

# LEONARD BERNSTEIN Suite for Brass

with Honolulu Brass Quintet

Feb. 25 7pm at Doris Duke Theatre
Feb. 26 4pm at Palikū Theatre
Feb. 27 7pm at UH West O'ahu

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2022-2023 Celebrating our 40th Season!



Photo by JoAnn Lamolino



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#### West Side Story (1957)

Prologue Something's Coming

#### Music Hall Suite (1964)

I. Soubrette Song II. Trick Cyclists III. Adagio Team IV. Soft Shoe Shuffle V. Les Girls

#### Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)

Arr. Jack Gale (1936-2022)

Joseph Horovitz (1926-2022)

#### Music for Brass (Sacred and Profane) (1975) George Walker Invokation (1922-2018)

Invokation Dance I Chorale Dance II

Honolulu Brass Quintet

#### **INTERMISSION**

## Story of My Life from the musical Wonderful Town (1953)

Joseph Horovitz

Arr. Jeff Silberschlag

Zach Silberschlag, trumpet Jonathan Korth, piano

#### Brass Music (1959)

Leonard Bernstein

Rondo for Lifey Elegy for Mippy I, for horn and piano Elegy for Mippy II, for solo trombone Waltz for Mippy III, for tuba and piano Fanfare for Bima

#### West Side Story (1957)

Maria Tonight America One hand, one heart I feel pretty Somewhere Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990) Arr. Jack Gale (1936-2022)

Honolulu Brass Quintet

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#### Leonard Bernstein for Brass

Program notes by Hayden Hawkins

## West Side Story Suite LEONARD BERNSTEIN

Born in: 1918 Died in: 1990

Arguably the most revered name in the American musical zeitgeist, Leonard Bernstein's legacy persists, even here in the Pacific. From his Young People's Concerts influence on our own Hawaii Youth Symphony's Listen & Learn programs, to the Pacific Music Festival held in Sapporo, Japan every year, Bernstein's desire to bring music to all lives on.

During the 1950s, Bernstein wrote the music for his most well-known Broadway project, *West Side Story*. Echoing the tragic romance of *Romeo and Juliet*, this contemporary love story tells the tale of Tony and Maria, starcrossed lovers affiliated with rival white Composed in: 1957 Arrangement: Jack Gale (1936-2022)

and Puerto Rican gangs respectively.

This suite for brass begins with the Prologue, exploring the motifs of gang conflict heard throughout the play, followed by Something's Coming, where ex-gang leader Tony sings about his ambitions for the future. Later in the show is Maria, the impassioned ballad sung by Tony after falling for the tune's namesake, and then Tonight, the new lover's hopeful duet. The catchy backand-forth of America comes next, leading into the romantic tune One Hand, One Heart, and Maria's blissfully unaware joy in I Feel Pretty. At last, the somber hope of Somewhere plays out the set.

## Music Hall Suite JOSEPH HOROVITZ

Born in: 1926 Died in: 2022

Born in the musical capital of Vienna, Austria, Joseph Horovitz emigrated to England with his family at the age of 12 to escape the German annexation of his homeland. Here he would study at the Royal College of Music and thereafter rise to prominence as a respected theatre conductor and composer, writing a variety of works for everything from the concert hall to the TV screen. Composed in: 1964

American tuba player Roger Bobo commissioned this suite for brass in 1964, to evoke burlesque, circus, and cabaret scenes in music. The opening movement entitled Soubrette Song depicts a flirtatious woman's character in Opera, known as a soubrette. Next in line are the Trick Cyclists, a quick circus performance scene. Coming down from this intense show is Adagio Team,

#### Leonard Bernstein for Brass

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a slow dance for two. Second to last is the Soft Shoe Shuffle, a slightly jazzy movement almost evocative of a midcentury night club scene, and finally, Les Girls, a quick number to tie up the night out.

### Music for Brass (Sacred and Profane) GEORGE WALKER

Born in: 1922 Died in: 2018

George Walker was a groundbreaking and highly awarded American composer. Born in Washington D.C., he started taking piano lessons at just five years old. Not only would he go on to become the first black composer to earn a doctorate from the Eastman School of Music in 1955, but he would also become the first to win the 1995 Pulitzer Prize in Music for his Lilacs and Voices for Orchestra, amongst many other accolades.

This four-movement work, commis-

## **Brass Music** LEONARD BERNSTEIN

Born in: 1918 Died in: 1990

Like so many of us, Leonard Bernstein was a dog person. Over the course of his life, Bernstein cared for several Dachshunds, each of whom were named Henry, a Shetland Sheepdog named Honey, and a petite Bichon Frise amusingly named Tuchus, or Tookie for short. Aside from his own canine companions, Bernstein loved the dogs of his contemporaries, Composed in: 1975

sioned by the Hans Kindler Foundation in 1975 begins with Invokation, an almost regal fanfare that quickly breaks out into a contrapuntal texture. The first Dance movement is a bit of a contemporary tango, in stark comparison to the following Chorale, which is a much tamer setting of the Lutheran hymn Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier. The final movement, Dance II, ramps up the rhythmic complexity a bit, while referencing the 1937 jazz hit Once in a While by Michael Edwards.

Composed in: 1959

honoring the lives and personalities of a few within the movements of this suite for brass.

Rondo for Lifey is an upbeat duet for piano and trumpet, written for actress Judy Holliday's Skye Terrier. The next three movements were written in honor of his brother Burtie's ill-fated dog, Mippy. Elegy for Mippy I is a solemn piece for piano and horn,

#### Leonard Bernstein for Brass

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contrasting the sound of Elegy for Mippy II, which features a jazzy solo trombone performance. The final piece in the Mippy trilogy is a duet waltz for piano and tuba. At last, the suite's finale, Fanfare for Bima, brings all the brass back together, valiantly playing an arrangement of the theme Serge Koussevitzky would whistle to call upon his Cocker Spaniel.

# A New York Story: The Honolulu Brass Quintet discovers the Modern Brass Ensemble's Library in its archives.

Source: Oral History Interview of Mr Lew Waldeck by Carole Nowicke. April 20, 2002 International Tuba-Euphonium Association

In the vibrant New York City of the 60s, Lew Waldeck was principal tuba with the New York City Opera Orchestra and one of the most active freelancers for the New York City Ballet, New York Philharmonic and Metropolitan Opera. Thanks to a meeting with Barney Childs, composer and editor of a recording company, Lew created The Modern Brass Ensemble - one of the most prolific brass ensembles for new music in those years.

"We were based at WBAI in New York and we gave a concert broadcast every two weeks of new music. We commissioned 63 pieces in four years... I wrote letters to everybody I could think of. I said, we can't pay but I can guarantee you a broadcast. So we got a lot of stuff written. Most of that, now, I gave to the Honolulu Brass Quintet, so they have all of that stuff."

Alvin Derald Etler, Brian Easdale, Henry Brant are only a few examples



**Alvin Derald Etler** 

Biographies

of the composers commissioned. It has certainly been a surprise for the current members of the Honolulu Brass Quintet to find this lost repertoire in the archives of CMH after many years. The good news is: we now have the time and energy to present this repertoire again. Stick with us, we have new exciting things coming in the future concert seasons at CMH!

#### **Musicians**

Jonathan Korth



Honolulu Brass Quintet



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