

*FACULTY RECITAL*

*WILLIAM VERMEULEN, Horn*

*NEAL KURZ, Piano*

*Monday, March 8, 2010*

*8:00 p.m.*

*Lillian H. Duncan Recital Hall*

RICE UNIVERSITY

the  
Shepherd  
School  
of Music

PROGRAM

*Adagio and Allegro, Op. 70*

Robert Schumann  
(1810-1856)

*Nachtpoëma*

Prosper Van Eechaute  
(1904-1964)

*Fantasie, Op. 2*

*on the Sehnsuchtswalzer of Schubert*

Franz Strauss  
(1822-1905)

INTERMISSION

*Serenade*

Paul Basler  
(b. 1963)

*Adagio, Op. 38*

*for cello and orchestra*

Woldemar Bargiel  
(1828-1897)  
trans. William VerMeulen

*Cavatina "Una voce poco fa"*

*from The Barber of Seville*

Gioacchino Rossini  
(1792-1868)  
trans. William VerMeulen

*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 "one of today's superstars of the international brass scene," WILLIAM VERMEULEN leads a varied musical life of soloist, orchestral principal, chamber musician, master teacher, and music publisher. Mr. VerMeulen has been Principal Horn of the Houston Symphony since 1990 and has performed as a guest Principal Horn of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Cincinnati Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, and St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. Prior to Houston he played with the orchestras of Chicago, Columbus, Honolulu, and Kansas City. He maintains a busy schedule with recent and upcoming engagements in Australia, New York, Mexico, Canada, England, Scotland, Colorado, California, Florida, Illinois, Idaho, Washington, and Texas.

He is an Artist of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and participates as a performer and on the faculty with the finest music festivals and chamber music presenters among which include: Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Aspen, Music@Menlo, Banff, DaCamera of Houston, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Joshua Bell and Friends, Tanglewood, Steamboat Springs, Orcas Island, Chamber Music Northwest, 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 Society Symposiums where he is a member of the Advisory Council and board member of the International Horn Competition of America. His recording of the four Mozart Horn Concerti with Christoph Eschenbach and the Houston Symphony is heralded internationally. A champion of new music, Mr. VerMeulen has had numerous pieces written for him including concerti by esteemed American composers Samuel Adler and Pierre Jalbert. Among his awards and honors, Mr. VerMeulen received first prize at the 1980 International Horn Society Soloist Competition and the Shapiro Award for Most Outstanding Brass Player at 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, San Francisco, Cincinnati, Montreal, Dallas, and Houston Symphonies. 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.

He received his training from Dale Clevenger at Northwestern University and at the Interlochen Arts Academy and is Founder and President of VerMeulen Music, L.L.C., which offers music and products for horn players worldwide at <http://www.vermeulenmusic.com>

Mr. VerMeulen is married to Houston Grand Opera and Ballet Orchestra 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.



NEAL KURZ has frequently appeared as a collaborative pianist in the Houston area, appearing in performance with Camilla Wicks, Arthur Weisberg, Kathleen Winkler, Norman Fischer, William VerMeulen, Sadao Harada, and Kenneth Goldsmith. He is a member of the collaborative piano staff at The Shepherd School of Music, working with the students of Kathleen Winkler, Cho-Liang Lin, and Ivo-Jan van der Werff. He has studied with Frank Glazer and Rebecca Penneys at the Eastman School of Music, where he received a Bachelor of Music degree, and Martin Katz at the University of Michigan, where he received a Master of Music degree in Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music. He has appeared on numerous occasions as a keyboardist with the Houston Symphony.

Mr. Kurz has been on the staff at the Meadowmount School of Music, appearing in concert at the Lake Placid Center for the Arts with Alan Bodman and Corey Cerovsik. He has appeared in many performances at the Festival Institute at Round Top, Texas, where he has appeared in performance with Jorja Fleezanis, Peter Rejto, James Dunham, Håkan Rosengren, and the Dorian Wind Quintet. He has accompanied competitors at several international competitions, including the William Byrd Young Artist Competition and the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow. He is part of the accompanying staff at San Angelo's Sorantin International Competition and the Corpus Christi Young Artists' Competition. He has also worked with Houston Grand Opera as a coach. Mr. Kurz has also arranged and performed numerous scores for silent films; DVD releases include **Captain Fracasse**, **The Parson's Widow**, **Michael**, **Unseen Cinema**, and **George Méliès: Cinema Magician**. Several of these releases have aired on Turner Classic Movies.



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