Recital: Anna McNamara, September 21, 2021

Anna McNamara
Lu Witzig
Peter Wykert

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Anne McNamara, Trumpet
Lu Witzig, Piano
Peter Wykert, Organ
Program

Please silence all electronic devices for the duration of the concert. Thank you.

Sonata for Trumpet & Piano (1996)  
Adolphus Hailstork  
I. Allegro  
(born 1941)

Framed (2009)  
Cecilia McDowall  
Choir of Angels  
Overcoming Red  
Nocturne in Blue and Gold  
Walking Man  
Winter Landscape with Skaters  
Marilyn Diptych  
Ball at the Moulin de la Galette  
(born 1951)

~ Intermission ~

Thoughts for Flugelhorn and Organ (2010)  
Anthony Plog  
(born 1947)

Windows for Trumpet and Organ (1976)  
Petr Eben  
I. Blue Window  
II. Green Window  
II. Red Window  
IV. Golden Window  
(1929-2007)
Adolphus Hailstork wrote his trumpet sonata in 1996 for the husband-and-wife team of Rodney Mack, trumpet, and Karen Walwyn, piano, whom, to date, have made the only recording of the work. Dr. Hailstork describes the first movement, which follows sonata form, as having a strong blues and jazz influence. “The snappy beginning is followed by a muted Theme 2. The development begins with repeated dark chords in the piano and gradually builds up to a climax before Theme 1 returns. A descending series of arpeggios in the trumpet brings the movement to a bitonal ending.” Interestingly, he has also adapted the work for clarinet and piano.

Dr. Hailstork received his doctorate in composition from Michigan State University, where he was a student of H. Owen Reed. He had previously studied at the Manhattan School of Music, under Vittorio Giannini and David Diamond, at the American Institute at Fontainebleau with Nadia Boulanger, and at Howard University with Mark Fax. His numerous compositions include works for chorus, solo voice, piano, organ, various chamber ensembles, band, orchestra, and opera which have been performed throughout the world by many prestigious groups and musicians. He is currently working on his fourth symphony, “A Knee on a Neck” for chorus and orchestra as a tribute to George Floyd. Dr. Hailstork is Professor of Music and Eminent Scholar at Old Dominion University.

Cecilia McDowall is a British composer who has won many awards, such as the Choral category of the British Composer Awards for her work, Night Flight in 2014. Her music has been commissioned and performed by leading choirs, including the BBC Singers, The Sixteen, Oxford and Cambridge choirs, Kansas City Chorale, ensembles, and at festivals worldwide. In 2013 Cecilia McDowall received an Honorary Doctorate from Portsmouth University and in 2017 Ms. McDowall was selected for an Honorary Fellow award by the Royal School of Church Music. In 2019 she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from West London University. In 2020 Ms. McDowall was presented with the prestigious Ivor Novello Award for ‘outstanding music collection’ for a ‘consistently excellent body of work.’ This was a ‘Gift’ from The Ivors Academy (formerly the British Composers’ Academy).

Ms. McDowall's Framed for trumpet and piano is a collection of short pieces that draws its inspirations from a variety of art works: A Choir of Angels by 15th century painter Simon Marmion, Composition (Overcoming Red) by abstract artist Alexander Rodchenko, Nocturne in Blue and Gold by James McNeill Whistler, Walking Man by Alberto Giacometti, Winter Landscape with Skaters by Dutch painter Hendrick Avercamp, Marilyn Diptych by pop artist Andy Warhol and Ball at the Moulin de la Galette by Pierre-Auguste Renoir.

Speaking of his work, Thoughts for flugelhorn and organ, Anthony Plog says, “Thoughts is a work which explores the different color combinations of the flugelhorn when combined with organ. Although there are moments when the pace quickens, in general Thoughts is essentially quiet and meditative. The opening solo, with its thematic use of the minor third, forms the basis for much of the piece in terms of both melodic and harmonic content.”

