2-15-2002

Guest Artist Recital: Allen Vizzutti, trumpet, piccolo trumpet, & flugel horn

Allen Vizzutti

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—William Grant Egbert (1867–1928) Founder, Ithaca Conservatory of Music

SCHOOL OF MUSIC
ITHACA
GUEST ARTIST RECITAL

Allen Vizzutti, trumpet, piccolo trumpet, and flugel horn
Laura Vizzutti, piano

Concerto in E-flat

Johann Wilhelm Hertel
(1727 - 1789)

Allegro
Larghetto
Vivace

Andante and Capriccio

Allen Vizzutti
(b. 1952)

Carnival of Venus
(Out of This World Variations On the Carnival of Venice)

INTERMISSION

Concerto in C minor for Oboe

Benedetto Marcello
(1686 - 1739)

Allegro Moderato
Adagio
Allegro

Four Variations On A Theme by Domenico Scarlatti

Marcel Bitsch
(b. 1921)

Somewhere Over the Rainbow

Harold Arlen
(1905 - 1986)
arranged by Allen Vizzutti

Nine Black Riders - Fantasy for Trumpet and Piano

Allen Vizzutti

Mr. Vizzutti's performance and master class were made possible with funding from the Robert G. Boehmler Community Foundation.

Ford Hall
Friday, February 15, 2002
8:15 p.m.

Allen Vizzutti is represented by Artra Artists Management, Inc.
Concerto in E-flat for trumpet, oboe, and strings

Johann Wilhelm Hertel

This concerto was composed during the transition bridging the Baroque and Classical periods. Though primarily baroque in form, its melodies contain classical elements in shape and style. The piano transcription of the accompaniment lends itself well to the keyboard, which is often not the case in contrapuntal orchestral reductions. Shading and nuance are extremely difficult to express on the piano in music originally written for strings.

Mr Vizzutti’s instrument of choice for this performance is the B-flat piccolo trumpet. Johann Wilhelm Hertel lived before the invention of the keyed bugle and the piston valve on the trumpet. As was common in music of his time, the solo part has a high tessitura, (consistent range), which dictates performance on a modern piccolo trumpet for the correct sound quality or on a baroque trumpet which sounds reminiscent of the actual instruments used in Hertel’s day.

The concerto, as might be expected, is in three movements; Allegro, (cheerful, quick or fast), Larghetto, (slow and broad), and Vivace, (lively and quick). Long orchestral, (or piano), interludes constitute nearly half the work, making it more of a duet than a solo with accompaniment. In the second movement, for example, the trumpet never plays the primary melody but performs a secondary melody, a counter melody, and an inverted pedal point, (the holding of a long high note over the melody and/or changing chords). In the third movement Mr. Vizzutti has added his trumpet’s voice to the exciting unison line at the concerto’s end. The trumpet was not originally scored to play the final line but Mr. Vizzutti cannot resist being part of the soaring ultimate statement.

Andante and Capriccio

Allen Vizzutti

“Andante and Capriccio” was written in 1984 for trumpet and organ. Later that year Mr. Vizzutti orchestrated the piece for chamber orchestra and trumpet soloist in order to record it for CBS / Sony, Japan, on a CD called Baroque And Beyond. The work was also recorded in 1996 by Allen and Laura Vizzutti and members of the Rochester Philharmonic on their CD, Carnival Of Venice on Summit Records.

“Andante and Capriccio” is a two-movement recital piece, melodic with contemporary flair. Although free in its form continuity is
maintained by recurring Lydian melodies and the repetition of short motifs. The first movement is lyrical and the solo voice is the B-flat trumpet. The first four notes state the motif on which the melody is based as well as the Lydian tonality. (The Lydian scale is one of the ancient church modes related to the major scale with one alteration, number 4). The movement builds in intensity gradually throughout then ends softly without tonal resolution.

Piccolo trumpet is the solo instrument used on the second movement of “Andante and Capriccio”. Cross rhythms, speed, energy, and intricate interplay characterize this exciting section. Intended to be fast and fun for listener and performer the “Capriccio” weaves it’s melodies through the orchestra, from the top to the bottom of the piccolo trumpet and concludes with a technical flash and a surprise tag. Enjoy!

Carnival Of Venus

It has been a long-standing tradition for cornet and trumpet soloists to write and perform their own signature version of the Carnival of Venice. As a member of this group I decided to follow suit. My version of Carnival was written rather quickly in May of 1994 but I didn’t have the nerve to present it until a year later on a tour of Germany. The piece was difficult to record, as listening will reveal, and thank heaven I was able to record with my wife, Laura, on piano, for a variety of reasons not the least of which is the piano part is a monster and she can really play it.

