

In appreciation for the time he spent in the Utah Symphony from 1978 to 1983, he will return there for several weeks in spring of 2010 as a part of his seven-month sabbatical from the Chicago Symphony. He will give tuba recitals, music appreciation classes, master classes and clinics from the larger cities with universities to schools and community houses in very remote regions.

Besides playing world-wide with the Chicago Symphony and as a guest with other orchestras, he has given world premiere performances of new pieces for the tuba and has played recitals from Finland to Japan and from Italy to Middlebury, Vermont. Not only are three solo CDs available but one is solely devoted to educating young tuba players readying themselves for professional auditions. Another recent educational project was collaborating with Rolling Stone trombonist, Michael Davis, in a play-along CD/workbook for young players. In the summer of 2008, he started an annual weeklong trombone-tuba seminar at the University of Redlands. It will take place this summer starting on June 11. More information at <http://www.redlands.edu/x35340.asp>.

In May 2006, he received the Outstanding Alumnus Award from the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music, and in March 2007, he received an honorary doctorate in music from the University of Redlands.

Gene is a member of the Union Pacific (Railroad) Historical Society and spends time as a "foamer" (watching and chasing trains). He is a card-carrying member of The Three Stooges Fan Club (a "victim of soicumstances!"). Gene, his wife Beth Lodal (a musician who happens to have a real life) and their basset hounds, etc. (non-musicians who, when they are howling, sound better than any tuba on the planet), regularly forage from their refrigerator, which is located in Forest Park, Illinois.

Patrick Godon, piano, made his debut as soloist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in May of 2007, playing one of the solo piano parts along with Mary Sauer in Colin McPhee's *Tabuh-Tabuhan: Toccata for Orchestra and Two Pianos*, with Alan Gilbert conducting. Patrick made his debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra as second keyboardist at Ravinia in 2003. He was invited to play second keyboard on the CSO's 2005 European Tour and for the past four years at Carnegie Hall. He is a member of the CSO's MusicNOW Ensemble, having played first keyboard for George Benjamin's *Antara* and piano solo in Mundry's *Panorama ciego* in rehearsals, covering for Daniel Barenboim. The Chicago Sun-Times said of his most recent performance that "Patrick Godon...showed he firmly belongs in the realm of chamber music." In addition, he served as rehearsal pianist for Barenboim and Deborah Voigt for Schoenberg's *Erwartung*. In 2008, Patrick began performing as orchestral keyboardist with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra and the Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra. Patrick Godon is president, artistic director, and pianist for the International Chamber Artists (ICA), a chamber music ensemble that he founded in 2006. ICA showcases a diverse group of young professional musicians and supports musical organizations through collaborations and financial support. Discover more about this ensemble at www.ICAmusic.org. As a collaborative pianist, he has performed for two Dame Myra Hess concerts at the Chicago Cultural Center, broadcast live on WFMT. A native of Fargo, North Dakota, Patrick began his studies with Chicago Symphony Orchestra principal piano Mary Sauer in 1997. He holds both Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees in Piano Performance from DePaul University. He and his wife Keri are the proud parents of Gilbert Maurice Godon, born May 30, 2009.

UNLV
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA LAS VEGAS

College of Fine Arts ~ Department of Music

Presents an

A.I.R Guest Recital

Gene Pokorny

tuba

with

Patrick Godon

piano

Saturday, April 17, 2010

7:00pm

Doc Rando Recital Hall
Bearn Music Center

~ PROGRAM ~

Concerto No. 1 for Violin (~1720) J. S. Bach (1685-1750)
(Arranged by Tommy Johnson)

I. Allegro

Excerpt from "Jabba the Hutt"
from "The Return of the Jedi" (1983) John Williams (b. 1932)

Monument (2007) John Stevens (b. 1951)

Three Piano Preludes (1926) George Gershwin (1898-1937)
(Arranged by Ralph Sauer)

