The Euphonia Quartet

The Euphonia Quartet was formed in 2015 at SFA to promote the unique ensemble of the euphonium quartet rather than the traditional tuba-euphonium quartet. The projects main goal was to submit an entry to the International Tuba-Euphonium Association's (ITEA) chamber music competition at the 2016 ITEA Convention in Knoxville, Tennessee. The submission deadline was December of 2015 and the fall semester was used to select the music, arrange music for the group, and rehearse/record the selected works. The quartet advanced to the semi-finals and was ranked 7th out of 31 submitted ensembles. We will compete in the semi-finals for the competition in May.

History

Being a relatively new instrument, the euphonium did not truly come into circulation until the end to late 1800s with the combination of the French and Berlin valve systems. The late introduction meant that composers would have to take a risk composing for a new instrument, when there were many established instruments to choose from that would surely yield a profit. This unfortunately holds true to today as the Euphonium has only had its’ moments of increased popularity. However, in recent years, the amount of pieces with relevant euphonium parts has skyrocketed, in turn creating a much more successful soloist repertoire field. As Euphonia, we are trying to bring that soloistic success to the world of chamber music.

Works We Have Contributed

1. Havella Songo – Gordon Goodwin
2. Fly Me to the Moon – Frank Sinatra
3. Dances – John Stevens
4. Power – John Stevens
5. Scarborough Fair – Simon & Garfunkel
6. Brazil – Arry Barros
7. Benedection – John Stevens
8. Give Up – Keaton Clark
9. Count Bubba – Gordon Goodwin
10. Eroica – Beethoven
11. Bugler’s Holiday – Larry hormonal
12. Melody Shop – Carl King
14. Happy – Pharrell Williams
15. Consequences – John Stevens
And Many More

Standard Repertoire

4 Euphoniums for You – Yasuhide
A Superhero Suite – Hackett
War Machine – Anthony O’Toole
Go – John Stevens

How We are Contributing

For the competition, we were required to submit two recordings ranging from 8-10 minutes – one originally composed for the instrumentation of our ensemble and one arrangement of a work composed from the Baroque era to the Romantic era – partial or complete. For the original composition, we chose to do War Machine by Anthony O’Toole. This piece is fueled by it’s driving rhythms and soaring melodies. It was originally written for the 2012 EIF festival’s ensemble competition composition. We chose the work because it highlighted a lot of the skills and talents of the players in our ensemble. The larger challenge was deciding the piece for the arrangement part of the competition. Joseph Schaect, our lead player, used the music notation program Finale to arrange Beethoven’s 3rd Symphony, Eroica, for our ensemble. Since the actual symphony is an hour total for all four movement the entire symphony would have been too long with the competitions time requirements. This turned out to be an excellent opportunity to play music that was not intentionally written for our instrument as the euphonium is not traditionally in the orchestra. In the end, we chose to do about a minute and a half to two minutes of music from each of the four movements in order to give the symphony a sense of completion.