Guest Artist Recital

2016-17 Season
197th Concert
Monday 21 November 2016
Dalton Center Recital Hall
7:30 p.m.

KEN THOMPKINS, Trombone
ZHIIUA TANG, Piano

Carlos Salzedo
1885–1961

Piece Concertante

Barney Childs
1926–2000

Sonata for Solo Trombone
I. Recitative
II. Double
III. Rondo

Alec Wilder
1907–1980

Sonata for Trombone and Piano
in five untitled movements

intermission

William Grant Still
1895–1978

Songs of Separation
Idolatry
Poeme
Parted
A Black Pierrot

Philip Wharton

Sonata for Alto Trombone and Piano
I. Clamor
II. Evensong
III. Prank
IV. Friday Night
KENNETH THOMPKINS was appointed Principal Trombone of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra by Neeme Järvi in 1997. Prior to this appointment, he held positions in the Buffalo Philharmonic and the Florida Orchestra and performed with the New World Symphony under the direction of Michael Tilson Thomas. A former participant in the Detroit Symphony’s African American Fellowship Program, he has been a mentor to several Orchestra Fellows over the years.

Thompkins has been invited to perform and conduct master classes at many music schools, including the Curtis Institute of Music, Mannes College, the University of Michigan, and Interlochen Arts Academy. An active chamber musician, Thompkins performs frequently in recital and is a member of Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings. He has performed concertos with both the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and New World Symphony.

Thompkins has toured Europe with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and has also performed with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, New York Philharmonic, and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. He can be heard on recordings by Detroit Chamber Winds, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Recently, he contributed a chapter to The Brass Player’s Cookbook: Creative Recipes for a Successful Performance.

Thompkins received his bachelor’s degree from Northwestern University, where he studied with the late Frank Crisafulli of the Chicago Symphony, and a Master of Music degree from Temple University, where he studied with Eric Carlson of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

A native of Shanghai, China, pianist ZHIHUA TANG began her piano studies at the age of five with her father. She attended the Shanghai Conservatory, where she was a recipient of the Fei Minyi Fellowship and the Shen Xingong Scholarship. She received her Master of Music degree from Indiana University as a scholarship student of Menahem Pressler. She later completed her DMA degree from the Michigan State University College of Music under the tutelage of Deborah Moriarty. She has also worked with some of the most important pedagogues including Paul-Badura Skoda, Russell Sherman, Joseph Kalichstein, John Perry, Anton Kuerti, Martin Katz, Janos Starker, Elly Ameling, and Pamela Frank. Additionally, she has participated in the Aspen Music Festival, the Banff Music Festival, the Orford Music Center, and the Gilmore Piano Festival.

Tang is currently an assistant professor in collaborative piano at the Michigan State University College of Music. She has enjoyed an active performing career around the world and has been praised for her extraordinary versatility and profound artistry on the piano. Over the years, she has collaborated with some of today’s leading musicians: violinists Joshua Bell, Shmuel Ashkenasi, Yuval Yaron, Robert Chen, Yoonsun Song, Emmanuelle Boisvert, and Yuan-Qing Yu, cellists Robert deMaine and Haiye Ni, violinist Mahoko Eguchi, flutists Maxim Rubtsov and Jeff Zook, bassist Alexander Hanna, and oboist Dwight Parry. Her chamber music partners have included numerous principal players from many major orchestras, such as New York Philharmonic, Russian National Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and symphony orchestras of Chicago, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, National, Detroit, and Dallas, among others. Since 2011, she has performed frequently with Detroit Symphony Orchestra in many of its concert series.

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