



University of North Texas  
College of Music

Guest Artist Recital | Sunday, February 15, 2026 | 5:00 p.m. | Recital Hall

**Bente Illevold, euphonium**

Notturmo (Lockdown Lullaby) (2021) .....	Marcus Paus (b. 1979)
Suite No. 1 in G Major (c. 1720).....	Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
I. Prelude	
III. Courante	
V. Menuet I	
VI. Menuet II	
Svart Regn (1990) .....	Torstein Aagaard-Nilsen (b. 1964)
Mazurka (1965) .....	Nicholas D. Falcone (1892–1981)
Fram! - For people who dig their own holes (2022) .....	Bente Illevold (b. 1983)
Aura - for solo euphonium (2022) .....	Terje Viken (b. 1968)
Fantasie in A minor (c. 1732) .....	Georg Philipp Telemann (1681–1767) arr. Alan Raph
Dsdht for Euphonium and Prerecorded Material (2015–2018) ....	Ludvig Elblaus (b. 1981), Rune Rebne (b. 1961)
Dsdht II	
Dsdht III	

*Program two hundred seventy-five of the 2025–2026 season  
Photography and videography are prohibited*

## Program Notes

### ***A Musical Portrait – Bente Illevold, euphonium***

In this recital program, the repertoire shows what the euphonium is, has been, and might become. The selection highlights a wide range of styles, techniques, sounds, and expressions.

The Nordic brass tradition has long served as an artistic ideal, drawing together qualities from both American and British traditions while maintaining a distinct tonal clarity and expressive depth. A significant part of the program is devoted to Norwegian repertoire written for the euphonium, much of it composed specifically for the performer. Together, these works form a musical journey through Nordic soundscapes, shaped by history, innovation, and personal artistic commitment.

### **Marcus Paus: Notturmo (Lockdown Lullaby) (2021)**

During the first year of the pandemic, Marcus Paus composed a series of works under the collective title Cabin Fever. Spanning from small chamber pieces to large-scale concert works, the series reflects both the circumstances of its creation and a rediscovery of the fundamental artistic drive that originally led the composer to write music.

Notturmo (Lockdown Lullaby) was among the last works in this series, written just before society slowly began to reopen. The piece is lyrical in nature and explores the euphonium's wide expressive range. Composed for Bente Illevold, it is devoted both to the performer and to the instrument's unique capacity for warmth, depth, and vocal-like expression.

### **Torstein Aagaard-Nilsen: Svart Regn (1990)**

Svart Regn (Black Rain) is a solo work for euphonium composed in 1990 for Egil Magnussen. The piece is constructed as a continuously evolving contrapuntal form, where previously introduced material reappears and interacts with new ideas. Rather than following a traditional multi-movement structure, the music unfolds as a single, organic process.

The title refers to environmental pollution and reflects the growing awareness of climate change at the end of the 1980s. The work was written only a few years after the Chernobyl disaster, at a time when the first serious global warnings about environmental consequences were beginning to emerge. These concerns are mirrored in the music's dark, intense character and its persistent sense of tension.

*continued on following page*

## **Rune Rebne / Ludvig Elblaus: Dsdht (2015, revised 2016 & 2018)**

Dsdht for solo euphonium and prerecorded material was premiered in 2015 by Bente Illevold, with support from the Norwegian Composers' Fund and the Arts Council of Norway. It is one of the most extensive Norwegian works written for the euphonium and is distinctive for its combination of folk music, contemporary classical idioms, and electronics.

All musical material in the piece is derived from the Norwegian folk song "Den største dårlegheit" (The Greatest Sorrow). The song serves as both a musical and conceptual foundation, shaping the tonal language and expressive character of the work. The text tells a dramatic story of love declared and deeply rejected, focusing not on guilt, but on resistance in the face of emotional betrayal.

The second movement explores the sweetness and beauty of love, while the final movement confronts despair, disappointment, and rage. The piece ultimately returns to the original folk song, ending not in redemption or hope, but in resignation — a sustained act of resistance against something that cannot be changed. While this narrative underpins the composition, listeners are free to decide how strongly the story shapes their own musical experience.

---

### **Biography**

**Bente Illevold** (b. 1983) is a euphonium soloist from Rendalen in Østerdalen, Norway, known for her distinctive artistic voice and her focused work in developing new repertoire for the instrument, both nationally and internationally. Through an extensive career as a soloist, chamber musician, and project initiator, she has established herself as a clear and innovative presence in the contemporary music scene. Illevold has been responsible for more than 30 world premieres of works for euphonium and has collaborated with a wide range of leading composers and ensembles. She has released three critically acclaimed solo albums: *Klangen fra de dype skoger* (2020), which led to a nomination for Instrumentalist of the Year by OPUS KLASSIK; *Alene* (2021), the world's first album featuring only unaccompanied euphonium; and *Baut* (2024), featuring music by Stig Nordhagen, which received 3rd Prize in the Album of the Year category from 4BarsRest. In 2024, she was also nominated for Player of the Year by the same publication. Illevold has performed extensively throughout Europe, the United States, and South America, appearing as a guest artist at festivals, universities, and conferences. Alongside her solo work, she is deeply engaged in chamber music and interdisciplinary projects, including collaborations with The Northern Lights Duo, Rollin' Phones, and Trio Krafft. Bente Illevold is an international S.E. Shires Company Euphonium Artist and performs on a custom made euphonium, with mouthpiece from Doug Elliott.

---

***Program two hundred seventy-five of the 2025–2026 season***  
***Photography and videography are prohibited***