

Bennington College
wed. Oct. 7
8:15pm.

Mark A. Nelson, Tuba
Sylvia Parker, Piano
D. Thomas Toner, Percussion

PROGRAM

Concerto in One Movement. Alexsei Lebedev
(? - ?)
rearranged and edited by Allen Ostrander

Duo for Tuba and Percussion (1976). Glenn Hackbarth
(b. 1949)
D. Thomas Toner, percussion

Sonata-Fantasia for Tuba and Piano (1987)* Louis Calabro
(b. 1926)

- I.
- II. B Major Paradox
- III. Quasi Rondo

INTERMISSION

Suite No. 1 for Tuba and Piano (1959). Alec Wilder
(1907-1980)

- Effie Chases a Monkey
- Effie Falls in Love
- Effie Takes a Dancing Lesson
- Effie Joins the Carnival
- Effie Goes Folk Dancing
- Effie Sings a Lullaby

Escher's Sketches (1986)* Walter Ross
(b. 1936)

- Rippled Surface
- Metamorphoses II
- Cycle
- Magic Mirror
- Metamorphoses I

Sonate for Tuba og Klavier op. 68 (1981). Kjell Roikjer
(b. 1901)

- Allegro moderato ed energico
- Molto lento e pesante
- Allegro energico e con agevolezza

*written for Mark Nelson

PROGRAM NOTES

Nothing is known of Aleksei Konstantinovich Lebedev's life other than the few pieces of music he left including the Concerto in One Movement and the Concert Allegro both rearranged for tuba and piano. The music is decidedly late 19th century Russian in the style of Tchiakovsky, Prokoviev, and Rachmaninoff, although in miniature. Lebedev relies on many short themes, transitions and tempo variations to frame this concerto although the entire work is only five or so minutes long. Because of the scarcity of this type of music in the tuba repertoire, it is a work worthy of some attention.

Written for Daniel Perantoni during his tenure as Professor of Tuba at the University of Illinois, Duo for Tuba and Percussion is a reflective work relying on interchange between soloists, cell structure, and timbre exploration as the primary vehicles of composition. The performance instructions for the tuba include such devices as multiphonics (hum and play simultaneously), quarter tones, and extensive use of the mute. Glenn Hackbarth is presently an Associate Professor of Music at Arizona State University where he teaches music theory, composition, and directs the Electronic Music Studio and the New Music Ensemble.

The Sonata-Fantasia grew out of an exchange of ideas and correspondance between the soloist and composer after a Vermont Symphony Orchestra performance of Calabro's Third Symphony in 1986. This work was premiered on September 16, 1987 by Mark Nelson and Sylvia Parker at a faculty recital at the University of Vermont. The piece in Calabro's words is sort of a "macro-minimalist" composition where several melodies are heard over repeating ostinato figures by the pianist, especially in the outer movements. There are jazz elements such as added note chords and a modified "blues" scale in the second and third movements respectively as well as daring use of 16th notes and extended range in fast tempo sections. Louis Calabro has taught music at Bennington College, Vermont since 1955. He has a diploma from the Julliard School and is a prolific composer of works for virtually every medium.

THE PERFORMERS

MARK NELSON is presently the Principal Tubist of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra and an Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Vermont where he teaches applied tuba, conducts the Vermont Wind Ensemble, and coordinates the Music Education degree program. He holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Arizona State University where he studied with the noted tubist Daniel Perantoni. Dr. Nelson has performed as a soloist with a variety of music ensembles in the New England area and has had many new tuba compositions written for him. Several of his tuba ensemble arrangements are pending publication and he serves as the General News Editor for the T.U.B.A. Journal as well as a music reviewer for several national and international music journals.

Pianist SYLVIA PARKER is a member of the music faculty at the University of Vermont teaching piano and music theory. Her formal studies were completed at the Universities of Michigan, Colorado, and Arizona. A Vermont resident since 1978, she appears regularly throughout New England as a recitalist, ensemble player, workshop clinician, and adjudicator. She is on the Board of Directors of the Vermont Music Teachers Association and the Music Teachers National Association.

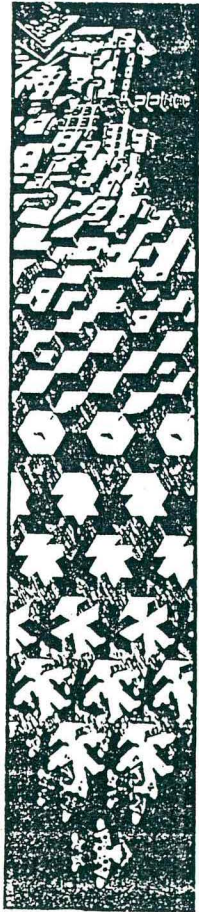
D. THOMAS TONER is the director of the University of Vermont Concert Band and Percussion Ensemble. A graduate of the University of Massachusetts/Amherst, he also teaches percussion at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh, conducts the Burlington Amateur Orchestra, and is the Principal Percussionist of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra.

