Dalton Wed@7:30pm: Live and Interactive!

Wednesday 9 October 2019
Dalton Center Recital Hall
7:30 p.m.
Pre-Concert talk with Dr. Robert White at 7 p.m.

MOJATUBA: TUBA AND DANCE PROJECT
Velvet Brown, Tuba
Anthony Leach, Piano
Jummy Finnie, Percussion
Briana E. Bunkley, Dance
Daniel Burdick, Instrumental Music Theatre

Traditional Spiritual
arr. Velvet Brown

Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child

Roger Kellaway
b. 1939

Dr. Martin Luther King, In Memoriam
I. He Calls to his Children
II. The March of Freedom
III. The Pathway to Glory

Barbara York
b. 1949

How Beautiful

William Grant Still
1895–1978
trans. Velvet Brown

Suite for Violin and Piano
II. Mother and Child
III. Rhythmically and Humorously

intermission

Traditional Spiritual
arr. Anthony Leach

Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Seen

Drew Bonner
b. 1985

Naptown
Alice Gomez
b. 1960

“Mambo-Cha” from *Latin Jazz Suite*

Darius Milhaud
1892–1974
arr. Velvet Brown

*Chansons de Negresse (Songs of a Negro Woman)*
I. My History
II. Abandon
III. Without Hearth or Place

Sir André Previn
1929–2019

“Take My Mother Home” from *Honey and Rue*

The term **MOJATUBA**, a mixture between the acronym MOJA—which stands for Modern Dance, Original Works, Jazz Fusion, and African Influence—and its distinctive association with the tuba, represents a sample of this ensemble’s stylistic creativity. The diverse ethnic theme of the program, especially its African influenced music and dance, contributes to the soulful energy that connects performers and audience and renders each performance a profound spiritual experience. This innovative artistic initiative offers a generous display of musicality, expressivity, and virtuosic technique, while contributing with substantial new works to the expansion of the tuba repertoire.

**VELVET BROWN** enjoys a professional career as an international soloist, chamber ensemble performer, recording artist, conductor, and orchestral player. Brown has garnered high praise as a founding and current member of Stiletto Brass Quintet, Monarch Brass Quintet and Brass Ensemble, the Quintet of Americas (the first professional brass quintet to perform in Cuba), the Pennsylvania Brassworks, and founding member of Boston Brass. Moreover, she is also a founding board member of the International Women’s Brass Conference.

Having performed and worked closely with jazz and commercial artists regarded as some of the most influential musicians of all time, including Howard Johnson, Bob Stewart, and Doc Severinsen, Brown felt inspired to explore new territories in her music career. As a consequence, influenced also by some personal experiences, she decided to explore in music how life events shape one’s creativity and thus started a veritable music renaissance, which involves soul-searching musical patterns and a more profound relationship with the audience. She is the co-founder of MOJATUBA: Tuba and Dance Fusion Project and is in her 10th year as lead tuba with Howard Johnson’s “Gravity” Tuba Jazz Ensemble.

Brown is the professor of tuba and euphonium at the Pennsylvania State University and at the Peabody Institute. Prior to joining the faculty at Penn State in 2003, she taught at Bowling Green State University (Ohio), Ball State University (Indiana), and served as an associate director of University Bands at Boston University. Many of her students have won prestigious national and international performing and teaching positions and are prize winners at various regional, national, and international competitions.

Brown has released four solo CDs and has collaborated on several other recordings as a soloist and ensemble member. She can also be heard as a featured soloist and lead ensemble tuba on a March 2017 CD release of Testimony, a recording with Howard Johnson’s “Gravity”. Other 2017 releases include a solo tuba jazz recording with the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra with Paul Ferguson, director, and a classical CD of new music and transcriptions for tuba. Brown is a Besson/Buffet/Melton/Meinl Weston Performing Artist, performing on the MW 2250 and 2182 F tubas, and the MW 2000 and MW 3450 C tubas. She is also a...
performing artist for Denis Wick mouthpieces, mutes, and accessories.

**DR. ANTHONY LEACH** is professor of music and music education at Penn State. Choirs under Leach’s direction have performed in festivals, competitions, and tours of the United States, Canada, Europe, and South Africa. He was accompanist for the United Negro College Fund Choir, New York City, and the Howard University Choirs, Washington, D.C. In 2004, Leach served as a co-conductor of the World Youth Choir, sponsored by the International Federation of Choral Musicians. Leach has served as guest conductor for events in Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Taiwan, Manila (Philippines), and Japan. Leach serves as artist-in-residence at the New Bethel Baptist Church, Washington, D.C.

**JIMMY FINNIE**, percussionist, joined the Indiana State University music faculty in 1994. He taught at East Texas State University and performed with the Northeast Texas Symphony and the Panhandlers Steel Drum Band. Finnie was also principal timpanist for the Terre Haute Symphony and was featured during the 1997 season as percussion soloist with the orchestra. Jimmy has presented concerts throughout the United States, China, and Canada. He also performs regularly on drum set, African drums, and steel drum. He is an Artist Clinician for the Zildjian Cymbal Company, and Innovative Percussion Mallet Company.

**BRIANA E. BUNKLEY** is an Atlanta native who started taking dance classes at the age of 3. She trained at Price Performing Arts Center before continuing her studies at Tri-Cities High School Visual and Performing Arts. After graduating, Bunkley enrolled and graduated from The Boston Conservatory with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Contemporary Dance. Currently she is a second-year dual Master of Fine Arts/Master of Art graduate student at New York University. Her passion and dedication for dance has allowed her to be an associate company member for Axam Dance Theatre Experience. She has performed in Black Nativity Atlanta, Kandi Burress’ A Mother’s Love, the 10 year reunion of Beyonce’s Original all female band with Ebony Williams, and many more. She has also danced for artist like Lil’ Wayne, D. Woods (Danity Kane), Francesca Harper, Darrell Moultrie, Juel D. Lane, Pavement Dance, and MADBOOTS DANCE. Bunkley hopes to be able to share her passion, educate young dancers, and inspire them to be amazing artists and people.

**DR. DANIEL BURDICK**, instrumental music theatre and Associate Professor of Music at Edinboro University, studied instrumental music theatre with Abbie Conant at the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik Trossingen in Germany. He tours internationally with his instrumental music theatre show, Tuba Voce: Tales from the Gay Tuba Songbook. His appearances include the British Institute Library in Florence, Italy, the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik in Trossingen, Germany, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland, and a series of 15 concerts at the Banff Centre for the Arts in Alberta, Canada. He has conducted the Erie Chamber Orchestra on numerous occasions.

This concert is a **Bullock Performance Institute** (BPI) presentation. BPI events are made possible through the cooperation and support of several community fine arts units: the Donald P. Bullock Music Performance Institute; WMUK National Public Radio; the Western Michigan University College of Fine Arts and School of Music; and WMU’s chapters of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and Sigma Alpha Iota music fraternities.