



2-2-2010

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Monica Piotrowski '10
Illinois Wesleyan University

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Recommended Citation

Piotrowski '10, Monica, "Tuba Alumni Recital" (2010). *News and Events*. 1345.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/1345>

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Tuba Alumni Recital

February 2, 2010

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Wesleyan University's School of Music will present a tuba alumni recital featuring Paul Nesper and Josh Biere, accompanied by Momoko Gresham on piano at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 7 in the Westbrook Auditorium of Presser Hall (1210 Park St., Bloomington).

The recital is free and open to the public.

Nesper, class of '04, who began playing tuba at age 10, grew up in Tinley Park, Ill. While at Illinois Wesleyan, he studied under conductor Ed Risinger and participated in many musical ensembles including the Wind Ensemble, IWU Civic Orchestra, Symphonic Band and Titan Band. He formed the chamber group Park Street Bass Quintet in 2001 and was one of the founding members of IWU's tuba quartet. He received a master's degree in tuba performance from Illinois State University and is currently attending the University of Oklahoma where he is working on a doctor of musical arts degree.

Biere, class of '07, received a bachelor's degree in musical education from Illinois Wesleyan and a master of music degree from Northwestern University. Biere is a freelance musician and teacher in the Chicago area. He has performed with many professional organizations including the Grant Park Symphony and the St. Paul Symphony Orchestra. Currently Biere is the principal tubist in the Kenosha Symphony and a founding member of the Northshore Brass Quintet.

The performance will include such pieces as "*Concerto for Tuba or Bass Trombone*" by Eric Ewazen; "*Chanson De Nuit*" and "*Chanson De Matin*" by Edward Elgar, arranged by Michael Thorton; "*Salut d' Amour*" by Edward Elgar; "*Lamento*" by Sofia Gubaidulina; "*Sonata for Cello*" in G minor, Opus 19, by Sergei Rachmaninov; "*Let there be Funk*" by D. Edward Davis; "*Concerto No. 3*" in D minor for two tubas by Johann Sebastian Bach, arranged by James Self; and "*Dies Irae*" from *Requiem* by Giuseppe Verdi, arranged by Jason Cole.

The program will also include Cindy Pistone (euphonium), Sam Sterbenc (euphonium), Paul Tkach (euphonium), Tom Miller (euphonium), Aaron O'Neill (euphonium), Rachel Rhody (euphonium), Max Briggs (tuba), Nathaniel Strauss (tuba), Meghan Nally (tuba), Lily Sikes (tuba), Terry Joria (tuba) and James McCauley (alumni tuba).

For additional information contact the School of Music office at (309) 556-3061.

Contact: Monica Piotrowski '10, (309) 556-3181