The Carnival Of Venus, (yes you read it right), is an introduction, theme and set of six interludes and variations on a familiar melody that take my trumpet playing technique to the limit. The first arpeggio goes from middle ‘C’ to double high ‘C.’ (Why climb the mountain? Because it’s there.). Variations on this theme over the years have been intended as tour de force crowd pleasers and my version is as well, however I have sincerely endeavored to write this composition with beauty and lyricism also. Variation 4 is, in fact, a smooth and delicate obligato over the piano’s melodic theme. Beyond that, my Carnival Of Venus is a showcase for those things that I have developed and pioneered on the trumpet that are a bit out of the ordinary. Finally, why alter the title? Someone once suggested I was from outer space to have written such a piece for myself. I told him I was.

Concerto In C Major for Oboe

Marcello lived from 1686 to 1739. The time period of his life is the exact middle of the Baroque period in music and art. While Marcello’s
style of composition is typical of the era, his spinning of beautiful melodies is truly remarkable. The concerto follows the format of three movements: I. Allegro Moderato, II. Adagio, and III. Allegro. It is not a particularly long work, but it is delightful. There are many very long phrases common in oboe concerti that are quite challenging on the trumpet. Mr. Vizzutti notes that every effort is made in performance to maintain the delicacy and phrasing characteristic of an oboist's interpretation of the concerto.

Somewhere Over The Rainbow

Harold Arlen's beautiful composition "Somewhere Over The Rainbow" has always been one of my favorite melodies. It won the academy award for best song in 1939, (from the movie The Wizard Of Oz). I had an idea to write an arrangement with new harmonies and a distinct jazz flavor, still programmable in a classical recital. I think the end result is a fun little piece with a mellow mood and a relaxed jazzy feeling.

Nine Black Riders - Fantasy For Trumpet and Piano

Fantasy For Trumpet and Piano was written by Mr.Vizzutti for one of his recitals as a student at the Eastman School of Music. It is a programmatic one movement work based on the evil harbingers of death depicted in the "Lord Of The Rings" trilogy written by J. R. R. Tolkien. The nine black riders are faceless servants of the Dark Lord whose sole purpose is to find the story's reluctant hero, kill him and take back a magical ring which would complete the Dark Lord's quest for ultimate power over the world. Frodo, the hero, manages to trick the hideous horsemen into riding off a cliff and into a river where they plunge to their demise. The end of the piece illustrates this event by closing with nine repeated chords in diminishing volume. Nine Black Riders is contemporary sounding, highly technical, extreme in range, and yet melodic. Quarter tone trumpet notes are employed by using a set of alternate fingerings with an extended third valve slide, a technique developed by Mr. Vizzutti. Close your eyes and through the music imagine Frodo running for his life through mysterious forests and unknown lands while the terrifying Nine Black Riders follow in close pursuit!

Quatre Variations On A Thème by Domenico Scarlatti

Marcel Bitsch, born in Paris in 1921, studied composition at the Paris Conservatoire beginning in 1939 and won the Prix du Rome in 1945. He has composed many works of various instrumentations, especially works for strings, woodwinds, and piano. Quatre Variations On A
Theme by Domenico Scarlatti is almost entirely linear in approach, with the notable exception of the beautiful chords and melody in the third variation.

Decidedly French in character, this work is very demanding technically and requires an excellent pianist to perform it. Fragmented lines are shot back and forth between trumpet and piano, creating longer melodies. In some places the pianist is required to play nine notes to the trumpet soloist's three, at a very fast tempo.

The composition is exciting, flashy, melodic, beautiful, and difficult. Transparent and light throughout, Quatre Variations could easily be a piece for violin and piano rather than trumpet and piano. (Score published by Alphonse Leduc)

THE ARTISTS

Equally at home in a multitude of musical idioms, Allen Vizzutti has visited 30 countries and every state in the union to perform with a rainbow of artists and ensembles including Chick Corea, Doc Severinsen, the NBC Tonight Show Band, The Airmen Of Note, The Army Blues, Chuck Mangione, Woody Herman, Japan's NHK Symphony Orchestra, Budapest Symphony Orchestra, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and Kosei Wind Orchestra. Performing as a classical and jazz artist, often in the same evening, he has appeared as guest soloist with symphony orchestras in Tokyo, Germany, St. Louis, Rochester, New York, Syracuse, Honolulu, Milwaukee, Buffalo, Phoenix, and Edmonton, to name a few. Music lovers in Germany, Poland, England, Sweden, Brazil, Canada, Japan, and the United States have heard his brilliant sound over the airwaves of national television. Allen's status as an artist has led to solo performances at the Hollywood Bowl, Carnegie Hall, Newport Jazz Festival, Banff Center for the Performing Arts, Montreux Jazz Festival, the Teton, Breckenridge, Vail, and Aspen music festivals, the Charles Ives Center, and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City.

From his home in Seattle, Washington, Allen's current career thrust is an impressive schedule of recitals, concerts, and composing. His continued commitment to education and the value of music in everyday life results each year in an extensive schedule of guest appearances at universities throughout North America, Europe, Japan and Australia.

