



Timothy Rhea
Presents:

AUTUMN TUBAS
VOLUME 2

AUTUMN TUBAS VOLUME 2

Tennessee Tech Tuba Ensemble

The internationally acclaimed Tennessee Tech Tuba Ensemble (TTTE) recently celebrated its 45th anniversary. The ensemble was founded by its current director, R. Winston Morris in the fall of 1967. The TTU group is the most recorded ensemble of its kind in the world, has toured throughout the eastern half of the United States for over 45 years, and is the only music group in the state of Tennessee to receive the Tennessee Board of Regents “TBR Academic Excellence and Quality Award.” Since its inception in 1967, the TTU Tuba Ensemble has been responsible for the creation of hundreds of new compositions, has been listed on the Grammy Entry List for its recordings, and is the only tuba ensemble to have performed multiple concerts (seven) in New York’s famous Carnegie Recital Hall.

The Tubas Unlimited

This project represents a tribute to one of the greatest if not the greatest jazz vocal groups to ever exist: The Singers Unlimited. The Singers Unlimited (TSU), formed in 1971, interestingly never performed live. That is because the four-member group, Gene Puerling (1929-2008) (formerly of The Hi-Lo’s), Bonnie Herman (Chicago “jingle singer” extraordinaire and proud of it), Len Dresslar (1924-2005) (voice of the Jolly Green Giant; Ho Ho Ho; for 40-something years, earning him a reported million dollars) and Don Shelton (1934-) (also of The Hi-Lo’s, Chicago jingle scene and LA jazz woodwind artist), doubled-, tripled- and quadrupled over-dubbed everything they ever recorded. Fourteen of their fifteen recordings were produced by MPS (Most Perfect Sound) record company in Germany utilizing state-of-the-art recording techniques for the 1970s. There was no way for this incredible sound to be produced live. All of the arrangements recorded by TSU were done by Gene Puerling who famously touted a music education of two piano lessons and a couple of vocal master classes. His arrangements were pure unadulterated genius uninhibited by restrictive harmonic rules and regulations. Puerling is universally recognized as the greatest jazz vocal arranger of all time heralded as such by such varied entities as Manhattan Transfer, Take 6, American soprano Eileen Farrell, and jazz pianist Oscar Peterson. Perhaps the most popular of their efforts were the three a capella recordings. As stated on one of their recordings, “A capella group singing is an art that separates the vocal masters from the second-rate. With no bass player to anchor the pitch and no drummer to control the rhythm, the singers need to have the strictest musical virtues: faultless intonation and time, a harmonic sense to equal any orchestral section player, the ability to subordinate the self to an ensemble that thinks and hears as one. Few groups, if any, have taken the art of a capella to such dizzying heights as The Singers Unlimited.”

Symphonia

The creation of this unusual ensemble came from a shared airport limo ride in 1993 between R. Winston Morris and Scott Watson after a brass conference in Arizona when Watson remarked that it was a shame that students never got to hear tuba-euphonium ensemble music performed by real pros. By the time the limo arrived at the airport, the idea for a first-class All-Star ensemble was born. Symphonia’s first live performance was in 1995 at the Arizona Low Brass Conference, and their first recording titled “Symphonia- a Super-Sonic Ensemble in the Alternate Clef” was recorded that same year.

Symphonia, in order to showcase the genre, performed on many prestigious festivals and conferences during its existence including the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic; the International Brass Congress; four appearances on International Tuba Euphonium Conferences; as well as the famed American Brass Band Festival; the United States Army Band Tuba Euphonium Conference and the Texas Music Educators Association Conference. With education always being a vital part of their existence, Symphonia held successful Symphonia Tuba Euphonium Institutes at both the Interlochen Center for the Arts and the Brevard Music Center.

Still, Symphonia’s legacy will be their recordings and creation of great music. While in the midst of the aforementioned concertizing, the group recorded “Le Morte dell Oom” in 1998 and “Symphonia Fantastique” in 2001 to round out their recording trilogy, all to critical acclaim.

1. Robin Hood Fanfare (Tennessee Tech Tuba Ensemble)
Unleash the Beast!!!

2. Autumn Leaves (Symphonia)
Symphonia, Vol. 3: Symphonia Fantastique!

3. Moondance (Tennessee Tech Tuba Ensemble)
All That Jazz

4. Try to Remember (The Tubas Unlimited)
Magic Tubas

5. Pan-Octatubular Funk (Tennessee Tech Tuba Ensemble)
Phat Bottom Tubas

6. Killing Me Softly (The Tubas Unlimited)
Magic Tubas

7. Autumn In New York (The Tubas Unlimited)
Magic Tubas

8. Sweet Georgia Brown (Tennessee Tech Tuba Ensemble)
All That Jazz

9. Indian Summer (The Tubas Unlimited)
Magic Tubas

10. Phat Bottom Tubas (Tennessee Tech Tuba Ensemble)
Phat Bottom Tubas

11. Get Down Tonight (Tennessee Tech Tuba Ensemble)
Phat Bottom Tubas

12. Another One Bites the Dust (Tennessee Tech Tuba Ensemble)
Phat Bottom Tubas

13. Wabash Cannon Ball (Tennessee Tech Alumni Tuba Ensemble)
A Tribute to the Music of James Allen Garrett: Pierre Garbáge Festival

14. 14 Chaser No. 1 (Tennessee Tech Alumni Tuba Ensemble)
A Tribute to the Music of James Allen Garrett: Pierre Garbáge Festival