

Visiting Artists

Trio Barocco Forte

Olga Gracelj, soprano

Stanko Arnold, trumpet

Maks Strmčnik, organ

Tuesday, February 9, 1999 at 8:00 pm

**Convocation Hall, Arts Building
University of Alberta**

**Co-sponsored by
The Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia
The Canadian Centre for Austrian and
Central European Studies**

Program



**Department of Music
University of Alberta**

Program

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| Let the Bright Seraphim
For Soprano, Trumpet and Organ | George Friedrich Haendel
(1685-1759) |
| Sonata a 10Janez
For Trumpet and Organ | Krstnik Dolar
(1620-1673) |
| Aria da chiesa
For Soprano and Organ | Alessandro Stradella
(1642-1682) |
| Three arias
For soprano, trumpet and organ | Alessandro Scarlatti
(1660-1725) |

Intermission

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| Cujus regni non erit finis
Improvisation on Organ | Maks Strmčnik
(b. 1948) |
| Illud tempus...
For Trumpet and Organ | Lojze Lebič
(b. 1934) |
| Cantus gratias agentis
For Soprano, Trumpet and Organ | Uroš Krek
(b. 1922) |
| Three Slovenian folk songs
Dober večer, ljubo dekle
Kje so tiste stezice
Oj, te mlinar | arr. Maks Strmčnik |

Program Notes

Georg Friedrich Haendel, the renowned German Baroque composer, born in the same year as the great JS Bach, is the author of numerous magnificent cantatas, operas and instrumental works, in which he combined great compositional technique with superb musical inventiveness. The composition *Let the Bright Seraphim* for soprano, trumpet and organ is from the opera *Samson*.

Janex Krstnik Dolar was born in Kamnik, Slovenia and worked as a Jesuit and musician in Passau, Germany and in Vienna, Austria. His compositions, mainly religious, but also secular, show his brilliant mastery of Baroque compositional technique by using effective harmonies and fresh melodies. *Sonata a 10* is an arrangement of an orchestral composition for the trumpet and organ.

Alessandro Stradell, Italian Baroque composer, author of vocal and instrumental pieces, proved in his work *Aria da chiesa* for soprano and organ, that he was an extremely perceptive composer.

Alessandro Scarlatti, excellent Italian Baroque composer, author of predominately instrumental music, composed the *Arie con Tromba Solo* for soprano, trumpet and organ. Three of the arias are presented in this program. The music is typically Italian, simple and effective.

Maks Strmčnik, composer, organist and harpsichord player (born in 1948), graduated in 1974 in composition at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana in the class of Professor Uroš Krek. He continued his studies in Baroque interpretation on keyboard instruments at the Academy of Music in Innsbruck, Austria. He often plays together with eminent Slovenian artists and ensembles. He has a special creative approach to the Baroque and contemporary improvisation on organ. As a composer he received the Prešeren Foundation Award in 1989. Since 1996 he has been a senior university teacher in improvisation and composition at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana. As the secretary of the Association of Slovenian Composers, he has been encouraging Slovenian musical creativity for the last sixteen years.

Lojze Lebič was born in 1934 in Carinthia, Slovenia. He graduated in composition in the class of Marjan Kozina in 1972 and in conducting in the class of Dr Danilo Švara. A Fellow of the Academy, Lojze Lebič also graduated in archaeology from the Faculty of Arts in 1975. He is a university professor of musical-theoretical science in the Department of Musicology of the Faculty of Arts in Ljubljana. He is one of the leading Slovenian composers and was also a recipient of the Prešeren Award in 1994. *Illus tempus* for trumpet and organ, is an intellectual play on the rhythmical patterns of Morse code. The music follows its laws with economy and inner argumentation between its three connecting parts.

Uroš Krek was born in 1922 in Ljubljana. He graduated in composition from the Academy of Music (the class of Lucijan Marija Škerjanc) in Ljubljana in 1947. A Fellow of the Academy, Uroš Krek worked as a professor of composition at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana until 1982, when he retired. He is one of the best Slovenian composers of the second half of the 20th century. He connected with neoromanticism, without searching for new musical expression at any cost. He is a recipient of two Prešeren Awards, film awards, the Župančič Award and numerous awards from radio and television. Since 1995 he has been an honorary professor at the University of Ljubljana. *Cantus gratias agentis* for soprano, trumpet and organ was written as a thanksgiving hymn for successful heart surgery, which is referred to in the last verse, which speaks of a rejuvenated heart. The author addresses this verse to the "Invisible but Omnipresent", which is the source of recognising the truth, the art and the discovery of the human body. Indirectly, this verse is dedicated to the medical staff of the cardiac-surgical ward at the Clinical Centre in Ljubljana.