



DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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Monday, April 22, 2024 • 7:00 PM

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**CHARLES VERNON,  
BASS TROMBONE**

*Faculty Artist Series*

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Murray and Michele Allen Recital Hall  
2330 North Halsted Street • Chicago

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Monday, April 22, 2024 • 7:00 PM  
Allen Recital Hall

# CHARLES VERNON, BASS TROMBONE

*Faculty Artist Series*

**CHARLES VERNON, ALTO, TENOR & BASS TROMBONES**

**ERIC EWAZEN, PIANO**

**ESTEBAN BATALLAN, TRUMPET**

**ALISON VERNON, SOPRANO**

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## PROGRAM

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Eric Ewazen (b. 1954)

**Palmetto Suite for Alto Trombone and Piano (2004)**

- I. Wild Dunes
- II. Lowcountry Sweetgrass
- III. The Isle of the Palms

Eric Ewazen (b. 1954)

**Trumpet Sonata No. 2 for Trumpet and Piano (1995)**

- I. Misterioso e espressivo
- II. Allegro energico
- III. Andante Teneramente

- Intermission -

Eric Ewazen (b. 1954)

**A Summer Journey for Soprano, Trombone, and Piano (2010)**

- I. The Stars
- II. The Linden Tree
- III. Ocean Calm
- IV. Spring Dream
- V. In The Grove

Eric Ewazen (b. 1954)

**Rhapsody for Bass Trombone and Piano (1997)**

- I. Andante misterioso
- II. Allegretto cantabile
- III. Allegro molto

Eric Ewazen (b. 1954)

**Pastorale for Trumpet, Bass Trombone, and Piano (1996)**

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*As a courtesy to those around you, please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices. Flash photography is not permitted. Masks are recommended, but not required inside the Holtschneider Performance Center.*

## BIOGRAPHIES

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**Charles Vernon** began his orchestral career in 1971 as bass trombone with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. In 1980, he went to the San Francisco Symphony for one season. He was then chosen by Riccardo Muti to play bass trombone with the Philadelphia Orchestra, where he remained for five years until joining the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1986.

A native of Asheville, North Carolina, Vernon attended Brevard College and Georgia State University, where he studied with William “Bill” Hill, and at Arizona State University with Gail Wilson. Other teachers included Arnold Jacobs and Edward Kleinhammer, former tuba and bass trombone of the CSO, respectively.

Vernon has been on the faculties of Catholic University, Brevard Music Center, Philadelphia College of Performing Arts, Roosevelt University, Curtis Institute of Music and Northwestern University. Currently professor of trombone at DePaul University, he also makes many solo and teaching appearances around the world.

In 1991, under the CSO’s then Music Director Daniel Barenboim, he gave the world premiere of Ellen Taaffe Zwilich’s Concerto for Bass Trombone, which was commissioned by the Orchestra for its centennial season. Vernon and his wife Alison have commissioned several song cycles for soprano, trombone and piano by American composer Eric Ewazen and performed widely for many European and U.S. audiences. On September 28, 2006, he and the Orchestra under conductor Miguel Harth-Bedoya performed the world premiere of *Chick’a’Bone Checkout*, a concerto for alto, tenor, and bass trombone written by trombonist and composer Christian Lindberg. Most recently, he was soloist in the world premiere of James Stephenson’s Concerto for Bass Trombone with Riccardo Muti and the CSO in June 2019.

Vernon, a long-time master swimmer on the Evanston (Illinois) Masters Swim Team, also holds a first-degree black belt in taekwondo. He has two sons: Mark, the eldest, is a video-game designer for Crystal Dynamics in San Francisco; Gary, a martial-arts instructor at Connelly’s Academy, resides in Chicago.

**Eric Ewazen**, celebrating his 70th birthday this year, is a prolific composer, writing music for some of the most esteemed musicians of our time. Many of his works, especially for brass and wind instruments, have become staples of the repertoire. He has also devoted himself to teaching as a professor at The Juilliard School, where he teaches composition, and Theory and Analysis courses. He has enjoyed writing for and adding to the repertoire of brass and wind instruments. He celebrates music as an art which can convey a kaleidoscope of different colors, resulting in music that can be vivid and ever changing, as well as having powerful musical feelings

and emotions -- running the gamut of playfulness and joy, to dynamic and riveting, to tender and soulful. His music and his teaching have resulted in visits to some 50 different countries worldwide as well as 49 of the 50 United States. On a personal note, he has been lifelong friends with Charlie & Alison -- collaborating with them in some of the happiest performances he's participated in. AND he is now delighted to be performing for the first time with the extraordinary Esteban Battalán. This concert is all about collaborating with friends and conveying our musical joy to the listeners!

**Esteban Batallán** was appointed principal trumpet of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 2019 by Music Director Riccardo Muti. He was previously the principal trumpet of the Hong Kong Philharmonic during the 2018-19 season and for the Granada City Orchestra from 2002 to 2018. He also served as guest principal trumpet with the Royal Orchestra of Seville from 2010 to 2014 and with the Orchestra del Teatro alla Scala and the Filarmonica della Scala in 2015 and 2018.

