
Evening Concert Series

2009-2010 Season

Monday, February 1
Sara M. Snell Music Theater
7:30 PM

Jeffrey Gray, Bass Trombone
Nathan Hess, Piano

Fantaisie Concertante (1960) Jacques Castérède
(b. 1926)

Sonata Breve (1969) Walter Hartley
Allegro moderato (b. 1927)
Presto

Vier Ernste Gesänge (Four Serious Songs) Johannes Brahms
Op. 121 (1896) (1833-1897)
II. So I returned, and considered all the oppressions Trans. By B. Kerekes
that are done under the sun.
IV. Though I speak with the tongues of men and of
angels.

Intermission

Allegro Maestoso (1972) Jan Koetsier
(1911-2006)

Sonata for Tuba (1976) Bruce Broughton
I. Allegro moderato (b. 1945)
II. Andante moderato
III. Allegro leggero

Concertino for Bass Trombone and Trombone Choir (1997) Eric Ewazen
(b. 1954)

Shaun Cagney, Andrew Crecco, Joseph Dupuis, Benjamin Firer
Michael Oquendo, Nicholas Reilingh, Samuel Riss, Alex Slomka

Jeffrey Gray is the Bass Trombonist with the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra and the Grant Park Orchestra of Chicago. Mr. Gray joined the Syracuse Symphony in 2000 and the Grant Park Music Festival in 2003.

Jeff received his formal music training at The Juilliard School and Bowling Green State University. His teachers include Donald Harwood and Joseph Alessi of the New York Philharmonic, Stephen Norrell of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, Paul Hunt at Bowling Green State University, and Dennis Smith of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and University of Michigan.

Jeff has performed with the Toledo Symphony Orchestra, the Buffalo Philharmonic, the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, and was a member of the National Repertory Orchestra. He can be heard on recordings with the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra, the Grant Park Orchestra, and the Juilliard Wind Ensemble.

In 2000, Mr. Gray was the winner of two international competitions; the Lewis Van Haney Philharmonic Prize Competition and the Donald Yaxley Solo Competition, both sponsored by the International Trombone Association. He is one of the few trombonists to win both competitions for bass trombone in the same year. Because of these competitions, he was a featured performer at the 2000 International Trombone Festival in Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Mr. Gray began teaching at Ithaca College in 2006. He teaches trombone, bass trombone, brass chamber music, and conducts a seminar on brass orchestral repertoire. He is also a faculty member at Le Moyne College in Syracuse.

Dr. Nathan Hess joins the piano faculty at Ithaca College this Fall 2009. He has appeared in concert to critical acclaim throughout the United States and Europe in solo, chamber, and concerto settings. Hess has performed concerti with the Erie Chamber Orchestra, Western New York Chamber Orchestra, and York Symphony Orchestra, among others. Recent guest appearances and master classes have included Syracuse University, East Carolina University, Oberlin College Conservatory, Mt. Union College, and Buffalo State College.

Hess holds the Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music degrees from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and the Bachelor of Music degree, *summa cum laude*, from James Madison University, where he was named a Presser Scholar. His teachers have included Elizabeth Pridonoff, Eric Ruple, and Jane Coop, and he has performed in master classes for such luminaries as John Browning, James Tocco, and Emanuele Arciuli.

In demand as a chamber musician, he has performed with members of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, Cleveland Pops, Buffalo Philharmonic, and the Erie Philharmonic. His coaches have included Ronald Copes, Seymour Lipkin, Sandra Rivers, Charles Neidich, Kenneth Griffiths, and *eighth blackbird*. Hess has also acted as orchestral pianist with the Erie Philharmonic.

Hess heads the piano program at the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Arts (PGSA) in Erie. Prior to his appointment at Ithaca College, Dr. Hess taught on the piano faculties at Mercyhurst College and SUNY Fredonia. He can be heard on the Centaur label in a recording with flutist Susan Royal.

In order to ensure a pleasant concert experience for both performers and audience, please refrain from:

- Entering or leaving during the performance.
- Bringing food or drink into the concert hall.
- Taking flash photographs.
- Using electronic devices (please remember to turn off your cellular phone, pagers and watches that chime on the hour).

Children who are able to sit quietly during the performance are welcome to our concerts.

Tape/video recording of performances is strictly prohibited without permission of the performers!

Thank you!