Alec Wilder has written many suites, a sonata, a concerto, and chamber works involving the tuba, all in a semi-popular style that features lush harmonies, rhythmic ditties, and a flair for song-like melodies. His formal music training was limited to two years of counterpoint but he managed to write for nearly every medium. The Suite No. 1 was written for Harvey Phillips, now Distinguished Professor of Music at Indiana University. It is a delightful and humorous composition about the antics of Effie the Elephant as presented in six movements of different character. The original 1960 recording by Harvey Phillips features both percussion and piano accompaniment. The published version today does not include the percussion but has been transcribed from the recording by Mark Nelson for this recital.

Escher's Sketches for solo tuba was written for the soloist after several years of correspondence with the composer primarily regarding performances of several of his other works for tuba. The premiere took place on October 29, 1986 at the University of Vermont Recital Hall. This multi-movement composition is based upon selected lithographs of the noted Dutch artist, M.C. Escher. The prints are reproduced elsewhere in the program notes. There are many musical associations with the drawings. For example, the music of "Magic Mirror" is in itself a mirror as the second half is an inversion at the major third of the first. Each movement in some way reflects musically the drawing it was inspired from. Walter Ross is presently teaches at the University of Virginia at Charlottesville and has written music for many mediums including the first piece for electronic tape and tuba entitled Midnight Variations for Tuba and Tape.

Kjell Maale Roikjer was born in Malmo, Sweden and has had a successful career as a bassoonist in such organizations as the Halsingborg Sinfoniorkestra, Copenhagen Philharmonie, Royal Operorchester, and the Danish Woodwind Quintet. The tuba Sonate is a late work written for the great Swedish tubist, Michael Lind. This work has two rather quick outer movements each of a rondo like character. The tubist and the pianist trade melody and accompaniment freely in the first movement, often in syncopated fashion. the third movement is free in spirit and contains a few dramatic climaxes occuring before the return of the final rondo melody. The middle movement is quite lyrical and lies well within the middle register of the smaller F tuba.

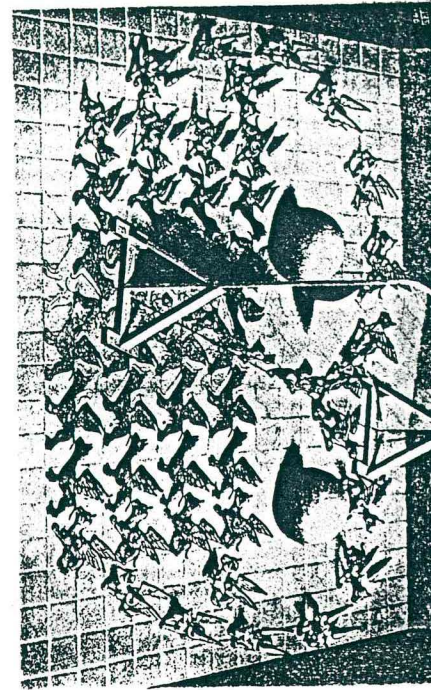
V. METAMORPHOSES I



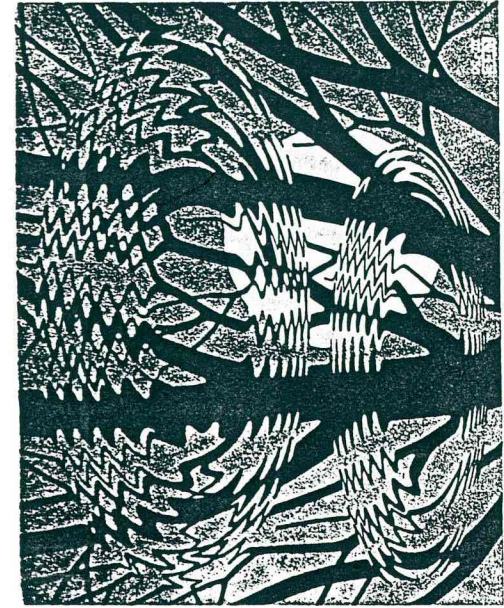
II. METAMORPHOSES II



IV. MAGIC MIRROR



I. RIPPLED SURFACE



III. CYCLE

