

# MUSIC AT NOON

## PROGRAM

NOVEMBER 22, 2022

University Recital Hall

*Nick Sullivan – bass trombone & euphonium*

*Deanna Oye – piano*

*Southern Alberta Trombone Collective (SATbC)*

Sonata for Bass Trombone and Piano (2018)

*Meditative  
Groovy*

Alonso Malik Pirio (b. 1997)

Out of the Darkness (2021)

*\*Canadian Premiere Performance*

Frank Gulino (b. 1987)

Romance (1966/1990)

*Nick Sullivan, bass trombone  
Deanna Oye, piano*

William Grant Still (1895- 1978)

ed. Douglas Yeo

Tundra (2020)

*Nick Sullivan, euphonium  
Deanna Oye, piano*

Cait Nishimura (b. 1991)

“For the Love of a Princess” from Braveheart (1995)

*Southern Alberta Trombone Collective (SATbC)  
Gerald Rogers, Brittany Collins, Ron Garnett, Ken Rogers, trombones  
Nick Sullivan, euphonium*

James Horner (1953 – 2015)

ed. Nick Sullivan

**Alonso Malik Pirio**, a Grammy award-winning artist, grew up listening to and writing music from a wide variety of styles, including jazz, R&B, rock, Afro-Cuban, funk, and hip-hop. Classically trained, he holds a degree from UCLA's Herb Alpert School of Music and has since forged a career as a film composer, performer, music director, orchestrator, and educator. His **Sonata for Bass Trombone and Piano**, composed in 2018, showcases Pirio's talent for combining diverse styles to create a unique sound for all his works.

**Out of the Darkness** was composed in 2021, commissioned by an international group of trombonists seeking to further bolster the solo repertoire of the instrument, while also contending with the artistic limitations during the first waves of the COVID-19 pandemic. **Frank Gulino** writes:

"My intention as a composer has always been to create music that is both enjoyable to perform and enjoyable to listen to. With the uniquely challenging circumstances of the past year and a half as a backdrop, I also wanted to write something that was reflective of the times. Now, with a return to normalcy on the horizon, *Out of the Darkness* is a piece that I hope you will find timely, musically compelling, and idiomatic for the bass trombone."

**William Grant Still** is often referred to as the 'Dean of Afro-American Music', with a prolific career composing over 200 works for orchestra, choir, chamber, solo instrument settings, and more. Sadly, William Grant Still did not write any works for the solo trombone; his **Romance** was composed for alto saxophone in 1966, and is presented here in a transcription by bass trombonist Douglas Yeo. The beautiful and straightforward melody allows for the trombonist to showcase a singing style and resonant tone.

**Cait Nishimura** is a Japanese-Canadian composer based in Ontario and has become known for writing nature-inspired, programmatic music, in particular within the concert band community. Cait writes about **Tundra**:

"Tundra ecosystems are vast, treeless plains found throughout the coldest regions on the planet. Tree growth is limited here due to severely low temperatures and permanently frozen subsoil, called permafrost. National Geographic refers to tundra as "barren" and "one of the earth's coldest, harshest biomes". While covered in snow for the majority of the year, tundra lands are rewarded with bursts of hardy wildflowers in the summer.

I have found comfort in noticing the parallels between depression and the tundra environment. There is a sense of emptiness, stillness, and despair that comes with having a foundation that is permanently frozen; it is increasingly frustrating to try to grow and thrive in these conditions. But there is also a sense of hope and determination in this ongoing effort, and a wave of relief and gratitude when things begin to thaw. The surprise of wildflowers in the summer is natural imagery that represents the addition of a support system for a person with mental illness.

This piece is a continuous series of musical tension and release between the person with depression and the person in the supportive role. My goal was to depict not only the darkest moments, but also the relentless effort to rise above and the brief but glorious moments of triumph."