Batallán has also appeared with distinguished symphonic orchestras around the world including the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the English Chamber Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Gstaad Festival Orchestra, the Sinfonieorchester Basel, the Houston Symphony, and the Symphony Orchestra of India, among others.

During this time, he worked under esteemed conductors including Jaap van Zweden, Zubin Mehta, Bernard Haitink, Herbert Blomstedt, Christian Thielemann, Klaus Mäkelä, Paavo Järvi, Daniele Gatti, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Riccardo Chailly, Alan Gilbert, Fabio Luisi, Charles Dutoit, Lahav Shani, and Giancarlo Guerrero.

He has also appeared as soloist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Ensemble Orchestral de Paris, the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, the Granada City Orchestra, the Spanish Radio-Television Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic of Galicia, the National Youth Orchestra of Spain, the Gstaad Festival Orchestra, the Geneva Camerata, the Symphony Orchestra of India, and the Bilbao Symphony Orchestra in a large variety of works, including concerts written for him, in addition to performing his own compositions. In 2021, Batallán premiered a piece composed by and dedicated to him by his friend and renowned trumpet player, Arturo Sandoval, titled *Mr. Batallán*.

Batallán is the winner of several prestigious competitions, including the Jeunesses Musicales of Spain Competition (2001), Yamaha Xeno National Competition (2002), Jeunesses Musicales of Europe Competition (2003) and the Yamaha International Competition (2003). He was also a prizewinner at the 2006 Maurice André International Trumpet Competition.

A native of the town of Barro in Galicia, Spain, Batallán began his musical studies at the age of seven at the school of music in his hometown. He continued his training at the Pontevedra Music Conservatory and the Vigo Music Conservatory under the supervision of Maestro Javier Viceiro. In 1999, he entered the School of Musical Studies of Galicia, where he participated in masterclasses with Javier Simó. In 2000, he was selected to be a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Spain (JONDE).

Batallán served as coach with the Youth Academy of the Granada City Orchestra for sixteen years and has led masterclasses at the Colburn School, the New England Conservatory, the Conservatory of Paris, Vanderbilt University, University of Illinois, Rice University, University of Houston, and groups from the National Youth Orchestra of Spain, the Youth Orchestra of Andalusia, the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America, and the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Taipei Music Academy & Festival, as well as other brass festivals around the world. He was a member of the Trumpet Faculty of the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University from 2020 until 2022.

Currently, Esteban is a member of the Trumpet Faculty of DePaul University and coach of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago.

Soprano **Alison Odum Vernon** has collaborated with her husband, Charlie and dear friend Eric Ewazen on several projects during their 2+ decades of music adventures. It all began when Charlie and Alison wanted to perform together and couldn't find any trombone/soprano repertoire. There is plenty of soprano/flute, soprano/trumpet, soprano/clarinet, soprano/strings etc...most every instrument except soprano/trombone. Together with Eric Ewazen, they set out to rectify that situation. Hence this beautiful song cycle. What a perfect composer for this project since Eric had already written several song cycles and also was becoming very well known for writing for brass. When Charlie mentioned voice and trombone, Eric said "let's do it". Thus began such a fun collaboration with a US premiere at Washington Island Music Festival and in Washington DC and a world premiere in Sweden along with several more performances... all accompanied by Eric. "Long, long ago on a galaxy far, far away", Alison sang both opera, concerts and recitals with companies and orchestras in the United States, Germany, Austria, Italy and Sweden. She also taught music in grades K-12 and as assistant Professor at Central Methodist University and later at Northeastern Illinois University. Now, Alison keeps busy as a Director of Music at Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist and as Choral Director of the Washington Island Music Festival in Door County.

## PROGRAM NOTES

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Eric Ewazen (b. 1954)

### A Summer Journey for Soprano, Trombone, and Piano (2010)

#### I. The Stars

How fair is the night with its great starry deep!  
How oft have the stars called me gently from sleep.  
I cannot complain of their waking me so,  
They pour through the stillness a healing for woe.

They float high above us in angel array.  
They light for the pilgrim his dark, stumbling way.  
They tremble with love-vows in loneliness sighed,  
And bear many a kiss o'er the ocean so wide.

They shine with their love in the sufferer's face,  
Embroidering his tear-drops with clear silver rays.  
They guide us who lie in the grave and the mould  
Up into the blue with their fingers of gold.

So be ye then blessed, ye vast hosts of light!  
An lighten me peacefully on through the night!  
And if love should take me, may love's bond be blest,  
And may your clear glittering peace on us rest.

*Poetry by C.B. von Leitner*

#### II. The Linden Tree

Beside the dooryard fountain there stands a linden tree.  
How oft beneath its shadow sweet dreams have come to me.  
Upon its bark so fragrant endearing words I've wrought,  
In gladness or in sorrow its friendly shade I've sought.

