

Tuba Concerto (1976) – Edward Gregson (b. 1945)

Renowned as one of Britain's most acclaimed composers, Edward Gregson has composed orchestral, chamber, instrumental, choral, and wind band literature as well as film, theatre, and television music. Much of Gregson's music has been broadcasted and commercially recorded. He has recently been commissioned by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, the Bournemouth Symphony, and the BBC Philharmonic.

The Gregson Tuba Concerto is regarded as a true standard in solo tuba literature as it is one of the most widely performed tuba solos. Written for the British tubist, John Fletcher, the concerto was initially set with brass band accompaniment. The three-movement work follows the usual quick-slow-quick pattern with the first movement in a sonata shell form showcasing two themes, one being rhythmic and the other lyrical. Also within the first movement is a reference to the famous Vaughan Williams tuba concerto at the beginning of the development section. The second movement begins with a choral-like accompaniment followed by a cantabile theme with the tuba. The middle section is more chromatic with running triplet figures that culminate into a resounding restatement of the initial theme. The finale is cast in a light and brisk 6/8 rondo form and is broken up into two episodes—one broad, the second jazz-like—followed by a cadenza and then a rousing flourish to the end.

Edward Gregson. (Accessed 30 October 2005), <<http://www.edwardgregson.com>>



Meet the Artists

Eric Hoang is in his final year as a music education major George Mason University. He currently performs as a member of the GMU Wind Symphony and tuba-euphonium ensemble. In addition to his studies at GMU, Mr. Hoang is active locally in marching band as an instructor and musical theatre as a conductor. He also maintains a private low brass studio of several students. Past tuba and euphonium teachers include Greg Nakamura and Brian Thomas.

Chia-Ling Wu is a graduate of Taipei Municipal Teachers College in Taiwan. She also taught music in Taiwan for several years. She is currently a graduate student pursuing a Master of Piano Performance degree at George Mason University, where she studies with Dr. Linda Apple Monson.



Mr. Hoang would like to thank his friends and family for their support and encouragement. Many thanks to Roger Behrend and Brian Thomas for guidance received and forthcoming.

*George Mason Music Department
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COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

Department of Music

Music Education Recital

Eric Hoang, tuba

Accompanied by:
Chia-Ling Wu, *piano*

Monday, November 21, 2005
7:30 p.m.
Harris Theatre

Program

Concerto No. 1 (Concerto in One Movement) ... Alexei Lebedev (1924-1993)

Six Studies in English Folk Song Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) arr. Michael Wagner

- I. Adagio
- II. Andante sostenuto
- III. Larghetto
- IV. Lento
- V. Andante tranquillo
- VI. Allegro vivace

❧ *Intermission* ❧

Tuba Concerto Edward Gregson (b. 1945)

- I. Allegro deciso
- II. Lento e mesto
- III. Allegro giocoso

Mr. Hoang is a student of Professor Roger Behrend.

Program Notes

Concerto No. 1, "Concerto in One Movement" (1947) – Alexei Lebedev (1924-1993)

Alexei Lebedev was recognized as a prolific performer and teacher becoming an essential proponent of the Russian school of tuba performance. After becoming gravely injured during World War II, he continued his military service as a member of a military band in Moscow. With the conclusion of the war, Lebedev enrolled in the Moscow Conservatory and studied tuba until his graduation in 1949 subsequently performing as solo tubist in the State Academic Bolshoi Theatre from 1950-1966 and serving on the faculty of the Moscow Conservatory from 1950 until his death in 1993.

His Concerto in One Movement has become a staple in the tuba repertoire as well as a widely performed bass trombone solo. The beginning of the concerto serves as somewhat of an expository section introducing the bright, andante cantabile theme in the piano and suddenly jumping to the brooding, sweeping melody played by the tuba. The remainder of the concerto is marked by transitions between these two primary motives and shifts between the relative and parallel tonalities. The piece concludes with a grandiose recapitulation in A major.

Frederiksen, Brian. *Alexey Lebedev*. WindSong Press Ltd. (Accessed 30 October 2005), <<http://www.windsongpress.com/brassplayers/tuba/lebedev.htm>>

Six Studies in English Folk Song (1926) – Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Arguably the most important English composer of his generation, Vaughan Williams was instrumental in the revival of British music. Although beginning his musical training at a young age, composition came slowly to Vaughan Williams and several of his colleagues and teachers believed that he could not be successful. His "amateurish technique" would eventually become refined after studies at the Royal College of Music, where he met his contemporary Gustav Holst, and sessions with Bruch and Ravel. Despite foreign influences on his composition, it was his discovery and reverence of English folksong, of Elizabethan and Jacobean music, and the use of native resources that would solidify his style and range. Vaughan Williams always believed that music was for the people, a belief that was reflected in the different levels of composition he explored be it military band or sacred music.

Six Studies in English Folksong was originally composed for cello and piano in 1926 with additional versions for violin, viola, and clarinet. Each of the six movements is directly based on a specific folksong such as "Lovely on the Water" for the first movement which tells of the parting of a man and his lover and "As I Walked over London Bridge" for the final movement. The composition emphasizes a delicate texture and relationship between the soloist and the piano, with the piano often shadowing the melodic line or outlining harp-like arpeggiations.

Frogley, Alain and Hugh Ottaway. "Vaughan Williams, Ralph." *Grove Music Online* ed. L Macy (Accessed 30 October 2005), <<http://www.grovemusic.com>>