Pokorn Low Brass Seminar 2021

-PRESERVES-

GENE POKORNY
Accompanied by:
Yoko Yamada-Selvaggio, piano
&
TIM HIGGINS

Thursday, July 22, 2021
5 p.m.
Recital Hall

PROGRAM

Ashokhan Farewell

Jay Ungar
(b. 1946)

Assorted Song Cycle
1. To Joy (copyright 1966)
2. In Years Defaced (copyright 1958)
3. Life Laughs Onward (copyright 1958)

Gerald Finzi
(1901-1956)

Remembrances (written 1.9.2021)
for the one, the only, the great David “Red Lehr”

Micky Wroblewski
(b. 1974)

Tuba Concerto (1993)
ii. Ballade
iii. Dance

James M. Stephenson
(b. 1969)

-Brief Intermission-
Improvisation No. 1
Enrique Crespo

Fantasy for Trombone
Elizabeth Raum

Concerto for Trombone
Ida Gotkovsky
1. Lyrique
2. Dolcissimo
3. Final

BIOGRAPHIES

A collaborating pianist the Chicago area, Yoko Yamada-Selvaggio was born in Hamamatsu, Japan, and holds degrees in piano performance from the Toho Gakuen School of Music and New England Conservatory. She has appeared on WGBH in Boston and WFMT in Chicago. She performs as a collaborator with members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, professors at Northwestern University, and other noted Chicago-area musicians. She has appeared in concerts throughout the United States, Europe, and Japan, and has performed in over 300 works for brass and woodwind.

Gene Pokorny has been principal tuba of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra since 1989. He also held principal tuba positions in the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, the Utah Symphony, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. While in Los Angeles, he played on the soundtracks to Jurassic Park, The Fugitive, and other motion pictures.

He grew up in Downey, California, about a mile from where the Apollo command modules were built that first took humans to the moon, and studied tuba in the Los Angeles area with Jeffrey Reynolds, Larry Johansen, Tommy Johnson, and Roger Bobo. A member of the Union Pacific (Railroad) Historical Society, Gene Pokorny spends time as a “foamer,” watching and chasing trains. He is a card-carrying member of the Three Stooges Fan Club and is an avid devotee of his good friend David “Red” Lehr, who was the greatest Dixieland sousaphonist in the known universe. He finds passion in the music of composer Gerald Finzi, humility in Carl Sagan’s Pale Blue Dot, inspiration in listening to his fabulous colleagues onstage, and hope in all things through the basset hounds with whom he lives; they are always appreciative of a hug.
WORDS TO THE FINZI SONGS

To Joy by Edmund Blunden
Is not this enough for moan
To see this babe all motherless -
A babe beloved - thrust out alone
Upon death’s wilderness?
Out tears fall, fall, fall - I would weep
My blood away to make her warm,
Who never went on earth one step,
Nor heard the breath of the storm.
How shall you go, my little child,
 Alone on that most wintry wild?

In years defaced by Thomas Hardy
In years defaced and lost,
Two sat here, transport-tossed,
Lit by a living love
The wilted world knew nothing of:
Scared momentarily
By gaingivings,
Then hoping things
That could not be…

Of love and us no trace
Abides upon the place;
The sun and shadows wheel,
Season and season sereward steal;
Foul days and fair
Here, too, prevail,
And gust and gale
As everywhere.

But lonely shepherd souls
Who bask amid these knolls
May catch a faery sound
On sleepy noontides from the ground:
‘O not again
Till Earth outwears
Shall love like theirs
Suffuse this glen!’
Life Laughs Onward by Thomas Hardy
Rambling I looked for an old abode
Where, years back, one had lived I knew;
Its site a dwelling duly showed,
But it was new.

I went where, not so long ago,
The sod had riven two breasts asunder;
Daisies throve gaily there, as though
No grave were under.

I walked along a terrace where
Loud children gambolled in the sun;
The figure that had once sat there
Was missed by none.

Life laughed and moved on unsubdued,
I saw that Old succumbed to Young:
'Twas well. My too regretful mood
Died on my tongue.