

Illinois State University

ISU ReD: Research and eData

School of Music Programs

Music

4-21-2024

Junior Recital: Milo Johnson, Trumpet; Joseph Johnson, Trumpet; Lu Witzig, Piano; April 21, 2024

Milo Johnson
Illinois State University

Joseph Johnson
Illinois State University

Lu Witzig
Illinois State University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/somp>



Part of the [Music Performance Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Johnson, Milo; Johnson, Joseph; and Witzig, Lu, "Junior Recital: Milo Johnson, Trumpet; Joseph Johnson, Trumpet; Lu Witzig, Piano; April 21, 2024" (2024). *School of Music Programs*. 6051.
<https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/somp/6051>

This Performance Program is brought to you for free and open access by the Music at ISU ReD: Research and eData. It has been accepted for inclusion in School of Music Programs by an authorized administrator of ISU ReD: Research and eData. For more information, please contact ISUReD@ilstu.edu.

**Illinois State University
Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts
School of Music**

Junior Recital
Milo Johnson, *trumpet* *
Joseph Johnson, *trumpet*
Lu Witzig, *piano*

*** This recital is in partial fulfillment of the
graduation requirements for the degree,
Bachelor of Music Education.**

**Kemp Recital Hall
April 21, 2024
Sunday Evening
7:00 p.m.**

Program

Please silence all electronics for the duration of the concert. Thank you.

Sinfonia con Tromba, G. 10
I. Allegro
II. Adagio
III. Allegro
IV. Adagio-Allegro

Giuseppe Torelli
(1658-1709)
ed. Joseph Ardovino

Grace Eom, *piano*

Concerto in E-flat for Trumpet (1750)
I. Allegro
II. Largo
III. Vivace

Johann Baptist Neruda
(1708-1780)

Lu Witzig, *piano*

Invocation (1962)

Robert Starer
(1924-2001)

Concerto for Trumpet (1940)

Harry James
(1916-1983)

Legende (1906)

George Enescu
(1881-1955)

Send in The Clowns (1973)

Stephen Sondheim
(1930-2021)
arranged by Joseph Johnson

Lauren Cancio, *piano*

Under Western Skies (2014)
I. Sundown
II. Sunup-High Noon

Kevin McKee
(born 1980)

Tyler Belan, *trumpet*

This is the one hundred and eighty-third program of the 2023-2024 season.

Program Notes

Sinfonia con Tromba by Baroque era violinist and composer Giuseppe Torelli has been rendered for modern trumpet in C (played in this performance on A piccolo) by Joseph Ardovino. Torelli was a pioneer of composing for solo trumpet as evidenced by this piece and his famous Sonata in D major, G.1. At the time of composition, the chromatic trumpet would not be invented or composed for nearly a hundred years until Joseph Haydn composed a concerto for Anton Weidinger and his keyed trumpet in 1796. Baroque era trumpets were “natural” trumpets that had no keys or valves, only small vent holes in the pipe. These instruments had to play relatively high in their register to achieve scalar music, and so today most baroque repertoire is commonly played on piccolo trumpets.

Czech composer Johann Baptist Georg Neruda was born in 1708 in Prague, Czechoslovakia. Neruda spent most of his time in Prague working as an accomplished composer, violinist, and cellist who worked as a member of the court orchestra under Count Rutowski of Dresden from 1750 until his death. He composed ninety-seven works including eighteen symphonies, fourteen concertos, thirty trios, six violin pieces, and an opera. The Concerto in Eb was composed for the corno da caccia or hunting horn but is often performed today by trumpeters.

Robert Starer’s 1962 composition *Invocation* begins with a distant and lonely muted trumpet. This atmospheric single-movement piece is sparsely populated at first, gradually churning and twisting through tonalities and subdivisions until reaching a *piu mosso* peak. *Invocation* employs subtle changes in tone and style throughout, constantly feeling slightly off-kilter all the way to its delicate conclusion.

Harry James was born in 1916 to a bandleader in the traveling Mighty Haag circus. James would start taking trumpet lessons from his father at the age of 8 and by 12 he was leading the second band of the Christy Brothers Circus. James would go on to form his own big band in 1939 and would perform Concerto for Trumpet with the band in 1942. The work features Harry James on trumpet with the backing of the band as he wails jazzy rhythms and cadenza-like figures. What the piece lacks in length, it more than makes up for in extravagance of sound and energy making Concerto for Trumpet so fun to play and listen to.

Originally composed by Romanian composer George Enescu for the 1906 trumpet competition at the Paris Conservatory, *Legende* is a piece that pushes the limits of the performer. A gentle introduction flows beautifully from the trumpet and piano, ebbing and flowing gracefully with dynamic swells and syncopated figures. Suddenly the piece morphs into a fiery, virtuosic test of skill complete with every technique in the book. The piece returns to the first tempo where the trumpet reaches its highest peak. The piano leads into a second technical setting, this time building in intensity to a long chromatic run where the trumpet player makes a push for the final climax. Legend ends with a distant, muted reference of the beginning, taking the piece to its ultimate conclusion.

Stephen Sondheim was born in New York in May 1930. Sondheim studied piano and organ starting at the age of 15 while also creating his first musical for his school under the tutelage of American lyricist Oscar Hammerstein. After completing his studies at Williams College, Sondheim returned to New York City and made his first significant mark on Broadway as the lyricist for *West Side Story*. Sondheim went on to create many new works and is credited with reinventing the American musical. “Send in The Clowns” is a song featured in Sondheim’s *A Little Night Music*. The title refers to an old theatre trope: when things fall apart onstage, the best way to salvage the production is by papering over the chaos with jokes and amusements. This arrangement attempts to portray the inner sadness and irony of the piece using Bb trumpet and piano.

Notes from the composer, Kevin McKee about his work *Under Western Skies*: “When New Mexico trumpeter John Marchinado contacted me about writing a duo trumpet/piano piece, my immediate thought was to do something with a western flavor. Before, and often during, my writing of this piece I poured over photographs of New Mexico’s high desert areas, many that really embody the classic notion we have of ‘the west.’ The first movement, Sundown, attempts to accompany a classic western sunset. The second movement, Sunup-High Noon, opens with muted trumpets heralding the morning light. Before long we’re off on the day’s adventure. The urgency of the morning’s ride eventually slows as we ride into a ghost town and hear 12 ominous bell tolls signaling High Noon. The trumpets begin a duel in what is a tip of the hat to western master Ennio Morricone. After reaching its climax we’re off again to the rousing conclusion.”