



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

University of North Texas
College of Music

Guest Artist Recital | Wednesday, January 17, 2024 | 8:00 pm | Voertman Hall

Christian Lindberg, trombone
Roland Pöntinen, piano

Sonata, "Vox Gabrieli" (1973).....Stjepan Šulek (1914–1986)

Camera (2020) Roland Pöntinen (b. 1963)

Mayfly for solo trombone (2024).....Christian Lindberg (b. 1958)

Suite from *Pique Dame*,

Opus 68 (1889).....Pyotr Il'yich Tchaikovsky (1840–1893)

- I. Introduction
- II. Tomsky's Ballade
- III. Pauline's Song
- IV. At the Ball
- V. By the Winter Canal
- VI. The Gambling House
- VII. Vision of Lisa

--Intermission--

Los Bandidos (1998)Christian Lindberg

Three Preludes (1926).....George Gershwin (1898–1937)
arr. Andrea Tarrodi

1. To Bill Daly
2. Blue Lullaby
3. Spanish Prelude

Fantasiestücke, Opus 73 (1849)..... Robert Schumann (1810–1850)
arr. Christian Lindberg

- I. Zart und mit Ausdruck
- II. Lebhaft, leicht
- III. Rasch und mit Feuer

Barcarolle No. 5 in F-sharp minor,

Opus 66 (1893).....Gabriel Fauré (1845–1924)

from *Firebird* (1910) Igor Stravinsky (1882–1971)
arr. Roland Pöntinen and Christian Lindberg

- I. Dance infernale du roi Katschei
- II. Berceuse
- III. Finale

about our guest artists

Christian Lindberg's achievements for the trombone can only be compared with those of Paganini for the violin or Liszt for the piano. September 2015 Christian Lindberg was voted "THE GREATEST BRASS PLAYER IN HISTORY" by the world's biggest classical radio station CLASSIC-FM, and in 2016 he received the "INTERNATIONAL CLASSICAL MUSIC AWARD ARTIST OF THE YEAR" previously given to Esa-Pekka Salonen, Krzysztof Penderecki and Charles Dutoit.

Having premiered over 300 works for the trombone (over 125 major concertos) recorded over 150 solo albums, having an international solo competition created in his name, been voted brass player of the twentieth century side by side with Miles Davis and Louis Armstrong, Christian Lindberg is today nothing less than a living legend.

On top of his unrivalled career as a trombonist Lindberg has now also embarked on a highly successful conducting career, and his career includes major conducting engagements in Musikverein, Suntory Hall, at Beethovenfest, in Salzburg Festspielhaus, Tonhalle Düsseldorf, Meistersingerhalle, Nürnberg and National Centre for the Performing Arts (The Giant Egg) in Beijing with orchestras such as Nippon Yomiuri Symphony Orchestra, Beijing Symphony Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Royal Flemish Philharmonic, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, New Zealand Symphony, Düsseldorfer Symphoniker, Irish National Philharmonic and Ulster Orchestra to name a few.

Since 2004 Lindberg has been music director for four different orchestras: Nordic Chamber Orchestra 2004-2011 and Swedish Wind Ensemble 2005-2012, Norwegian Arctic Philharmonic 2009-2019 and Israel NK Orchestra 2016-2021. Activities with these orchestras have included major recording projects on BIS (Tchaikovsky *Symphonies* Nos. 4-6 among other things), major tours throughout Japan and performances at Beethovenfest, Musikverein and Salzburg Festspielhaus. Alongside his activities as principal conductor Lindberg has major conducting collaborations with Norrköping Symphony Orchestra (performing and recording all the symphonies by Allan Pettersson), Royal Flemish Philharmonic (a major project performing and recording music by Stenhammar), The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic (a second major conducting residency in 2016), Nürnberger Symphoniker (various projects including music by Lindberg himself, Allan Pettersson, Grieg, Högberg, Tchaikovsky and Beethoven), The Swedish Chamber Orchestra (music by Lindberg, Schubert, Ginastera, Bizet and Andrea Tarrodi), Ulster Orchestra (music by Lindberg, Dvorak, Nielsen, Grieg and Sibelius), RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland (music by Tchaikovsky, Lindberg, Sibelius, and

Sandström) and Taipei Symphony Orchestra (music by Bernstein, Lindberg, Tchaikovsky and Petterson).

In 2019 Lindberg founded his own recording company European Gramophone and has so far released more than 150 albums signing orchestras such as the Swedish Chamber Orchestra, Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra, ADDA Simfònica, Oviedo Filarmonia, Royal Seville Symphony Orchestra, Wermland Opera Orchestra, Liceu Opera Orchestra Barcelona, Taipei Symphony Orchestra and Nürnberger Symphoniker.

