

Illinois State University
Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts
School of Music

Graduate Recital
Joshua Mobley, *trumpet*

Grace Eom, *piano*
Laura Velez Rodriguez, *bass*
Jameel Stephens, *drum set*

Program

Please silence all electronics for the duration of the concert. Thank you.

Riverrun (2021) Kevin McKee
(born 1980)

Sonata for Trumpet and Piano (1956) Halsey Stevens
(1908-1989)
I. Allegro moderato
II. Adagio tenero
III. Allegro

~ Intermission ~

Toot Suite (1980) Claude Bolling
(1930-2020)
II. Mystique
V. Vesperale
I. Allègre

This recital is in partial fulfillment of the
graduation requirements for the degree,
Master of Music in Performance.

Kemp Recital Hall
April 25, 2024
Thursday Evening
7:00 p.m.

This is the one hundred and ninety-fourth program of the 2023-2024 season.

About the Composers

Kevin McKee (b. 1980) is an American composer with a primary emphasis in brass chamber music. He was born and raised in Yreka, CA, a little mountain town in the heart of the “State of Jefferson” (Northern California). He began playing the trumpet in grade school at the urging of his father, who was the high school music teacher in town. He went on to earn two degrees in trumpet performance; a BM from Sacramento State, where he studied with Gary Dilworth, and a MM from the University of Maryland, under Chris Gekker. He is also an Alumni of the Aspen Music Festival and the National Orchestral Institute. Riverrun was commissioned by Christopher Wilson in 2021. This piece is an opener style piece that was inspired by imagery of a fun romp down a raging river – boating through rapids, running and leaping across rocks, just going full throttle and having a blast.

Halsey Stevens (1908-1989) was a prominent American composer, musicologist, and educator during the twentieth century. After studying composition at Syracuse University, Stevens taught in many public universities across the country, ultimately settling at the University of Southern California in 1948. Halsey Stevens also studied directly under Belá Bartók who heavily influenced his composition style. His music was known for complex rhythm and defined key centers. Stevens often used changes in timbre and melodic contour to provide development throughout his compositions. Halsey Stevens trumpet sonata is a standard among the trumpet solo repertoire and highlights many of his compositional styles. This piece is also written in a 3 movement, fast – slow – fast, sonata style.

Claude Bolling (1930-2020) was a French jazz pianist, composer, arranger, and occasional actor. Bolling in his early years became a jazz pianist prodigy who started playing

professionally at 14. He was also a major part in the traditional jazz revival in the late 1960s near the time he became friends with Oscar Peterson. Claude Bolling wrote film scores, composed for documentaries and small groups, and was notably someone who enjoyed working with musicians of different genres. This included classical trumpeter Maurice Andre for which Toot Suite was originally written for. This piece is a multi-movement work that features a different type of trumpet for each separate movement and is notable for being a fusion between jazz and classical styles. Also, many may recognize part of the first movement of this piece as it is played on the NPR station