Anthony Plog has had a rich and varied international career in music—as a composer of operas, symphonic music, and chamber works; as an orchestral musician, soloist, and recording artist; and as a brass teacher and coach at some of the great music conservatories internationally. As a trumpeter, he has held many positions with groups such as the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, the Malmo Symphony, and the Basel Symphony, and has performed on tour with the Stockholm Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Buenos Aires Symphony. As a soloist he has toured throughout the United States, Europe, Australia, and Japan, and has numerous solo recordings to his credit. As a composer, his music has been performed in over 30 countries and he has been the recipient of numerous grants and commissions. Mr. Plog has taught at some of the greatest music institutions around the world, including the University of Southern California, the Music Academy of the West, and Indiana University, as well as the Schola Cantorum, the Malmo Music Academy, the Academia di Santa Cecilia, the Norwegian Music Academy, and the Freiburg Musik Hochschule. His new online teaching and coaching program has created a new paradigm for international teaching.

Petr Eben is one of the best-known Czech composers who also studied piano and composition at the Prague Academy of Music. From 1955-1990 Eben taught at the department of musical science at
Charles University before being designated professor of composition at the Academy of Performing Arts. Apart from his concert activities he was a celebrated improviser on both piano and organ. He performed concerts abroad in Paris at Notre Dame, London at the Royal Festival Hall and Westminster Cathedral, as well as at the festivals of Melbourne, Edinburgh, Vienna, Ossiach, Berlin and the USA.

Eben’s *Windows for Trumpet and Organ* is a landmark piece, challenging both the organist and trumpeter to play independently of one another in an aleatoric fashion, while uniting at specific points. The piece is inspired by Marc Chagall's stained-glass windows for the synagogue in Jerusalem and was commissioned by the city gallery in the West Bohemian town of Cheb. Of the work, Mr. Eben said, "The solemnity of the large panes of stained glass made me imagine the sound of the organ, and the intensity and brilliance of the sheaves of bright colors called for the shrill tone of the trumpet." While much of the composition is atonal and dissonant, its moments of tonality and harmony are quite impactful.

**ARTIST BIOS**

**Anne McNamara** is the Assistant Professor of Trumpet at Illinois State University where her duties involve teaching applied trumpet and performing in the ISU faculty brass quintet. In addition to her duties at ISU, Dr. McNamara works regularly as a freelance trumpeter including recent performances with the Heartland Festival Orchestra, Owensboro Symphony, Louisville Orchestra and Louisville Master Chorale.

In addition to performing, Dr. McNamara also actively pursues the commission and performance of new works such as her commission of Carson Cooman’s *Sonata for Flugelhorn and Piano* and the adaptation of Kevin McKee's *A Winter's Night*. In 2019 she released her debut album, also entitled *A Winter's Night*, which includes the premiere recordings of five works. Dr. McNamara is also very active as a clinician and educator giving many university and high school masterclasses each year. Anne has taught on faculty for the University of Kentucky Summer Trumpet Institute. She also performed a recital at the 2019 International Women’s Brass Conference and she presented a warm-up masterclass at the 2018 International Trumpet Guild conference in San Antonio, TX. She is also actively involved in the International Trumpet Guild and serves as the chair of the I.T.G. Young Artist Award Committee.

Dr. McNamara earned a BM in Music Education and a Jazz Studies minor from James Madison University, a MM in Trumpet Performance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a DMA in Trumpet Performance from the University of Maryland. Her primary trumpet teachers include Chris Gekker, Steve Hendrickson, Dr. Michael Ewald, Ronald Romm, Tito Carrillo, and Jim Kluesner. Dr. McNamara is a Yamaha Performing Artist.

**Lu Witzig** started to play piano at age 6. She received her bachelor of music degree from Shenyang Conservatory of Music in China and her master of music degree from Illinois State University. She has been working at Illinois Wesleyan University as a staff accompanist and piano instructor since 2012. Lu is an active performer in Illinois and she also toured in China in 2018 and 2019.

**Peter Wykert**, organist, is the Cantor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Peoria. He has served as music director at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Elmhurst, IL and as a music intern at St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church in Park Ridge, IL. He holds a bachelor’s degree in music from Concordia University Chicago. As Cantor at Trinity, he plans worship services, directs ensembles, serves as primary organist, oversees the Trinity Concert Series, and serves as the managing director of the Peoria Bach Festival. In the community, he accompanies the Peoria-area chamber choir, Lumière, as an organist, accompanies ensembles and musicians at Concordia Lutheran School, and performs concerts at the Lutheran Hillside Village.