

MUSIC AT NOON

PROGRAM

NOVEMBER 28, 2023
University Recital Hall
Nick Sullivan, bass trombone
Deanna Oye, piano

Shadow Play (2021)

Gregory Youtz
(b. 1956)

Nick Sullivan, bass trombone

The Overton Window (2022)

Ricardo Mollá
(b. 1994)

Andante, Op. 64 (1950)

Alexander Tcherepnin
(1899-1977)

Concerto for Bass Trombone (2007)

Elizabeth Raum
(b. 1945)

Allegro con fuoco
Romance (for Nata)
Moderato

Nick Sullivan, bass trombone
Deanna Oye, piano



FACULTY OF
FINE ARTS

UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Composer Gregory Youtz writes: "In **Shadow Play**, the bass trombone is placed in a meditative context, quietly drifting in thought surrounded with bells in a kind of dream state. As the bells become deeper, it follows them down into lower registers. The bells become more dark, less pitch-oriented, more metallic and the trombone becomes more chromatic and agitated. The title is a loose reference to Indonesian shadow puppet theater and sounds of gamelan instruments can be heard in the middle sections of the piece. I like the idea of the shadow puppet theater allowing the viewer to see both the shadow side (all black and white) as well as the colorful puppet master's side. The shadow play thus seems to ask the question: which side of the theater (and thus life) is real?"

The Overton Window is a model for understanding how ideas in society change over time, and how they can influence politics. The core concept is that politicians are limited in what policy ideas they can support, and that they generally will only pursue policies that are widely accepted throughout society as legitimate options. Through this piece, Ricardo Mollá seeks to melodically describe how society struggles to become closer to good ideas and evolve, to put sound to the Overton Window metaphor.

Although Russian composer Alexander Tcherepnin wrote his **Andante, Op. 64** while living in the United States, it is strongly influenced by his time and studies in Paris before the Second World War. Originally composed for tuba, the piece is lyrical in nature and takes the listener on a journey of many melodic peaks.

Elizabeth Raum's **Concerto for Bass Trombone** was commissioned by a group of musicians across the globe to celebrate the birthday of Douglas Sparkes. Doug was the bass trombonist of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra for many years, and an influential teacher in the trombone world. The three movements allow for the bass trombonist to highlight some of the varied sounds that the instrument is capable of producing: from the bold and expressive 1st movement, to the lyric and emotional Romance (written as a romance to Doug's spouse Natalie), and ending with the dramatic and rhythmic finale, Raum's bass trombone concerto has become a significant work in the repertoire of any bass trombonist!