Allen's solo jazz recordings include CDs such as Trumpet Summit and Skyrocket from Summit Records. Classical CDs currently available from De Haske Recordings are Emerald Concerto and Other Gems "with the Budapest Symphony Orchestra, Vizzutti Plays Vizzutti, and
Vizzutti and Soli On Tour. His CD High Class Brass (also De Haske Recordings) is a unique classical/jazz blend co-produced, written and performed with fellow trumpet artist, conductor, and composer, Jeff Tyzik and a 90 piece orchestra. Also available are Baroque and Beyond (Sony), The Carnival Of Venus, (Summit Records), and A Trumpeter's Dream (Ludwig Music Publishing).

As Artist-in-Residence, Allen has taught at the Eastman School of Music, the Banff Center for the Performing Arts, University of Washington, Kansas State University, West Texas State University, Skidmore Jazz Institute, and Trompeten Akademie of Bremen, Germany. His extensive treatise, The Allen Vizzutti Trumpet Method. (published by Alfred Music Publishing) has become a standard work for trumpet study worldwide. Many more of Allen's jazz and classical compositions are published by Bella Musica, a company established by Allen and Jeff Tyzik. His most recent published works include his original etudes, "ZO Dances", a new edition and recording of the Arban solos, and many play along jazz and fusion books, (all with CDs), from De Haske/Hal Leonard Publications.

Allen's love of expression through composition in jazz and classical idioms has led to world premier performances by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Budapest Symphony Orchestra, Phoenix Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic, NBC Tonight Show Band, Royal Philharmonic of London, London Symphony, and Summit Brass. In fact, the first NBC Tonight Show Band CD co-produced by Allen and Jeff Tyzik won a Grammy Award for Best Big Band. At the world premier of his Emerald Trumpet Concerto with the Syracuse Symphony, Allen's writing was described in review; "The Emerald sparkles! ... a vivacious treatment which speaks well for both his dramatic instinct and technical prowess as a composer." He has published numerous jazz band compositions ranging in level from easy pieces for young school bands, to works he has performed with such ensembles as the Woody Herman Thundering Herd, Chick Corea, The Airmen of Note, The Army Blues, the Eastman School of Music Jazz Ensemble and the Tonight Show starring Johnny Carson band. Allen's unique voice in jazz and fusion composition is evident in his own sparkling solo recordings.

While growing up in Montana, Allen was taught by his father, a self taught musician and trumpet player until he left home to attend the Eastman School of Music. There he earned a Bachelor of Music, Master of Music, and a Performer's Certificate, a chair in the faculty brass quintet, and the only Artist's Diploma ever awarded a wind player in Eastman's 77 year history.
While living in Los Angeles during the 80's, Allen performed on 100 motion picture soundtracks (such as Back To The Future and Star Trek) and countless television shows, commercials, and recordings with such artists as Frank Sinatra, Barabara Streisand, Neil Diamond, Chick Corea, and Prince. His one-hour educational video “Steps To Excellence” was written, performed, and produced by Allen for Yamaha Corporation of America. Allen Vizzutti is a Yamaha performing artist.

"Beautiful...lyrical....stunning....stupefying". Syracuse Post Standard

"Trumpet player supreme.”

"Finely tuned wind, easy control, polyharmonic wit, orchestral penmanship, punctuated spiritual warmth... rarely do so many qualities find themselves in one musician.” Chick Corea

“One of the greatest soloists of our time.” Thomas Stevens, First Trumpet, Los Angeles Philharmonic

Laura Vizzutti has performed and presented workshops in Japan, New Zealand, Canada, and Europe, and throughout the United States. She began studying piano at the age of 4 and was a Young Artist Competition winner at the age of 14. As a scholarship student at the famed Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, Ms. Vizzutti studied with Brooks Smith and Eugene List and earned a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance.

After completion of her undergraduate studies, Ms. Vizzutti performed as accompanist for the Washington Choral Arts Society at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. She then moved to Los Angeles to attend the University of Southern California. She coached there with Jasha Heifetz and Brooks Smith. Ms. Vizzutti was subsequently awarded a Master of Music degree in Chamber Music and Accompanying. Her CDs include A Trumpeter’s Dream, recorded in Japan with her husband, Allen Vizzutti, The Carnival of Venus, also with Mr. Vizzutti; and Ten Of The Best, which was recorded in Germany and includes Ms. Vizzutti performing George Gershwin's Rhapsody In Blue with an international ensemble.

Ms. Vizzutti's recent activities, raising three young children notwithstanding, have included solo and ensemble concerts throughout the United States, Japan, United Kingdom, Austria, Germany, and on two extended cruises aboard the luxury ship MS Europa. As well as appearing with the Northwest Chamber Orchestra, she has performed on sound track recordings for television and movies such as "Hallmark Hall Of Fame” and Zeus And Roxanne. A strong proponent of music education, Ms. Vizzutti has taught at the college level and maintains a small private teaching studio.