



Houston Friends of Music
The Shepherd School of Music

Chamber



Music

Series

1994
1995



THE EMPIRE BRASS

Stude Concert Hall Alice Pratt Brown Hall Rice University

April 12, 1995

8:00 p.m.

PROGRAM

Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov	Procession of the Nobles, from <i>Mlada</i>
Jean Phillippe Rameau	Tambourin
Johann Sebastian Bach	Contrapunctus I
J. S. Bach	Fugue in G Minor
Kenneth Amis	Quintet No. 2
Mikhail Ippolitov-Ivanov	Procession of the Sardar, from <i>Caucasian Sketches</i>
Georges Bizet	Farandole, from <i>L'Arlesienne Suite No. 2</i>

INTERMISSION

Gioacchino Rossini	"Una voce poco fa", from <i>The Barber of Seville</i>
Monte	Csardas
Luciano Berio	Sequenza
Michael Tilson Thomas	Street Song
Aaron Copland	Simple Gifts, from <i>Appalachian Spring</i>
Leonard Bernstein	Selections from <i>West Side Story</i> Something's Comin' America

Photographing and sound recording are prohibited.
We further request that audible paging devices not be used during performances.
Paging arrangements may be made with the ushers.

If it is anticipated that tickets will not be used, subscribers are encouraged to turn them in for resale.
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The radio voice of Houston Friends of Music.

THE EMPIRE BRASS

The Empire Brass enjoys international renown for its brilliant virtuosity and the unparalleled diversity of its repertoire. With their best-selling recordings on the Telarc, Angel/EMI and CBS/Sony labels, they have introduced an even larger audience worldwide to the excitement of brass music ranging from Bach and Handel to jazz and Broadway. The Empire Brass is the first brass ensemble to win the Naumberg Competition, and in 1987 they were the first ensemble to play in the newly renovated Carnegie Hall.

The Empire Brass has served as Faculty Quintet-in-residence at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute attracting students from around the world. In 1991 they began a new appointment as Visiting Consultants in Brass at London's Royal Academy of Music.

The Empire Brass plays Vincent Bach Stradivarius Brasses made by the Selmer Company.

ROLF SMEDVIG is first trumpet and a founding member of the Empire Brass. In addition to his numerous performances with the Empire Brass, his recent solo engagements have included an 18-concert tour with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, a recital tour of Japan and numerous concerts and recital appearances throughout North America. He is also an accomplished composer and arranger.

JEFFREY CURNOW, trumpet, comes from Easton, Pennsylvania, and studied at Temple University with Seymour Rosenfeld. He is a former member of the Wichita Symphony and the New Haven Symphony, and his wide chamber music experience includes playing with the New York Trumpet Ensemble, Eastern Brass Quintet and the Wichita Brass Quintet. He formerly taught at Wichita University.

ERIC RUSKE, horn, was appointed associate principal horn of the Cleveland Orchestra at age 20.

In 1986, he won the Young Concert Artists International Competition, and began a solo career that has taken him to the Cleveland Orchestra, Chicago Symphony, Milwaukee Symphony and the Chamber Orchestra of Toulouse. In 1987, he won First Prize in the American Horn Competition and the following year captured the highest prize in the Concours International d'Interpretation Musicale in Reims, France. He comes from LaGrange, Illinois, and is a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he later taught.

R. DOUGLAS WRIGHT, trombone, was born in Columbus, Georgia, and grew up in Hopewell, Virginia. He received his Bachelor of Music from the New England Conservatory of Music, where he graduated with the school's highest honor, the George Henry Chadwick Medal. He continued his studies at Boston University. Mr. Wright has also been second trombone in the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra, and he has performed in the trombone section of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Wright has won numerous solo competitions, including: the International Trombone Association's Robert Marsteller Scholarship, the Eastern Music Festival's Concerto Competition and the New England Conservatory Wind Ensemble Concerto Competition.

KENNETH AMIS, tuba, was born in Bermuda and received a Bachelor of Music degree in composition at Boston University and a Master of Music degree in composition at the New England Conservatory. He has been principal tuba player of the Bermuda Philharmonic, Civic Symphony of Boston and the New World Symphony, and soloed with the English Chamber Orchestra. His numerous compositions include a fanfare commissioned for the opening of the Cohen Wing at Symphony Hall in Boston. He was an arranger for the Empire Brass' recordings "Braggin' in Brass" and "Empire Brass on Broadway."