Lindberg also conducts orchestras such as the Nippon Yomiuri Symphony Orchestra, Beijing Symphony Orchestra, Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, Verdi Orchestra Milano, Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Gürzenich-Orchester Köln, Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, Malmö Symphony Orchestra, Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie, Extremadura Orchestra, Umeå Symphony Orchestra, Tiroler Symphonieorchester, Het Noord Nederland Orkest, Het Gelders Orkest, Stuttgart Radio Orchestra, Poznan Symphony Orchestra, Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Jenaer Philharmonie, Jyväskylä Symphony Orchestra, Oulu Symphony Orchestra, Euscadi Orchestra, Maggio Fiorentino, Haydn Orchestra Bolzano, Northern Sinfonia, Helsinki Philharmonic, Lahti Symphony Orchestra, Cape Philharmonic, Aarhus Symphony Orchestra, Shanghai Opera Orchestra, Iceland Symphony Orchestra, National Orchestra of Brazil, Württembergische Philharmonie, and Tenerife Symphony Orchestra to name a few.

As a composer Lindberg has been constantly busy with commissions since he wrote his first composition *Arabenne for Trombone and Strings* in 1997–98 as a pure experiment. Orchestras around the world have been queuing up, and he has composed over 50 works on commission from, among others, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, Hessische Rundfunk, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Swedish Chamber Orchestra, Verdi Orchestra Milano, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, Trondheim Soloists, Sion Musik Festival, Nordland Musikfestuke, Vertavo Quartet, Vib'bone Duo, Sergio Carolino and the Wild Gang, Arctic Philharmonic Orchestra, Norrköping Symphony Orchestra, Bones Apart, Anders Wall Foundation, Hardanger International Music Festival and Share Music Sweden. Future commissions include a trombone concerto for the Taipei Symphony Orchestra, a 30 minute long orchestral piece commissioned by Düsseldorfer Symphoniker, a trumpet concerto commissioned by the Swedish Chamber Orchestra and Västerås Sinfonietta and a concerto for Evelyn Glennie, Christian Lindberg and orchestra commissioned by the Cheltenham Festival. Christian Lindberg's own philosophy regarding his work as a composer is simple: "I do not write in any style whatsoever! I just listen to what my brain and my soul tell me, and what I hear I simply put down on paper. To say anything more about my work would be pretentious nonsense."

Since his debut with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic in 1981, **Roland Pöntinen** has performed with major orchestras throughout the world. He has been invited to many prestigious festivals including Schleswig-Holstein, Verbier and Mostly Mozart Festival, N.Y. and worked with such conductors

as Esa-Pekka Salonen, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Evgeny Svetlanov and Leif Segerstam to name a few. Highlights include performances with the Philharmonia Orchestra in Paris and London, Los Angeles Philharmonic in the Hollywood Bowl, with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra in Glasgow and Edinburgh as well as appearances at the London Proms where he has played both the Grieg piano concerto and the Ligeti piano concerto.

Thanks to an insatiable musical appetite and stupendous technique he has acquired a vast repertoire ranging from Bach to Ligeti. The emphasis is on the "golden era" in piano literature from the nineteenth century – through the first half of the twentieth century with composers such as Debussy, Busoni, Szymanowski and Rachmaninoff. Often immersed in large-scale projects, Pöntinen has recently performed the complete cycles of Beethoven sonatas and *Années de pèlerinage* by Liszt.

Many composers, among them Sven-Erik Bäck, Veli-Matti Puumala, Anders Eliasson and Anders Hillborg, have dedicated works to him and in 2007 he gave the world premiere of Shchedrin's *Romantic Duets* together with the composer at the Verbier Festival. Always in great demand as a chamber player Pöntinen has worked with such artists of distinction as Barbara Hendricks, Janine Jansen, Nobuko Imai, Peter Mattei, Martin Fröst, Zvi Zeitlin, Ulf Wallin, Torleif Thedéen, Håkan Hardenberger, Arve Tellefsen, Christian Lindberg and Nicolai Gedda.

Pöntinen has given recitals in New York (The Frick Collection), London (Wigmore Hall), Bogotá, Istanbul, Stockholm and, most recently, at the Verbier Festival last summer. Recent appearances with orchestras include Rachmaninoff's *Paganini Rhapsody* with Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Shostakovich's *Concerto No. 1* with Orchestre de La Suisse Romande, the Schumann *Concerto* with Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra and in January 2017 Messiaen's *Turangalila-Symphony* with Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra under Sakari Oramo.

During the last two seasons he has toured Japan, Taiwan, England, Scandinavia and Holland. In June 2017 Pöntinen recorded Bernstein's *The Age of Anxiety* with the Arctic Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Christian Lindberg, adding to an extensive discography of nearly 100 recordings for a.o. BIS, c p o, Arte Nova, EMI, Philips and his own label Haddock. Roland Pöntinen is also active as a composer and his *Blue Winter* was performed by the Philadelphia Orchestra under Wolfgang Sawallisch at Carnegie Hall in 1998. His latest work, *L'éléphant rose* for trumpet and piano, written for Håkan Hardenberger, was premiered at Wigmore Hall in 2016. He has also arranged music by Legrand, Joni Mitchell and Weill for Hardenberger and Academy of St Martin in the Fields.

Pöntinen is a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Music and in 2002 he received the Litteris et Artibus – a royal medal for recognition of eminent skills in the artistic field.