

FACULTY RECITAL

WILLIAM VERMEULEN, horn

with

TIMOTHY HESTER, piano (guest)

ERIC HALEN, violin (guest)

SOPHIA SILIVOS, violin (guest)

DAN STRBA, viola (guest)

CHRISTOPHER FRENCH, cello

Tuesday, January 30, 2007

8:00 p.m.

Lillian H. Duncan Recital Hall

RICE UNIVERSITY

the
Shepherd
School
of Music

PROGRAM

Sonatina for Horn and Piano

Allegro moderato
Andante grazioso
Presto

Jan Koetsier

(b. 1911)

Im Chambre separeé

from the operetta Der Opernball

Richard Heuberger

(1850-1914)

Sonata for Horn and Piano, Op. 18

Allegro tranquillo ma bene mosso
Andante con moto
Rondo a la Gigue

Peter Jona Korn

(1922-1998)

INTERMISSION

Hunter's Moon

Gilbert Vinter

(1909-1969)

Alpha

for horn and piano

Jean-Michel Defaye

(b. 1932)

Sonata for Horn and Strings

Andante misterioso – Allegro vivo
Largo
Allegro

Kerry Turner

(b. 1960)

The reverberative acoustics of Duncan Recital Hall magnify the slightest sound made by the audience. Your care and courtesy will be appreciated. The taking of photographs and use of recording equipment are prohibited.

BIOGRAPHIES

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

Mr. VerMeulen has been Principal Horn of the Houston Symphony since 1990. In addition, he has performed as guest Principal Horn of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Cincinnati Symphony, the Pittsburgh Symphony, and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. He previously played with the orchestras of Chicago, Columbus, Honolulu, and Kansas City. Mr. VerMeulen maintains a busy schedule as a soloist and chamber musician with recent engagements in New York, Spain, Poland, Colorado, Florida, Ohio, Idaho, Orcas Island, Washington, and Texas.

Mr. VerMeulen has participated as a performer and on faculty with numerous music festivals and chamber music presenters including Aspen, Music@Menlo, Da Camera, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Joshua Bell and Friends in London and Colorado, Tanglewood, Grand Teton, Pacific, Steamboat Springs, Orcas Island, Round Top, Bowdoin, Colorado, Interlochen, and Chamber Music Northwest, as well as Kapalua and Sun Valley where he is also Principal Horn. He has performed to critical acclaim on four continents as a soloist and chamber musician and is a popular artist at International Horn Symposiums. He appeared as a guest artist-clinician at the 1983, 1989, 1990, 1994, and 1997 IHS Workshops. His recording of the four Mozart Horn Concertos with Christoph Eschenbach and the Houston Symphony is heralded internationally with high critical acclaim and is in its third pressing. A champion of new music, Mr. VerMeulen has had numerous pieces written for him including concerti by esteemed American composer Samuel Adler and Prix de Rome winner Pierre Jalbert. A winner of an array of awards and honors, Mr. VerMeulen received first prize at the 1980 International Horn Society Soloist Competition and was awarded the Outstanding Brass Player award of the 1986 Tanglewood Festival.

Arguably the most successful of horn teachers working today, Mr. VerMeulen is Professor of Horn at the Shepherd School of Music and has students performing in major orchestras throughout the world. He serves as an adjudicator and board member of the International Horn Competition of America. In addition, he is a regular coach at the New World Symphony in Miami, National Repertory Orchestra, and is on the faculty of the Festival Institute at Round Top.

In 1985, he was invited to the White House to receive a Distinguished Teacher of America Certificate of Excellence from President Reagan and the White House commission on Presidential Scholars.

Mr. VerMeulen received his training from Dale Clevenger at Northwestern University and at the Interlochen Arts Academy and performs on horns handcrafted and custom made by Keith Berg of Canada, Engelbert Schmid of Germany, S.W. Lewis of Chicago, and Yamaha of Japan. He is Founder and President of VerMeulen, L.L.C., which offers music and products for horn players worldwide. His solo activities are represented by Angela Fabry of Performing Artists International.

Native Texan TIMOTHY HESTER is Associate Professor of Piano and Director of Keyboard Collaborative Arts at the Moores School of Music at the University of Houston, where he also enjoys instructing students in the skills of sight reading and collaborative techniques. Named Faculty Member of the Year in 2003 as presented by the Moores Society, Hester earned a Master's degree in Piano Performance from The Juilliard School as a student of the renowned pedagogue Adele Marcus. Mr. Hester has also taught Opera Studies at the Shepherd School of Music.

Mr. Hester has appeared worldwide in venues in Britain, France, Italy, The Netherlands, Mexico, Canada, Japan, Singapore, and Taiwan. He is regular performing faculty member of the Schlern International Music Festival in Northern Italy. In the United States, he has performed at New York City's Bargemusic Series, the Ojai Festival in California, the Orcas Island Chamber Music Festival, the Park City International Chamber Music Festival in Utah, the Texas Music Festival, and the OK Mozart Festival in Oklahoma as well as performing with Da Camera of Houston. He has especially enjoyed collaboration with such artists as Paula Robison, Patricia Racette, Ransom Wilson, Christiaan Bor, Nathaniel Rosen, Arturo Delmoni, Nina Beilina, William Sharp, Eugenia Zukerman, Leon Speirer, Jean Ter-Mergerian, Mitchell Stern, Paul Neubauer, and Reiko Watanabe as well as with his esteemed Houston colleagues.

