A GRADUATE TROMBONE RECITAL

BY

KEVIN HICKS

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A PERFORMANCE IN LIEU OF THESIS PRESENTED TO THE COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF MUSIC

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Abstract of Performance in Lieu of Thesis Presented to the Graduate School of the University of Florida in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Music

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February 2014

Chair: Arthur Jennings
Major: Trombone Performance with Secondary Concentration in Music Education

On February 18th, 2014 I presented a trombone recital as a requirement for the degree of Master in Music in Trombone Performance. The music performed ranged in musical styles from Classical to Romantic and into the mid to late 20th century. I began the recital with all four movements of Sinfonia by G.B. Pergolesi. Following that was the Bozza Ballade which was then followed by all three movements of Symphony for Trombone by Ernest Bloch. The works up to this point were accompanied by pianist Brian Hargrove. The next part was an improvisation based on the middle three numbers of an audience member’s phone number. The numbers were 186, so I improvised various transpositions of the initial notes F, F an octave above, and D between, which correlated to 186 of the major scale. I then improvised various rhythmic combinations and compositional improvisational techniques with that melodic idea in mind for approximately 5 minutes.

The recital concluded with members of the UF Trombone Consortium, conducted by Arthur Jennings, playing Paul Richards ...with the blast of the horn adapted for trombone choir with me playing the first part.
Summary of Performance in Lieu of Thesis
Presented to the College of Fine Arts of the University of Florida in Partial
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Music

KEVIN HICKS – Trombone

Spring 2014 RECITAL PROGRAM

Sinfonia  G. B. Pergolesi (1710-1736) arr. Ralph Sauer
          Andante
          Allegro con brio
          Adagio
          Allegro

Ballade  Eugene Bozza (1905-1991)

Symphony for Trombone  Ernest Bloch (1880-1959)
          I. Maestoso
          II. Agitato
          III. Allegro deciso

Phone Number Free-Improvisation  Kevin Hicks

...with the blast of the horn  Paul Richards

Brian Hargrove, pianist

UF Trombone Consortium
         Arthur Jennings, conductor

Adren Hance, Neal Romberg, Alexandra Olivier, Danielle Scherzer, Jonathan Poisson,
Nathan Mechulan, and Joshua Jenkins. Conducted by Dr. Artur Jennings

Program Notes:
Sinfonia

I chose to play Pergolesi’s *Sinfonia* on this recital because I’ve spent a considerable amount of time working with Dr. Jennings in developing my classical style. We’ve worked mostly on stylizing due to the big difference in the feel of classical music and that of Jazz, Funk, and Salsa, what I am used to playing. Although Pergolesi had a short life, his music still lives today and is perhaps best known for his comic opera *La Serva Pedrona* and his many religious choral works, especially his *Stabat Mater*. In Pergolesi’s time *Sinfonia* was a generic term for an instrumental piece in 3 or 4 movements. This one, originally written for cello and continuo, is infused with the ingratiating and effervescent spirit of early classical Italian *opera buffa*. The final movement will be most familiar to modern listeners as the basis of one of the movements of Igor Stravinsky’s neo-classical masterpiece *Pulcinella*.

Ballade

By Eugene Bozza, I began work on this piece before I arrived at UF in 2012. I worked with Tony Baker during my undergrad at the University of North Texas in both classical and jazz styles. Revisiting this piece I was able to go much further in stylizing it. Although this piece includes jazzy elements, it still must be played within a framework. This piece includes fun elements such as glisses from one note to another through the trombone partial. Bozza was a notable composer, conductor, and violinist from France who worked at the Paris Conservatoire and wrote a considerable amount of material for small chamber ensembles during his life.
Symphony for Trombone

Originally for trombone or cello and orchestra, the *Symphony for Trombone* holds an important place in the modern trombone repertoire. Ernest Bloch was a Swiss-born American composer and this piece was composed 5 years before his death at the age of 78. “One of the best pieces for trombone ever written” says Hector Bellman of allmusic.com, this piece demonstrates a completely different style from the others. It was challenging to put together and demands much from the performers with the piano taking the place of the entire orchestra and the trombone playing fanfareistic calls contrasting with slow delicate passages.

Phone Number Free-Improvisation

Explanation to be provided

...with the blast of the horn

Composed by Paul Richards of the UF music faculty, this piece was performed twice by the UF trombone consortium last summer at the International Trombone Festival in Columbus Georgia. The piece provides a fun way to play many trombonistic tricks as well as pushes the limits past what is normally comfortable for your average trombone ensemble.
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Not yet thirty years old, award-winning trombonist Kevin Hicks has established himself as one of the most important and creative voices on the jazz scene today, both as a performer and as an educator.

Educated at Snow College, the University of North Texas and the University of Florida, Hicks’ work within these elite jazz programs attracted attention and respect from national jazz media and ensembles as well as from his teachers. In addition to performing and recording as lead trombone with UNT’s esteemed One O’Clock Lab Band and teaching for the university’s national jazz camps, he was a two-time Downbeat award-winner while a student there. Prior to Kevin’s arrival to UNT, he was selected to perform at Universal Studios Japan for several years in which his shows were rated #1. Following his graduation from UNT Kevin auditioned for and won the coveted lead trombone position with the Air Force’s top jazz ensemble, “The Airmen of Note”. He declined that opportunity opting to continue his studies at the University of Florida where he could pursue his higher education credentials as well as top-level performance and teaching opportunities.

As a graduate instructor at the University of Florida (where he will graduate with his Master’s degree in May 2014), Mr. Hicks runs several robust online jazz courses that serve thousands of students a year and in addition teaches Jazz Improvisation and Jazz Combo. His work with renowned jazz educator Scott Wilson has placed him at the forefront of jazz education in the US, particularly in the development of the field of online jazz education. Mr. Hicks has been selected as an instructor for the nationally available Ultimate Online Jazz Workshops through Kendall Hunt.
Publishing. These courses deliver online Jazz Fundamentals, Jazz Aural Skills and Skype lessons from Hicks alongside several Grammy Award-winning jazz artists including Gordon Goodwin (Gordon Goodwin’s Big Phat Band) and Jeff Coffin (Dave Matthews Band, Jeff Coffin & the Mu’tet). Hicks was involved in the creation of the Florida Department of Education’s K-12 Arts Training platform for which he recorded more than 30 jazz tracks for the program’s online jazz audio samples. Kevin is known for his uplifting lectures and the large variety of assessment tools and resources that accompany them, resulting in his students’ ability to quickly develop current industry skill sets and performance skills.