

*FACULTY RECITAL*

*WILLIAM VER MEULEN, horn*

*with*

*SCOTT HOLSHOUSER, piano (guest)*

*JON KIMURA PARKER, piano*

*BRIAN THOMAS, horn (guest)*

*and the undergraduate  
members of the*

*RICE HORN CREW*

*Benjamin Jaber, Christopher Hine,  
Emily DeRohan, and Robert Johnson*

*Wednesday, October 15, 2003*

*8:00 p.m.*

*Lillian H. Duncan Recital Hall*

RICE UNIVERSITY

the  
Shepherd  
School  
of Music

PROGRAM

*Concerto No. 3 in F Major  
a due Corni principali*

*Friedrich Witt  
(1770-1836)  
revised Hans Pizka*

*Mr. Ver Meulen, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Holshouser*

*Lied ohne Worte*

*Felix Mendelssohn/Fritz Kreisler  
(1809-1847)/(1875-1962)  
trans. William Ver Meulen*

*Mr. Ver Meulen, Mr. Holshouser*

*Chant du Ménestrel, Op. 71*

*Alexander Glazunov  
(1865-1936)  
trans. William Ver Meulen*

*Mr. Ver Meulen, Mr. Holshouser*

*Flight of Fancy (2003, Premiere)*

*Richard Lavenda  
(b. 1955)*

*Mr. Ver Meulen, Dr. Parker*

INTERMISSION

*From La Traviata  
A for se lui  
Sempre libera*

*Giuseppe Verdi  
(1813-1901)  
trans. William Ver Meulen*

*Mr. Ver Meulen, Mr. Holshouser,  
Mr. Jaber (offstage - Alfredo)*

*Sonata for Horn and Piano*

*Leslie Bassett  
(b. 1923)*

*Mr. Ver Meulen, Mr. Holshouser*

*Hungarian Dance for Solo Horn  
and Horn Quartet*

*Roger Harvey*

*Mr. Ver Meulen,  
Mr. Jaber, Mr. Hine, Ms. DeRohan, and Mr. Johnson*

## PROGRAM NOTE

*Flight of Fancy* . . . . . Richard Lavenda

*Flight of Fancy* was written at the request of William Ver Meulen. I think its title describes it well: the tempo does indeed fly, and there is a need for quite a bit of fancy playing. And each time the initial motive of the piece returns, it goes off in unexpected directions, in a flight of fancy, as it were. My goal was to write something that would demonstrate Bill's extraordinary artistry and abilities in all areas of horn playing. The piano part was written with the superb skills of Jon Kimura Parker in mind. It contributes equally to the energy and structure of the piece, providing rhythmic vitality and a harmonic foundation, as well as melodic passages of its own. With performers like these, I knew that I could allow my musical imagination a flight of fancy, too!

— Note by the composer

Richard Lavenda is currently Professor of Composition and Theory at the Shepherd School of Music.

## BIOGRAPHIES

Hailed as "an impeccable solo horn" by the Berlin *Neue Zeit*, WILLIAM VER MEULEN leads his generation of American horn soloists. In *Tune* magazine says, "the horn playing of William Ver Meulen is miraculous!... clearly one of today's superstars of the international brass scene." *Fanfare* magazine writes, "Horn virtuoso William Ver Meulen may be the best of the lot, commanding his difficult instrument with suavity and grace."

Mr. Ver Meulen is Professor of Horn at the Shepherd School of Music, a position he accepted in 2003. Previously he was Principal Horn of the Houston Symphony for fourteen years. In addition, he served as Guest Principal Horn of the Los Angeles Philharmonic during the 1998-99 season. He previously played with the orchestras of Chicago, Columbus, St. Paul, Honolulu, Kansas City, and the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra.

Mr. Ver Meulen has participated as a performer and on faculty in numerous music festivals including Aspen, Tanglewood, Grand Teton, Pacific, Steamboat Springs, Sun Valley, Colorado, Interlochen, Chamber Music Northwest, Orcas Island, and the Maui Music Festival. He has performed to critical acclaim on four continents as a soloist and chamber musician and is a popular artist at the International Horn Symposium. He has performed and toured with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and joined friend Joshua Bell for chamber music in London's Wigmore Hall. His recording of the four Mozart Horn Concerti with Christoph Eschenbach and the Houston Symphony is heralded internationally with high critical acclaim and is in its third pressing. In addition, the Houston Symphony commissioned a concerto for Mr. Ver Meulen by esteemed American composer Samuel Adler which was premiered in February 2003. Mr. Ver Meulen has championed numerous new works with commissions and premieres, and he will premiere a new concerto by Pierre Jalbert in 2004.

