

UArkMusic

2025-2026 Season

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ABOUT MUSIC

The University of Arkansas is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music and the Department of Music is housed within the Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences.

Home to over 300 music students and fifty faculty members, we offer a variety of degree programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Department faculty and students perform over 400 concerts per year, on and off campus. Large concerts are performed at the 600-seat Faulkner Performing Arts Center that opened in 2015. Chamber and solo recitals are primarily presented at the 200-seat Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall.

For more information, find us on social media or contact us at (479) 575-4701, email us at **music@uark.edu**, or visit **music.uark.edu**.

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SENIOR RECITAL

Nathan Steinmuller, trumpet

WITH:

Daniel Fry, piano

3:30 p.m., Sunday, April 19, 2026

Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall

University of Arkansas

PROGRAM

Sonata in D Major

Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

I. Pomposo

II. Adagio

III. Presto

Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra

Alexandra Pakhmutova (b. 1929)

Vocalise

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

INTERMISSION

Sonata for Trumpet and Piano

Karl Pilss (1902-1979)

- I. Allegro appassionato
- II. Adagio, molto cantabile
- III. Allegro agitato

Centennial Horizon

Kevin McKee (b. 1980)

- I. Aspen Grove
- II. Interlude - Alpenglow
- III. Roaring Gunnison

Nathan Steinmuller is a student of Dr. Richard Rulli.

This recital is given in partial fulfillment of the Bachelor of Music in Trumpet Performance degree.

PROGRAM NOTES

Sonata in D Major – Henry Purcell

Henry Purcell was one of England's most important Baroque composers, serving as organist at Westminster Abbey and composing for the royal court during the late 17th century. Despite his short life, he wrote a wide range of music, from operas and sacred works to instrumental pieces, and is especially known for his ability to combine expressive melody with clear, structured harmony. His music reflects both English traditions and the influence of continental Baroque styles.

The Sonata in D Major highlights many of these qualities through its contrast between lyrical and energetic sections, a hallmark of Baroque writing. The key of D major, often associated with brilliance and ceremonial music, makes it a natural fit for the trumpet. Throughout the piece, Purcell balances clarity and expression, allowing the trumpet to showcase both its bright, powerful sound and its more lyrical side, while interacting closely with the accompaniment in a conversational, chamber-like style.

Concerto for Trumpet – Alexandra Pakhmutova

Alexandra Pakhmutova (b. 1929) is a Russian composer whose music blends classical traditions with elements of Soviet-era lyricism and accessibility. Best known for her orchestral works, her style is often characterized by strong, memorable melodies and clear emotional directness. Her Trumpet Concerto reflects this approach, combining technical brilliance with expressive, song-like writing that allows the soloist to connect easily with the audience.

The concerto showcases the trumpet's full range of capabilities, from bold, heroic passages to more lyrical and reflective moments. Rhythmic energy and bright orchestration give the piece a sense of drive and excitement, while contrasting sections provide moments of warmth and introspection. Overall, the work highlights both the virtuosity and expressive potential of the trumpet, making it a compelling addition to the modern trumpet repertoire.

Vocalise – Sergei Rachmaninoff

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943) was a Russian composer, pianist, and conductor known for his deeply expressive music and rich harmonic language. *Vocalise*, originally written for voice and piano as part of his Op. 34 song set, is unique in that

it contains no text. Instead, it is sung on a single vowel, allowing the performer to focus entirely on shaping the melody and conveying emotion without the influence of words.

The piece unfolds as one long, flowing melodic line, supported by lush harmonies that create a sense of warmth and longing. When performed on flugelhorn, *Vocalise* highlights the lyrical qualities of the instrument, requiring smooth phrasing, control, and expressive nuance. Its simplicity and emotional depth make it one of Rachmaninoff's most beloved works, resonating with audiences through its pure, vocal-like expression.

Sonata for Trumpet and Piano – Karl Pilss

Karl Pilss was an Austrian composer and conductor whose music reflects a blend of late-Romantic lyricism and early 20th-century tonal language. Though not as widely known as some of his contemporaries, he contributed a number of works for wind instruments that remain important in their respective repertoires. His writing often emphasizes expressive melody while maintaining a clear structural framework.

The Trumpet Sonata showcases both the lyrical and technical capabilities of the instrument through its contrasting sections. The piece moves between flowing, expressive lines and more rhythmically active passages, requiring both control and agility from the performer. While the harmonic language is more modern than earlier repertoire, it remains accessible, allowing the musical character and phrasing to come through clearly.

Centennial Horizon – Kevin McKee

Kevin McKee is an American composer and trumpeter known for writing vibrant, engaging music that blends classical traditions with jazz and popular influences. As a performer himself, he has a strong understanding of the instrument, which allows him to write music that is both technically exciting and highly expressive. His works have become popular in the trumpet repertoire for their energy, accessibility, and connection with modern audiences.

Centennial Horizon was written as a tribute to his late grandmother who always suggested that he wrote a piece about the state of Colorado as it was her favorite place. McKee captures the beauty and adventure of the state with two contrasting movements (*Aspen Grove* and *Roaring Gunnison*) that are connected by an interlude (*Alpenglow*).

This piece reflects McKee's signature style through its driving rhythms, bold character, and contrasting lyrical moments. The piece explores a wide range of colors on the trumpet, shifting between bright, energetic passages and more reflective sections. A sense of forward motion and optimism gives it a celebratory feel, while still allowing space for expressive phrasing, making it both exciting to perform and engaging to hear.