1. Allegro ben ritmato e deciso
2. Andante con moto
3. Agitato

~ Intermission ~

Nocturne (2004) Anthony Plog (b. 1947)

Wedding Day at Troidhaugen (1897) Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)
(Edited by Bob Joles)

Tuba Sonata (2006/7) Anthony Plog (b. 1947)

1. Calm and flowing
2. Presto
3. Slow and with freedom

Program Notes

The Violin Concerto of J. S. Bach is a masterful creation. It has been a mainstay for violinists through the centuries. Tommy Johnson (1935-2006), who played tuba in the Hollywood film industry for many years, transcribed this music for tuba having heard his wife, Pat, perform it often. This intelligent transcription allows the tuba player to create long, expressive phrases with rapid notes but is yet not too taxing so that the beauty of the music supercedes the inherent technical demands.

Of the many great film scores that have been produced by composers of the silver screen, John Williams' efforts are surely at the very top of the list. While his New York beginnings gave him so much background, it was his own playing in the studios in Hollywood as a session pianist that let him hear the incredible instrumentalists surrounding him. Those whose influences are easiest to hear in Williams' scores today are the incredible playing of French horn virtuoso, Vince DeRosa and tubist, Tommy Johnson. It was Johnson's playing that caused Williams to elevate the role of tuba from an accompanimental instrument to one of great prominence and star power. The character, "Jabba the Hutt," in the "Return of the Jedi" in the Star Wars trilogy is a perfect example of the tuba taking the lead part. It did not stop there. Tommy Johnson's influence could be heard in Williams' writing of the film, "Close Encounters of a Third Kind" and of course the big fish movie, "Jaws." When Tommy Johnson passed away in 2006, his pal and long-time tuba virtuoso colleague, Roger Bobo, commissioned John Stevens to write a piece for his departed friend. Within John Stevens' "Monument" you can hear the part of the sound track that helped make Tommy Johnson the icon in the tuba world that he remains until this day. George Gershwin's short life nevertheless abounds with the creativity of a genius. His epic scores and songs with familiar names as "American in Paris," "Rhapsody in Blue," "Porgy and Bess," "Summertime," etc., etc., are just the tip of the iceberg. This intriguing arrangement by Ralph Sauer of his "Three Piano Preludes" gives the tuba player a chance to leave the oom-pah behind. Edvard Grieg's tuneful abilities have given the world some of the best-loved music anywhere. His Norwegian background reminded me of the many people on this tour with that same background. And if you are looking for a nice piece (very well edited by my pal Bob Joles), then that is a good enough reason to program "The Wedding Day at Troidhaugen." Anthony Plog is well-known as a trumpet soloist, teaching and more recently as a composer of international repute. Between 1974 to 1976, Anthony cut his teeth as a young assistant principal and then associate principal trumpet under Maurice Abravanel in the Utah Symphony Orchestra. I got to know Tony when we worked in Summit Brass together about 25 years ago and since that time, he has several works for tuba, some of which have been recorded by tuba players around the world. Today you will hear his "Nocturne" written originally for solo tuba and strings. Another piece of significant merit is his "Tuba Sonata" which, as an original piece, shows the very many unexpected possibilities of expression, technique and sound.

Artist Bios

Gene Pokorny is the tuba player in the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. He was appointed to the position by Sir Georg Solti in 1988. Gene Pokorny is a native of Southern California, where he studied tuba with Jeffrey Reynolds, Larry Johansen, Tommy Johnson and Roger Bobo. After attending the University of Redlands and graduating from the University of Southern California, he played in the Israel Philharmonic, the Utah Symphony, the Saint Louis Symphony and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. While in Los Angeles he played in several movie soundtracks including Jurassic Park and The Fugitive. Sir Georg Solti invited him to play with his World Orchestra for Peace and Daniel Barenboim invited him to play in the Deutsche Staatsoper in Berlin and in a Gustav Mahler marathon last May in Carnegie Hall.