Mr. Hester's discography includes twentieth-century works of Robert Beaser, Arnold Rosner, Michael Horvit, Roy Harris, Samuel Barber, and Bohuslav Martinů as well as the solo CD "KUHf Sessions," the first recording made in Houston Public Radio's new studio. In addition, Mr. Hester studied extensively with Albert Hirsh and maintains a busy accompanying schedule, also having played master classes for Jean-Pierre Rampal, Pinchas Zukerman, Itzhak Perlman, Carol Wincenc, Richard Stoltzman, Renato Capecchi, Vladimir Spivakov, Ruggiero Ricci, and many others. Additionally, he is Chief Artistic Consultant for Rehearsalnet.com, an internet-based business that offers downloadable midi-file accompaniments for training soloists and accompanists in their musical preparation.

ERIC HALEN joined the Houston Symphony as Assistant Concertmaster in 1987. In 1997, he assumed the position of Associate Concertmaster. After earning his bachelor's degree at Central Missouri State University, he received his master's degree at the age of twenty from the University of Illinois, while studying with Sergiu Luca. At age twenty-three he became artist teacher of violin at Texas Christian University. Mr. Halen has performed in solo and chamber music programs in the United States and abroad, including solo appearances with the St. Louis and Houston Symphonies.

As a chamber musician, Mr. Halen has collaborated with many pre-eminent artists including violinist Sergiu Luca, cellists Gary Hoffman and Lynn Harrell, and pianists Christoph Eschenbach and Jon Kimura Parker. Locally, Mr. Halen has made frequent guest appearances with Da Camera of Houston and CONTEXT. Critics have described Mr. Halen's violin playing as "sterling" and "tenderly expressive and dramatic." A review in the Chicago Sun-Times of Mr. Halen's performance of Messiaen's **Quartet for the End of Time** states, "... as the final, sustained tone of Eric Halen's violin faded to close ... there was no doubt that the evening had offered the best kind of virtuosity."

Mr. Halen has performed as soloist with the Houston Symphony on both the "Mozart and More" and "Exxon Pops" series. He plays a violin made in 1616 by Antonio and Hieronymus Amati.

SOPHIA SILIVOS has been a member of the first violin section of the Houston Symphony since 1992. As of this year, Ms. Silivos has been teaching as an Affiliated Artist in the violin department at the University of Houston. Ms. Silivos began her career by serving as first violinist of the Dakota Quartet, followed by an appointment as principal second violin of the New Mexico Symphony. As soloist, she has appeared with local ensembles and with national orchestras including the Houston Symphony, the Savannah Symphony, the New Mexico Symphony, Cleveland Virtuosi, and the Pensacola Festival Orchestra. A frequent performer in the Houston area, she appears regularly in chamber music concerts such as the Greenbriar Consortium, the Foundation for Modern Music, and in music series at the University of Houston and the Shepherd School of Music.

A former student and assistant to world-renowned pedagogue Josef Gingold at Indiana University, Ms. Silivos was awarded the prestigious Performer's Certificate. She received her Artist Diploma while studying with Donald Weilerstein at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Her other teachers include Yuval Yaron, David and Linda Cerone, and Anna Tringas of Pensacola, her mentor and first violin teacher. In the summers, she has appeared as artist-teacher at the Rocky Mountain Summer Conservatory, the Wintergreen Music Festival, the Southeastern Music Festival, the Mainly Mozart Festival, Santa Fe Opera, and the Pensacola Chamber Music Festival. Other music festivals with which she has been associated include Tanglewood, the Yale Chamber Music Festival, and the Schneider Christmas String Seminar at Carnegie Hall.

DAN STRBA, violist, pianist, vocalist, and arranger, began his career at age seventeen as a member of the United States Army Chamber Orchestra and Strolling Strings performing for official state functions at The White House. Upon his return to Chicago in 1979, Mr. Strba performed regularly with the Chicago Symphony at Orchestra Hall and on seven international tours. In 1992, he accepted a full-time position with the Houston Symphony. His illustrious free-lance career includes six years with The Frank Sinatra Orchestra and as accompanist to such stars as Sammy Davis Jr., Burt Bacharach, Julie Andrews, Tony Bennett, Johnny Mathis, Peggy Lee, Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme, George Benson, and The Moody Blues to name a few. His accomplished chamber music career has included membership in such prestigious ensembles as The Chicago Ensemble, Governor's State University String Quartet, and the Greenbriar Consortium of Houston.

Mr. Strba holds a Bachelor of Music degree from DePaul University and a Master of Music degree from The Cleveland Institute of Music.

Cellist CHRISTOPHER FRENCH grew up surrounded by music and seven musical siblings. Graduating from North Park College in Chicago, he was a recipient of the Performance Award Certificate. Before joining the Houston Symphony in 1986, he was principal of the Shreveport Symphony and Associate Principal of the Honolulu Symphony. In addition to his duties as Associate Principal of the Houston Symphony, Christopher French teaches orchestral repertoire at the Shepherd School of Music. He has also enjoyed playing chamber music with the Houston Symphony Chamber Players, Da Camera of Houston, the Greenbriar Consortium, and giving concerts with the Bad Boys of Cello (alter ego of the Houston Symphony cello section). The irreverent Bad Boys have performed in venues as varied as the Star of Hope Mission and city high schools to area hospice care centers. He and his wife, Kari, live in the historic Houston Heights.