

Concerto for Bass Tuba

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Ralph Vaughan Williams is well known for his extremely English and Folk-like style, also having a wide variety of works including operas, ballets, chamber, symphonies, and secular and religious pieces. The Concerto for Bass Tuba was composed in 1954 for the London Symphony Orchestra, Ralph Vaughan Williams's Concerto for Bass Tuba is held as an essential part of the tuba repertoire. Consisting of three movements, this piece encompasses the technical and lyrical potential of the tuba. The first movement, Prelude, is a brisk and boisterous march that shows the technical potential of the tuba with groups of quick and scalic phrases. It concludes with a cadenza that allows the soloist to showcase the fullest range of the tuba's qualities and capabilities. The second movement, Romanza, showcases the lyrical and vocal capabilities of the tuba in its higher register. Starting with the classic Vaughan Williams folk-like style evolving into more motion and intensity.

Cello Suite No. 2

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

transcribed by Ralph Sauer

Johann Sebastian Bach is most known for his prolific sense of instrumental music in the late Baroque period. Bach is known as a master of counterpoint, harmonic organization, and his adaptations of rhythms, forms, and textures. The Bach Cello Suites, written around 1720, are the classic style of dance suites containing a Prelude, Allemande, Courante, Sarabande, and Gigue; suites 1 and 2 also contain Minuets. The movements in the Cello Suites are thematically and harmonically related. The Prelude of Suite 2 is characterized by the rising arpeggio at the beginning of the piece followed by flowing sixteenth figures with pauses and breaths that help define the style and quality of the movement. The Gigue is a fast dance in a rigid 3/8 characterized by wild leaps, fast rhythms, and constantly turning melodies.

Adoration

Florence Price (1887-1953)

Florence Price was an American composer, pianist, and teacher. Having a wide variety of works including 4 symphonies, 4 concertos, choral works, art songs, chamber music, and music for solo instruments. Notably, Price was the first African-American woman to be recognized as a symphonic composer, and the first to have a composition be played by a major orchestra. *Adoration* was originally written for church organ, and then later adapted into a piece for solo violin and string orchestra. Today it has been adapted for many different instruments. *Adoration* is filled with musical vocabulary that is a deeper sense of devotion and sincerity, filled with moments that feel extremely lush and romantic.

Un Dia en la Vida

Jose Flores (b. 1997)

Jose Flores is an up and coming composer, especially in the low brass world. He currently is an assistant band director in Austin, Texas. While studying Music Education at the University of Texas at Austin, he studied composition under Dr. Bruce Pennybrook, later receiving commissions from professionals at institutions all over the country. *Un Dia en la Vida* is a solo piece for tuba and electronics, and was written in May 2020 as a consortium of over 30 individuals. Being written during the Covid-19 pandemic, it follows Flores and his family through their daily routine. Including vocal lines, mariachi music, and even dogs barking, it calls to a feeling that only comes with the love of family and friends in hard times.