

UNIVERSITY OF  
**R**Redlands  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

2018 POKORNY LOW BRASS SEMINAR  
FACULTY RECITAL

Timothy Higgins, trombone  
Christopher Olka, tuba

Assisted by  
Kimberly Russ, piano

Tuesday, June 19, 2018 - 1:00 p.m.  
FREDERICK LOEWE PERFORMANCE HALL

Timothy Higgins, trombone  
Kimberly Russ, piano

For Ashley

Andrew Norman  
(b. 1979)

Sonata in G Minor

Sergei Rachmaninoff  
(1873-1943)

Christopher Olka, tuba  
Kimberly Russ, piano

Solo Etude for Tuba and Piano

Alexander Blazhevich

Suite for Unaccompanied Tuba

Walter S. Hartley  
(1927-2016)

1. Intrada: Alla marcia
2. Valse: Allegro non troppo
3. Air: Andante
4. Galop: Presto

Seven Variations on a theme from Mozart's *Magic Flute*

Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770-1827)

Suite in Miniature from *Cello Suite 2, BWV 1008*

1. Prelude Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)
2. Allemande
3. Sarabande
4. Gigue

Concertino for Tuba

Rolf Wilhelm  
(1927-2013)

1. Moderato deciso
2. Andante lirico
3. Allegro comodo

## BIOGRAPHIES

### Timothy Higgins, trombone

Timothy Higgins is the San Francisco Symphony's Principal Trombone and holder of the Robert L. Samter Chair. He joined the Symphony in 2008. He was previously acting second trombone with the National Symphony. A Houston native, Mr. Higgins graduated from Northwestern University and has performed with the Milwaukee, Virginia, and Chicago symphonies, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Washington National Opera, and the Baltimore Symphony. In 2005, he won the Robert Marsteller Competition and the ITA Trombone Quartet Competition, both part of the International Trombone Association.

Timothy Higgins has served as a Symphony mentor in the SF Symphony Community of Music Makers program.

### Christopher Olka, tuba

Newly appointed Principal Tuba of the Cincinnati Symphony and Principal Tuba of the Seattle Symphony and Opera, Christopher

Olka has had a wide and varied career in music before coming to Seattle. His Orchestral experience includes Maestro Seiji Ozawa's Saito Kinen Festival Orchestra, Guest Principal tuba with the Boston Symphony, Chicago Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Cincinnati Symphony, and New Jersey Symphony as well as Principal positions with Gerard Schwarz's All-Star orchestra and Aspen Festival orchestra.

Before moving to Seattle, Chris was an active freelance musician in New York where he performed with many brass quintets, Dixieland bands, and most of the major orchestras in the area while completing his Masters degree at the Juilliard School.

From 1989 to 1996 he was a staff musician for the Walt Disney World Company in Orlando, Florida, where he was a member of many of the bands there including the TUBAFOURS tuba quartet, the world's only full-time professional tuba quartet.

An active soloist and advocate of solo tuba literature, Chris has performed across the country in recital and masterclass as well as soloing with orchestra, windband and various other groups including Seattle Symphony, Cascade Symphony, University of Washington Wind Ensemble, Brass Band Northwest, Dartmouth College Wind Ensemble, Rutgers University Wind Ensemble, and University of Central Florida Wind Ensemble and Orchestra.

In 2006 Chris premiered and recorded the Samuel Jones *Concerto for Tuba and Orchestra* with the Seattle Symphony for the NAXOS Record Label. The concerto, which was written for him and commissioned by Sandra Crowder, received critical acclaim nationally for the premiere as well as recording.

His education includes a B.M. from the University of Central Florida, and a M.M. from the Juilliard School. During his undergraduate studies, Chris was the Winner of the Music Teacher's National Association Collegiate artist Brass Solo Competition in 1996 as well as winning the Southeastern Regional MTNA solo Competition

twice and the Florida MTNA solo Competition three times.

Currently on the School of Music faculty at the University of Washington, Chris' teachers include Warren Deck (New York Phil. Retired), Joe Alessi (New York Phil.), and Abe Torchinsky (Philadelphia Orch. Retired).

### **Kimberly Russ, piano**

Pianist Kimberly Russ celebrates a diverse musical career. Before moving to Cincinnati in 2016, she spent fourteen years as the Resident Pianist for the Seattle Symphony at the invitation of Maestro Gerard Schwarz. Additionally, Ms. Russ has appeared as Principal Keyboard for the nationally televised PBS series, *All Star Orchestra*. She is continually in demand as soloist and orchestral pianist, performing with Seattle Symphony, Cincinnati Symphony, Israel Philharmonic, Mariinsky Orchestra, Pacific Northwest Ballet Orchestra, Seattle Philharmonic, Cascade, Sammamish, Port Angeles, and Central Florida Symphonies. An active recording artist, Kimberly can be heard on recent recordings, *Pokemon Reorchestrated: Double Team!* (YouTube, iTunes and Loudr), *Pura Vida*, with Peter Ellefson, trombone (iTunes), and *Short Stories*, with Melia Watras, viola (iTunes), and a soon to be released recording with her husband, Christopher Olka, Principal Tuba, Cincinnati Symphony.

Ms. Russ is the Founder and Director of Harmony for Heroes, a non-profit chamber music outreach program for our veterans, military and their families. Harmony for Heroes is inspired by her son, a former active duty Marine who served as a Combat Engineer in Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan).

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