is a livelier dance rhythm in 6/8. It contains sharp dynamic contrasts and opportunities for creative ornamentation. The third movement is slow and majestic. Similar to the first movement, it has chopped phrases in groups with lyrical moments. The Hornpipe movement is fast with clear phrase structures. The final movement is in a fast dance style with a lyrical middle section.

Robert Schumann Three Romances Op. 94 (1849)

Even though he only lived to the age of forty-six, Schumann is regarded as one of the greatest composers of the Romantic era. He was a successful pianist but was limited in his abilities due to a permanent injury to his hand. As a composer, he wrote exclusively for the piano until 1840, and went on to write in many genres. His best-known compositions are his symphonies, song cycles including the *Dichterliebe*, and the *Kinderzenen* for solo piano. Much of Schumann's life was a struggle. He married the pianist and composer Clara Wieck in 1840 against her father's wishes. They went on to have eight children together. In the years just after their marriage Schumann went through periods of prolific writing and serious mental breakdown. Many of Schumann's most successful works were published between 1845 and 1850, and were given reviews that named him the successor to Beethoven. In September of 1849 Schumann wrote to F. Brendel speaking of his recent composition success:

...but I may tell you in confidence that my *Jugendalbum*, for instance, has a sale equaled by a few, if any among recent compositions. This I have from the publisher himself; and many of my books of songs enjoy the same popularity. ⁵

He is known for mentoring Johannes Brahms in theory and composition. In his thirties he developed a nervous system disorder that eventually lead him to attempt suicide and be put in a mental asylum. The close family friend, Johannes Brahms would move into the Schumann household to help take care of the Schumann family.

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⁵ Storck, Karl. *The Letters of Robert Schumann*, (New York: E.P. Dutton and Company, 1907) 264.

For oboists, the *Three Romances Op.94* is a standard solo piece in the repertoire that is known for its simplicity, song-like nature, and challenging phrase lengths. The pieces were written at a time when Schumann was composing many songs. The first movement is intended to be played not too quickly, and to represent a gentle song. The second movement is the most popular and often recorded, is marked simple and passionate or heartfelt. Clara mentioned in her diary that there is a spring-like joy in the attractive melody of the second movement. The stormy middle section is a perfect example of Schumann's mature style. The final romance returns to the simple song like-style of the first. The work has been transcribed and performed on various instruments including the clarinet, violin, and the trombone.

Paul Hindemith Bassoon Sonata (1938)

Paul Hindemith was a violist, theorist, composer and conductor. He is known as one of the most significant German composers of the twentieth century. His early works are in the late romantic style. He composed in the expressionistic style of early Schoenberg before developing a more contrapuntally complex style in the 1920's. Hindemith is known as a neoclassical composer as he was influenced by the contrapuntal nature of Johann Sebastian Bach and Max Reger. His use of quartal and quintal harmonies are a hallmark of his composition style. Among his most famous works include; *Mathis der Maler, Symphonic Metamorphosis of themes by Carl Maria von Weber, and Symphony in B-flat* for concert band.

Hindemith composed a total of twenty-five sonatas for almost every instrument in the orchestra. In the *Bassoon Sonata*, the first movement has a melody with atonal

repetitions and later a chordal based accompaniment. The slow movement has a static melody over an impressionistic yet repetitive accompaniment. This section leads directly to the trio that features elaborate counterpoint writing. The final pastoral movement reinterprets the first movement, but ends on a b-flat minor chord instead of the first movement's b-flat major chord.

Camille Saint-Saëns Bassoon Sonata (1921)

What gives Sebastian Bach and Mozart a place apart is that these two great expressive composers never sacrificed form to expression. As high as their expression may soar, their musical form remains supreme and all-sufficient.

- Camille Saint-Saëns

The French composer Camille Saint-Saëns was a composer, conductor, pianist and organist in the romantic era. He developed perfect pitch as a child and offered to perform any Beethoven piano sonata from memory at his first recital when he was ten years old. He can be classified as a romantic and early twentieth century composer, as elements of these time periods are apparent in his music. Saint-Saëns was particularly brilliant in his abilities of musical assimilation, memory, and inventiveness. Mozart, Beethoven and Robert Schumann heavily influenced his composition style. His compositions after 1900 showed more influence from contemporaries like Liszt and Ravel. Much of his writing is heavily chromatic with extended harmonies that reflect twentieth century sonorities. His most famous compositions include; *Carnival of the*

⁶ Fisk, Josiah, *Composers on Music, Eight Centuries of Writings*, (New Jersey: Northeastern University Press, 1997).

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Animals, Dance macabre, the opera Sampson and Delilah, Piano Concerto No. 2, Cello Concerto No. 1, and his Symphony No. 3.

He composed three sonatas in the year of his death; for oboe, clarinet and lastly bassoon. The *Bassoon Sonata* features clear harmonic lines in the bassoon, and a piano part that provides a harmonic and textural framework. The composer's intent while composing these sonatas was clear: "I am using the last of my energy to broaden the repertoire of those instruments that are otherwise so neglected". The *Bassoon Sonata* is a staple solo work in the repertoire due to its idiomatic writing for bassoon and the piano.

REPRESENTATIVE COLLEGE LEVEL SOLO REPERTOIRE

Freshman, Telemann Sonata in F minor

Guilmant Morceau Symphonique

Galliard Sonata No.1 for Bassoon *

Ravel, Kaddish *

Sophomore, Weber Romanza Appassionata

Ewazen Sonata

Mahler, Songs of a Wayfarer *

Hindemith, Bassoon Sonata *

Junior, Grondahl Concerto

Wagenseil Alto Trombone Concerto

Gesualdo Three Madrigals for Brass Quintet *

Vivaldi Cello Sonata No. 3 *

Senior, Castérède Sonatine

Tomasi Concerto

Bach Cello Suite No. 2 *

Saint-Saëns Sonata for Bassoon *

Masters, Ropartz Piece in E-flat Minor

David Concertino

Debussy Cello Sonata, Prelude *

Massenet Meditation *

Doctorate, Arnold Fantasy

Albrechtsberger Alto Trombone Concerto

Debussy Beau Soir *

Schumann Three Romances*

^{*} indicates repertoire from dissertation recitals

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