

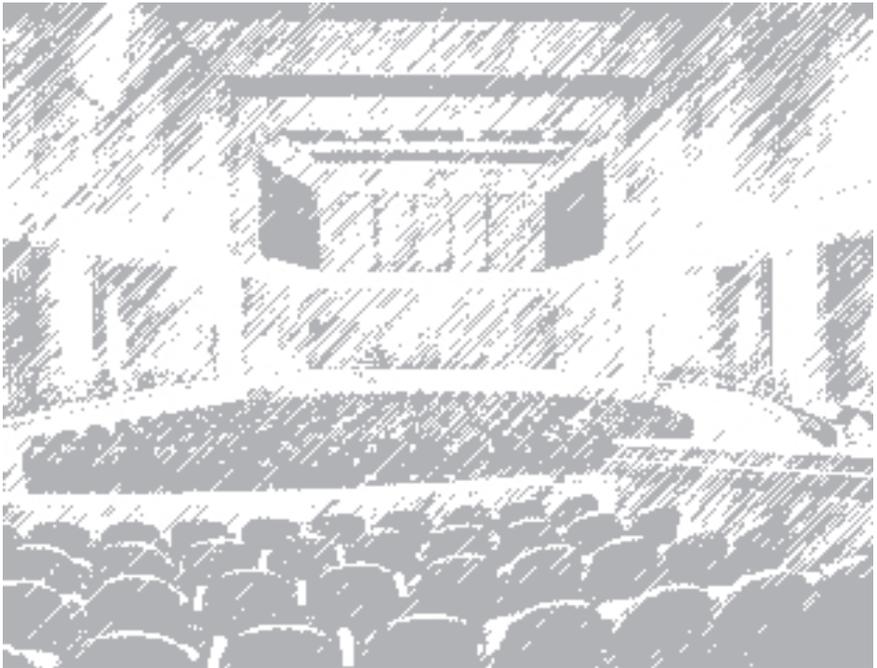
Kennesaw State University  
College of the Arts  
School of Music

presents



Junior Recital

**Michael DeSousa, trombone**



Sunday, April 26, 2015

7:30 p.m.

Music Building Recital Hall

*One Hundred and Twentieth Concert of the 2014-15 Concert Season*

# program

ERIC EWAZEN (b.1954)

## **Songs Of The Sun (Canções do Sol): Concerto No. 3**

- I. Showers and Rainbows
- II. Valleys and Mist
- III. Colors and Light

LAUNY GRØNDAHL (1886-1960)

## **Concerto for Trombone**

- I. Moderato assai ma molto maestoso
- II. Quasi una leggenda: Andante grave
- III. Finale: Maestoso - Rondo

Soyoun Sheehan, piano

Intermission

JOHN KLENNER (1899-1955), SAM M. LEWIS (1885-1959)

## **Just Friends**

J. J. JOHNSON (1924-2001)

## **Turnpike**

Wayne Henderson (1939-2014)

## **Scratch**

Michael DeSousa, trombone

Brandon Austin, trumpet

Brian Reid, piano

Evan Sarver, bass

Janna Graham, drums

This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of requirements for the degree  
Bachelor of Music in Performance.

Mr. DeSousa studies trombone with Tom Gibson and Wes Funderburk.

# program notes

## **Songs Of The Sun (Canções do Sol): Concerto No. 3** | Eric Ewazen

Eric Ewazen was born in 1954 in Cleveland, Ohio. He has earned degrees from both the Eastman School of Music and the Julliard School, where he has been on faculty since 1980. Ewazen is particularly known for composing brass music, especially for the trombone. Some of his most well-known works are his *Sonata for Trombone and Piano* and *A Duet for Our Time* for Tenor and Bass Trombone soloists and trombone choir. This piece, *Songs of the Sun*, was written as a tribute piece for Radegundis Feitosa, a famous Brazilian trombone player. The piece reflects many Brazilian samba rhythms while also keeping Ewazen's unique voice. He perished in a four-person fatal car wreck on the way to a dress rehearsal where he would perform the Grøndahl *Trombone Concerto*.

## **Concerto for Trombone** | Launy Grøndahl

Launy Grøndahl started studying the violin at the age of eight. He was not only a professional violin player, but also a conductor. Grøndahl was the conductor of the Danish National Symphony Orchestra, from 1925-1956, while also composing on the side. He has not written many pieces, but his most well-known work is his *Concerto for Trombone*. His writing is incredibly unique in that it starkly contrasted many of the trombone literature of the time. The *Concerto for Trombone* uses many elements of modern music like poly-meter sections while also keeping the traditional concerto format.

## **Just Friends** | John Klenner (Sam M. Lewis)

John Klenner (composer) and Sam M. Lewis (lyricist) are two musicians brought up in the Tin Pan Alley tradition. John Klenner was born in Germany and ended up moving to the United States to compose music. While Klenner's most famous composition was *Just Friends*, he also wrote the tunes *Down the River of Golden Dreams*, *Heartaches*, *Round the Bend of the Road*.

Sam M. Lewis was an American born singer and lyricist who collaborated often with Joe Young. He contributed to musicals like the *Singing Fools*, and *The Laughing Parade*. Their tune, *Just Friends*, was premiered in 1931 by Red McKenzie and His Orchestra.

## **Turnpike** | J. J. Johnson

J. J. Johnson is revered as one of the founders of bebop trombone playing. He was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, where he started playing the trombone at the age of 14. In 1956, he joined the Count Basie Orchestra, which especially at the time was one of the most prominent big bands in the country. He pioneered the style of jazz trombone playing still used today and actively performed with Dizzy Gillespie. Johnson was also very well-known for his trombone duo with Danish trombone player, Kai Winding. The two players would perform in combos together or even soloists with a trombone choir. J. J. Johnson's tune, *Turnpike*, is a contrafaction of the famous jazz standard, *I've Got Rhythm*. Johnson adds in some modern chord reharmonizations and pairs that with a brisk tempo which makes the two tunes hard to compare.

## **Scratch** | Wayne Henderson

Wayne Henderson was one of the co-founders of the soul jazz group, the Jazz Crusaders in 1961. Through the Crusaders, Henderson really established himself as one of the leading funk trombone players and helped pave the way for jazz fusion. After leaving the Crusaders in 1976, he later revived the group in 1995 where they would tour and perform again. Henderson's tune, *Scratch*, was one of his most famous tunes written for the Crusaders and featured himself in many live performances with the group.

# biography

**M**ichael DeSousa is a freelance trombone player based in the greater Atlanta area. DeSousa has been an avid performer with various ensembles ranging from salsa and rock bands to jazz bands and orchestras. In 2012, he performed with the Indie pop band, Foster the People, at the Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre. In 2014, he performed with the musical act, *"The Las Vegas Rat Pack,"* and with jazz vocalist, Chantae Cann. Additionally, in 2014, Mr. DeSousa had the distinct privilege of being one of the winners of Kennesaw State University's Concerto Competition.

Other notable venues where he has performed are the Hard Rock: Atlanta, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, and Walt Disney Concert Hall. He has also done many recordings with Adult Swim, Ryan Snow and the Bandits, Kylie Miranda and the Times, and many others. Mr. DeSousa has studied closely with Dr. Thomas Gibson, Wes Funderburk, Lee Watts, and Dr. Jason Altieri.