Today I wandered sadly while fell the deepening night.  
I passed the tree in darkness. I screened it from my sight.  
The rustling of the branches seemed words but half expressed:  
"Come here, beloved comrade, and find your former rest!"

The bitter winds were blowing so coldly in my face.  
My hat was borne behind me. I turned and fled the place.  
Now many leagues divide me from that dear linden tree,  
Yet still I hear it murmur "Thou couldst find rest with me."

*Poetry by Wilhelm Müller*

#### III. Ocean Calm

Dream becalmed, the deeps are sleeping,  
Moveless, soundless rests the sea;  
Sad, the sailor's glance is sweeping,  
Waters, slumb'ring glassily.

And in hush'd and brooding trances,  
In an awesome life in death,  
All of ocean's vast expanses  
Lie untroubled by a breath.

*Poetry by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*

IV. Spring Dream  
I dreamt of the trees and flowers,  
That blossom and bloom in the Spring;  
I dreamt of the bright green meadow,  
And thrushes and robins that sing.

And as the cocks are crowing,  
I rise and look without;  
The day is cold and dreary,  
The ravens are screaming about.

And who has painted flowers  
Upon the windowpane?  
If one saw flowers in the winter,  
Would he be entirely sane?

I dreamt about love and lovers,  
I dreamt of a lovely maid,  
Of hands and hearts and kisses  
The rapture for which I prayed

And with the rooster's crowing,  
And with the raven's scream,  
My heart awoke to ponder,  
To ponder about my dream;

I sat alone and silent,  
And sought to explain my dream.

I close my eyes and daydream.  
My heart is beating fast.  
When will you flowers be blooming?  
Will I have my dearest at last?

*Poetry by Wilhelm Müller*

V. In the Grove  
Through the pine trees light is sifting,  
Richest fragrance upward drifting,  
And our souls from earth uplifting,  
Let sweet peace our hearts pervade,  
Upward drifting

All the burdens that we carry,  
All our sufferings let us bury.  
And rejoicing, let us tarry  
In this lovely mountain glade.

Couldst but sunlight's warming splendor  
Here in woodland stillness tender  
Make us every care surrender,  
Letting all our sorrows fade  
In this Splendor.

*Poetry by Fr. Bruchman*

## TICKETS AND PATRON SERVICES

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**Concert Dress:** At any given concert, you will observe some concertgoers dressed up and others dressed more casually. Many patrons wear business attire or casual business attire. We encourage you to wear whatever makes you feel most comfortable.

**Food and Beverage:** While drinks, with lids, are allowed in performance spaces, food is never allowed.

**Fire Notice:** The exits indicated by a red light nearest your seat is the shortest route to the lobby and then outside to the street. In the event of fire or any emergency, please do not run. Walk to that exit.

**Late Seating:** Late seating breaks usually occur after the first piece on the program or at intermission in order to minimize disturbances to other audience members and those performing on stage. Late patrons will be seated at appropriate breaks at the discretion of the house management staff.

**No Smoking:** All public spaces in HPC are smoke-free.

**Phones and Paging Devices:** All electronic devices—including cellular phones, pagers and wristwatch alarms—should be on silent while in any concert or recital hall.

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*As of August 30, 2023*

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**DePAUL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

**SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

April 26 • 8:00 P.M.  
Gannon Concert Hall  
DePaul Ensemble 20+

April 27 • 12:00 P.M.  
Brennan Recital Hall  
DePaul Music Education Studio  
Recital

May 1 • 7:00 P.M.  
Dempsey Corboy Jazz Hall  
DePaul Jazz Workshop

May 6 • 7:00 P.M.  
Dempsey Corboy Jazz Hall  
DePaul Jazz Ensemble

May 9 • 7:00 P.M.  
Allen Recital Hall  
DePaul Composer's Forum

May 10 • 8:00 P.M.  
Gannon Concert Hall  
DePaul Wind Symphony

May 11 • 8:00 P.M.  
Gannon Concert Hall  
DePaul Concert Orchestra &  
DePaul Symphonic Choir

May 12 • 2:00 P.M.  
Jarvis Opera Hall  
DePaul Concert Orchestra &  
DePaul Symphonic Choir

May 18 • 8:00 P.M.  
Gannon Concert Hall  
DePaul Symphony Orchestra

May 20 • 8:00 P.M.  
Gannon Concert Hall  
DePaul Percussion Ensemble

May 21 • 7:00 P.M.  
Allen Recital Hall  
DePaul Baroque Ensemble

May 23 • 7:00 P.M.  
Allen Recital Hall  
DePaul String Chamber Showcase I

May 24 • 8:00 P.M.  
Gannon Concert Hall  
DePaul Concert Orchestra

May 26 • 6:00 P.M.  
Gannon Concert Hall  
DePaul Brass Ensemble

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