



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS®

Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music

LESLIE AVILA

Trombone

Sui Lin, Piano

MAY 6, 2026 | 5:30 PM

HARRIS CONCERT HALL

Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music
Jacob Allen, Interim Director
College of Communication and Fine Arts
Deb Burns, Dean

PROGRAM

Trombonsillo

Carolina Calvache
(b.1985)

Les Chemins de L'Amour
from "Leocadia"

Francis Poulenc
(1899-1963)

Reflective Mood

Sammy Nestico
(1924-2021)

-Intermission-

Ave Maria

Giulio Caccini
(1551-1618)
Arr. Algirdas Matonis

Alexander Chan, Euphonium
Leslie Avila, Trombone

Just A Closer Walk with Thee

Arr. Don Gillis
(1912-1978)

Tulip Winds Brass Quintet

Ben VanderBijl, Tyler Scott, Trumpets
Juan Garay, Horn
Leslie Avila, Trombone
Nathan Owen, Tuba

PROGRAM NOTES

Carolina Calvache - Trombonsillo

An award-winning artist, Colombian jazz pianist and composer Carolina Calvache composes music that creates sounds influenced by jazz, classical, and Latin American folk and popular music. She holds a Bachelor of Music from Universidad del Valle (Cali, Colombia), a Master of Music from the University of North Texas, and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Jazz Composition from the University of Miami. She currently serves as Assistant Professor at the University of Central Missouri. "Trombonsillo," composed by Calvache, is an original piece for trombone and piano dedicated to Greek trombonist Achilles Liarmakopoulos. The piece's title comes from the word's trombone and pasillo, a traditional Colombian rhythm and dance written in 3/4 meter.

Francis Poulenc – “Les Chemins de L’Amour” from “Leocadia”

Francis Poulenc (Born Francis Jean Marcel Poulenc) was a French pianist and composer. Having composed solo piano works, choral pieces, operas, ballets, and orchestral music, his compositions indicated a shift from romanticism to spiritual, light, and expressive style. “Les Chemins de L’Amour”, music composed by Poulenc and lyrics by Jean Anouilh, was written for Anouilh’s play “Leocadia”, starring French soprano singer and actress Yvonne Printemps. The art song is written as a sung waltz, and the lyrics are meant to invoke nostalgia, having a reminiscent feel added to the play’s theme of love. The play “Leocadia” is about a young prince who falls madly in love with a woman (Leocadia Gardi) whom he only encounters for three days. After her tragic passing the nobleman is obsessed with reminiscing on his memories of her. His aunt then hires a lookalike girl to try and bring him out of his state which results in him accepting his new reality without Leocadia.

PROGRAM NOTES

Le Chemins de L'Amour English Translation: (The Paths of Love)

The Paths that lead to the sea
Have retained from our passing
The flowers that shed their petals
And the Echo beneath their trees
Of our clear laughter.
Alas! No trace of those happy days
Those radiant joys now flow,
Can I find again
In my heart.

Paths of my love,
I search for you ceaselessly,
Lost paths, you are no more
And your echoes are muted.
Paths of despair,
Paths of memory
Paths of our first day,
Divine paths of love.

If one day I must forget,
Since life obliterates everything.
I wish for my heart to remember one thing,
More vivid than the other love,
To remember the path
Where trembling and quite distracted,
I one day felt on me your passionate hands.

PROGRAM NOTES

Sammy Nestico – Reflective Mood

Sammy Nestico (born Samuel Luigi Nistico) was an American composer, arranger, trombonist and music educator. Nestico served in the United States Air Force Band and the United States Marine Band serving as a leader and arranger for both ensembles (Airmen of Note and the White House Orchestra) Known primarily for his jazz works, Nestico composed and arranged music for the Count Basie Orchestra after his military service, and also worked with other big artists such as Frank Sinatra and Sarah Vaughan. Written in 1964, “Reflective Mood” is a lyrical expressive jazz ballad dedicated to his trombone teacher Matthew Shiner.

Giulio Caccini – Ave Maria

Giulio Caccini was an Italian singer, composer, instrumentalist, and teacher from the late sixteenth century. Caccini was considered one of the key founders who helped establish opera and the new style of Baroque music with his help in composing music for Jacopo Peri’s opera “Euridice.” Later he would become the father to Francesca Caccini, the first woman to write an opera. Although attributed to Caccini, there is controversy on who wrote this Aria. There are claims that the real composer of the “Ave Maria” was Vladimir Vavilov, a Russian guitarist and composer, who anonymously published the “Ave Maria” in 1970. The misattribution is thought to have happened after a musician who played with Vavilov claimed that the Aria was Caccini’s. The Caccini “Ave Maria” has a gentle lyrical melody set to the Catholic Latin prayer and is recognized for its dissonance and chromaticism.

Ave Maria (Hail Mary)

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women,
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death,
Amen.

PROGRAM NOTES

The Canadian Brass - Just A Closer Walk with Thee

“Just A Closer Walk with Thee” is a traditional Gospel song that dates to southern African American Churches in the 19th century. This hymn is traditionally played by Brass Bands in New Orleans Jazz Funerals, a tradition that stems from West African Tribal tradition where music was used to help their loved ones in their passage from Earth to Heaven. Typically, the music starts slowly and mournfully but then switches to fast and cheerful, showing a celebration of the person’s life. This arrangement by Don Gillis for The Canadian Brass Quintet is an interpretation of this gospel song, starting the piece off slowly and somber and then switches to quick Dixieland style. The Canadian Brass Quintet formed in Toronto, Ontario in 1970 with a goal of bringing people the sound of brass music. The Canadian Brass continues to perform around the world even after five decades and is considered world-renowned musical group. Sharing the diversity in their repertoire around the world, all the way from Baroque music to Latin pieces.