



FACULTY OF
FINE ARTS

Piiksinaasin

Presents

**Tyler Houlihan,
euphonium & bass trombone**

In a

Masters Recital

Assisted by

Cori Campbell, alto saxophone

Bente Hansen, piano

Jenna Steenbergen, piano

Maria Watson, piano

From the Studio of

Dr. Nick Sullivan

4:00 pm

April 9, 2025

Recital Hall

PROGRAM

Mazurka for unaccompanied baritone
Nicholas D. Falcone
(1892-1981)

Sonata No. 4
Adagio
Allemanda, a tempo giusto
Corrente, spiritoso
Tempo di Menuet, moderato
Bente Hansen, piano

Conversations
Allegretto
Lento
Jaunty
Barbara York
(1949-2020)
Cori Campbell, alto saxophone
Maria Watson, piano

- INTERMISSION -

Six Studies in English Folksong
Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1872-1958)
Jenna Steenbergen, piano

Concerto
Allegro moderato
Andante teneremente
Allegro vivace
Eric Ewazen
(b. 1954)
Maria Watson, piano

PROGRAM NOTES

***Mazurka* – Nicholas D. Falcone (1892-1981)**

Mazurka for unaccompanied baritone was written for Glenn P. Smith, the trombone professor at Michigan State University. Glenn Smith shared this piece to Brian Bowman, who was one of the first to perform it for the composer in a recital. This piece has become a popular competition piece in euphonium repertoire. Due to the absence of a piano, the work allows the player to have full control of the interpretation, with the flexibility to be as free or improvisational as desired.

The *Mazurka* is a Polish folk dance designed for multiple couples dancing in a circle, characterized by stomping feet and clicking heels. These dances usually were done in 3-step groupings, with a forceful, heavy beat falling on the second step. The dance was highly improvisational and had over 50 different steps available to the dancers.

***Sonata No.4* – John Ernest Galliard (1678-1749)**

John Ernest Galliard's Six Sonatas for bassoon have become mainstay for low brass repertoire with performance editions arranged by Keith Brown for both trombone and euphonium. With the euphonium being invented in the 19th century, the instrument does not have any original repertoire written in the Baroque period. Instead, borrowing music from other instruments gives the euphonium player the opportunity to learn how to perform various stylistic elements of the Baroque period.

***Conversations* - Barbara York (1949-2020)**

Barbara York writes on her work, *Conversations*:

“*Conversations* was written for Adam Frey and Scott Stewart. When I began this piece, I had recently returned from a trip to Canada, during which I had the opportunity to visit with family members I had not

seen in several years. Each of the movements depicts some sort of conversational and/or family interaction- the type one might experience at such reunion.

The first movement is very much inspired by images of my teenaged stepson, Aaron, on the skateboard he always loved to ride. The second movement is reminiscent of a conversation my sisters and I had about our deceased mother.

The third movement is a little different because it not only includes my son Matthew, about whom I frequently write my most cheerful, energetic and humorous pieces, but because it also reflects a comment that his new bride, Larissa, made when she finally met our Canadian relations for the first time. She laughingly remarked, "Now I finally understand what is going on when we get together as a family at Christmas or Thanksgiving! I have always thought you were just like a bunch of chickens, all talking at once and yet still keeping track of what everyone else was saying in the same room!" So, for Larissa, with my love, the third movement includes both Matthew AND a flock of chickens, all talking and laughing at the same time."

6 STUDIES IN ENGLISH FOLK SONG - Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Lovely on the Water: This folksong is about a conversation between a sailor and his "fair lady." In this conversation, she begs the sailor not to sail for the queen, fearing that he will not return from his voyage.

Spurn Point: This song is about a peninsula off the coast of England and tells the tale of people trying to save the "lost souls" of those sailing off the peninsula during a terrible storm.

Van Dieman's Land: This is a tale warning poacher to stay off Dieman's Land, as terrible things will happen to them if they choose to travel there.

She Borrowed Some of Her Mother's Gold: A young daughter has "borrowed" some of her mother's gold so she can go see a long-lost lover. However, during her travels, she discovers he is not what she remembered.

The Lady and the Dragoon: A woman falls in love with a Dragoon, a Calvary soldier. This song depicts the strong feelings her father has about this relationship and how he does not support their love in the slightest.

As I Walked Over the London Bridge: Originally titled *Gordie*, this Folksong tells the story of a woman who begs a judge to release her love, Gordie, as he has done nothing wrong. Gordie is depicted as someone who has stolen some of the king's deer and is to be hung as punishment.

***Concerto* - Eric Ewazen (b.1954)**

Euphonium Soloist Pat Stuckemeyer writes:

Eric Ewazen's *Concerto* for Euphonium and Wind Ensemble was composed for Robert Grechesky and the Butler University Wind Ensemble. Like most of Ewazen's music, the *Concerto* for Euphonium is highly rhythmic. It relies on traditional and nontraditional harmonies and is accentuated by the true Ewazen gift – lyrical melodies. The first movement is fast and driving, with a light nature to the style. The second movement is dramatic in nature and asks the soloist to act as both soloist and accompanist. The final movement of the work is a fast sprint to the closing moments.