

FACULTY RECITAL

WILLIAM VERMEULEN, horn

with

TIMOTHY HESTER, piano (guest)

Friday, February 15, 2008

8:00 p.m.

Lillian H. Duncan Recital Hall

RICE UNIVERSITY

the
Shepherd
School
of Music

PROGRAM

Soprano aria "O Had I Jubal's Lyre" George Frideric Handel
from *Joshua* (1685-1759)

Lied ohne Worte Felix Mendelssohn/Fritz Kreisler
for violin and piano (1809-1847)/(1875-1962)

Sarabande for Horn and Piano Marcel Poot
(1901-1988)

Adagio for Cello and Orchestra, Op. 38 Woldemar Bargiel
(1822-1897)

Villanelle for Horn and Piano (1906) Paul Dukas
(1865-1935)

INTERMISSION

Tre Pezzi in forma di Sonata Karl Pilss
(1902-1979)
I. Sinfonia
II. Intermezzo
III. Rondo alla Caccia

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, Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Ohio, Idaho, Orcas Island, Virginia, Washington, and Texas.

Mr. VerMeulen has participated as a performer and on faculty with numerous music festivals and chamber music presenters including Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Aspen, Music@Menlo, Da Camera, Joshua Bell and Friends, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Methow, Tanglewood, Grand Teton, Pacific, Steamboat Springs, Orcas Island, Seattle, National Repertory Orchestra, Festival Institute at Round Top, Bowdoin, Colorado, Interlochen, Chamber Music Northwest, Kapalua and the Sun Valley Summer Symphony where he also serves as 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. 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 concertos by esteemed American composer Samuel Adler and Prix de Rome and Stoeger 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 Tanglewood Festival.

Arguably the most successful of horn teachers working today, Mr. VerMeulen is Professor of Horn at the Shepherd School of Music with students performing in numerous major orchestras throughout the world including the New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Israel Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, Cincinnati, and Dallas Symphonies. He also serves as an adjudicator and board member of the International Horn Competition of America and has been a regular coach at the New World Symphony in Miami. 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 and Engelbert

Schmid of Germany. He is Founder and President of VerMeulen, L.L.C., which offers music and products for horn players worldwide.

Mr. VerMeulen is married to Houston Opera and Ballet violinist Sylvia VerMeulen, and they have two lovely children named Michael and Nicole. In his rare free time he enjoys having good friends over to share in his passion for fine cooking and wine.

His solo activities are represented by Angela Fabry of Performing Artists International.

Native Houstonian TIMOTHY HESTER graduated from The Juilliard School as a student of the renowned pedagogue Adele Marcus. Currently, Mr. Hester is Associate Professor of Piano at the University of Houston's Moores School of Music where he also enjoys instructing students in the skills of sight reading, collaborative techniques and also serves as Director of Keyboard Collaborative Arts. Named Outstanding Faculty Member of the year in 2003 as presented by the Moores Society, Mr. Hester works with many vocalists in the Houston area and has 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 a 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 Martinu 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.



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