*A recipient of an array of awards and honors, Mr. Ver Meulen received first prize at the 1980 International Horn Society Soloist Competition and was awarded the Outstanding Brass Player award of the 1985 Tanglewood Festival. Equally regarded for his pedagogical mastery, Mr. Ver Meulen has students performing in major orchestras throughout the world. His rate of student success leads the industry with over ninety percent of his students professionally employed. He is a contributor to the international publication for hornists, The Horn Call, and has been featured in numerous interviews on playing and pedagogy. In 1985 he was invited to the White House to receive a "Distinguished Teacher of America Certificate of Excellence" by President Reagan and the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars. He coaches regularly at the New World Symphony, the National Repertory Orchestra, and the National Orchestral Institute. Mr. Ver Meulen received his training at the Interlochen Arts Academy and Northwestern University and performs on horns handcrafted and custom made by Keith Berg of Canada, Engelbert Schmid of Germany, and Paxman of London.*

*SCOTT HOLSHOUSER has been the orchestra keyboardist for the Houston Symphony since 1980 and is accompanist for the Houston Symphony Chorus. A native of Lexington, Kentucky, he began his musical training in Athens, Georgia, with Ina Gerchevski. While attending Florida State University, he studied with Leonard Mastrogiacomo and continued studies in Houston with Abbey Simon. Additionally, he was among the top three prizewinners in both the Houston and Dallas Symphony young artist competitions, as well as the San Angelo Symphony, the Boca Raton Young Artists, and the National MTNA Piano Competitions.*

*Mr. Holshouser's solo appearances include performances with the symphonies of Dallas, Atlanta, and Stavanger, Norway. With the Houston Symphony he has played over twenty solo performances ranging from Bach and Mozart to Gershwin and also performed the Schubert **Fantasy in F Minor for Piano Four-Hands** with Christoph Eschenbach. This season he will perform the Salieri **Piano Concerto** with the Houston Symphony, and in March 2003 he performs **Rhapsody in Blue** with the San Antonio Symphony, a piece he performed with the Houston Symphony during an all-Gershwin concert during the spring of 2002.*

*Mr. Holshouser has been a staff pianist with both Houston Grand Opera and the Houston Ballet, and currently serves as a staff accompanist with both the Houston Symphony's Ima Hogg Young Artist Competition and the Corpus Christi Young Artists' Competition. He is also a participant in the Grand Teton Music Festival, playing chamber music and orchestral keyboard.*

*He is featured on recordings with clarinetist Richard Nunemaker and violinist Pip Clarke. He also currently teaches piano at the University of Houston. He met his wife Eileen while accompanying the Houston Symphony Chorus, and they have a young son, Sean.*

*Internationally acclaimed pianist JON KIMURA PARKER has performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra in Carnegie Hall, the Chicago Symphony at Ravinia, and the Deutsche Symphonie in the Philharmonie Berlin. He has given recitals in London, New York, Chicago, Munich, Budapest, Sydney, Hong Kong, and Tokyo, and has performed with the Cleveland and Tokyo Quartets, Joshua Bell, Cho-Liang Lin, and Pinchas Zukerman. A versatile performer, Dr. Parker has also jammed with Doc Severinsen. In 1995 he was seen on CNN performing in war-torn Sarajevo. Gold Medal winner at the 1984 Leeds International Piano Competition, Jon Kimura Parker was also awarded his country's highest honor, the Order of Canada, in 1999.*

*Jon Kimura Parker is Professor of Piano at the Shepherd School of Music. A committed educator, he has given master classes at the Steans Institute, the Banff Centre, the Brevard Festival, Caramoor's Rising Stars, and the Juilliard School. He hosts the television series "WholeNotes" about classical music, and performs and lectures in remote regions of Canada as a founding member of "Piano Six." He has recorded the Barber Piano Concerto for Telarc and currently records for gmn.com. Jon Kimura Parker studied with Edward Parker, Keiko Parker, Marek Jablonski, Robin Wood, Adele Marcus, and Lee Kum-Sing, under whom he received his doctorate at the Juilliard School in 1988. Dr. Parker maintains an Internet presence at kimura.com.*

*BRIAN THOMAS joined the Houston Symphony as Second Horn in September of 1995 after five seasons as Associate Principal Horn of the Syracuse Symphony. Previously Mr. Thomas was Third Horn of the Columbus Symphony and Third Horn of the Louisville Orchestra. A native of Minneapolis, he was influenced by his musical family and took up the horn at an early age. After mentor Dave Kamminga guided him to Northwestern University, he studied with Chicago Symphony hornists Norman Schweikert and Dale Clevenger. Mr. Thomas is also a member of the Sun Valley Summer Symphony and its Big Wood Horn Quartet.*