

SENIOR RECITAL

Kenna Couch, trumpet

With Kristen Harwell, piano

Sunday, October 25, 2026
Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall
6:00 P.M.

PROGRAM

Aria con Variazioni — George Frideric Handel (1683-1759)

Equinox Sonata — Carson Cooman (b. 1982)

I. Sun Horizon
II. Dream Walking
III. Moon Mysteries

BRIEF INTERMISSION

Three Episodes — Joseph Turrin (b. 1947)

I. Fanfare
II. Andante
III. Allegro

Can't Help Falling In Love — George Weiss (1921-2010)

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PROGRAM NOTES

Aria con Variazioni is the final movement of the ***5th Suite in E Major for Harpsichord*** one of the 16 suites George Friderick Handel wrote for the harpsichord. Although the original variations have been retained in either the solo instrument or the accompaniment for piano, the composition is very freely transcribed, which is performed while the piano plays the original variation. The interludes by the piano are an integral part of the composition in which the piano plays the variations in their original form, thus assuming the role of the solo instrument. Due to the importance of the piano part, this version of the composition might be considered a duo for cornet and piano.

Carson Cooman dedicates the ***Equinox Sonata*** for trumpet and piano to Chris Gekker. Cooman writes, "At the two-yearly equinoxes, the plane of the earth's equator passes the center of the sun, and day and night are equal. I. Sun Horizon is bright and energetic, cast in a loose sonata form. II. Dream Walking is dedicated in memory of composer Brian Fennelly (1937-2015). The tone is lyric and elegiac-building to several climaxes before ending quietly. III. Moon Mysteries begins with a machine-like ostinato and a modal melody. The (nervous) energy does not abate as the music presses towards a vigorous conclusion."

Joseph Turrin writes at the beginning of ***Three Episodes***, "I wrote ***Three Episodes*** for a recording project that Phil Smith and I were doing for the International Trumpet Guild (ITG) in 2001. Although I never gave the individual movements any titles, the first movement is basically a fanfare build on a series of pyramids in the piano, along with declamatory trumpet writing. The second movement is very much like a lullaby, played on the trumpet. This is a song like piece with a middle section juxtaposing trumpet cadenzas with soft clusters in the piano. The third movement is basically a march with several contrasting sections."

To end my recital, I am playing ***Can't Help Falling in Love*** written by composer George Weiss and made famous by singer Elvis Presley. I am ending my program with this piece for a couple of different reasons. Firstly, it was the first solo I played as a middle schooler. I chose this song in middle school because my favorite band, twenty one pilots, did a cover of it that I loved. Another reason is for my grandma. She loves Elvis and I wanted to pay homage to my family in that way. Lastly, and most embarrassingly, this song is featured heavily in my favorite Supernatural fan fiction. Supernatural has been my favorite TV show throughout my high school and college career, so I was happy to feature a song that reminded me of it.

Thank you all for coming to support me!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Collaborators
Kristin Harwell, Piano Jackson Joyce, Arranger

Recital Committee Dr. Richard Rulli
Dr. Benjamin Pierce Mr. Henry Runkles

Trumpet Instructor Dr. Richard Rulli

Special Thanks Dr. Rulli
Friends and Family Trumpet Studio

Kenna Couch is a student of Dr. Richard Rulli.
This recital is given in partial fulfillment of the Bachelor of Music in Music Education degree.