

Fixed Media Solo Recital 2024

Interactive Program

John Manning, tuba
University of Missouri
Thursday, November 14, 2024

[Soundings](#) by [James Naigus](#)

[Floating Dreams](#) by [Peter Meechan](#)

[Blue Grace](#) by Claire Sievers

Four [17th Century Italian Songs and Arias](#) *

1. *Pieta, Signore!* by A. Stradella (1645-1682)
2. *Lasciatemi morire!* by C. Monteverdi (1567-1643)
3. *Il mio bel foco* by B. Marcello (1686-1739)
4. *Tu lo sai* by G. Torelli (1650-1703)

* [John Keene](#), recorded piano

[My Mountaintop](#) by [Andy Scott](#)

[Cheese Spread](#) by [John Manning](#)

[Music from Harry Potter](#)

- I. *Hedwig's Theme* by John Williams
- II. *Hogwarts March* by Patrick Doyle
- III. *Harry In Winter* by Patrick Doyle
- IV. *Wizard Wheezes* by Nicholas Hooper

[Kick-ass Sonata](#) by [Brian Sadler](#)

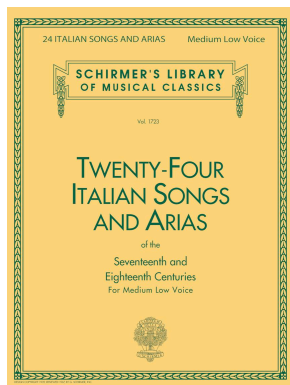
PROGRAM NOTES:

This recital is intended to showcase some of my favorite works for tuba and fixed media, ranging from vocal work I first learned to play along to a cassette tape, to brand new works by some exciting young composers written for tuba and synthesized backing tracks. This represents a trend in new music and an engaging way to practice as well as perform works with backing tracks.

[James Naigus](#) is a horn player, composer, Lecturer of Horn at the [University of Georgia](#), and an alum of the University of Iowa. He composed ***Soundings*** for my colleague, Jeffrey Agrell, who recorded it on his [CD of the same name](#). James adapted it for tuba at my request, and I have greatly enjoyed performing it over the past few years.

Floating Dreams was composed in 2007 by [Peter Meechan](#) for tuba and CD and has been recorded by Les Neish and Velvet Brown. This slow, contemplative piece suggests a jazz aesthetic, both in its melodic language and synthesized keyboard and fretless bass sounds. The brooding chordal atmosphere contrasted with the brightness of music box bells and tremolo organ create an engaging palette of color for the sometimes bluesy and introspective tuba line.

Claire Sievers earned her Masters degree with me at the University of Iowa. In addition to her talent as a tuba player, she is also a gifted composer. [Blue Grace](#) is a bittersweet and beautiful tribute to a tragic loss in her family. I recorded this piece on my second solo CD, *Field Notes: Tuba Music from Iowa*. Although it is an unaccompanied piece for solo tuba and not a fixed media, I think it works well on this program.



The first time I ever played tuba and “mixed media” was in college. Then, it was using a cassette tape recording of a piano accompaniment to a book entitled [24 Italian Songs and Arias of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries for Medium Low Voice](#), published by Schirmer and intended to assist vocalists in learning standard literature. I simply took it as an extension of studying the vocalises of Marco Bordogni, which is a very common etude book used by brass players to develop a *bel canto* style. I’ve chosen my four favorite songs and arias from this collection. The original accompaniments, recorded by John Keene, have a slightly lower sound quality in comparison to the more modern selections on this recital, but Keene’s playing remains inspiring. The English translations to each song or aria is listed below:

Pieta, Signore!

Have mercy, Lord, on me in my remorse!

Lord, have mercy if my prayer rises to you; do not chastise me in your severity, less harshly, always mercifully, look down on me,

Never let me be condemned to hell in the eternal fire by your severity.

Almighty God, never let me be condemned to hell in the eternal fire by your severity.

Have mercy, Lord, have mercy on me in my remorse, if my prayer rises to you.

Less harshly, always mercifully, look down, ah! look down on me, Lord.

Have mercy, Lord on me in my remorse.

Lasciatemi morire!

Let me die!

And whom do you want to comfort me
in such cruel fate,

in such great suffering?

Let me die!

Il mio bel foco

My joyful ardor

Whether near or far distant from thee I tarry

Unchanged and constant ever

For thee, O my beloved, Shall languish never

In my heart the flames that burn me

All my soul do so enravish

That they ne'er shall cease to glow

All my soul do so enravish

That they ne'er shall cease to glow

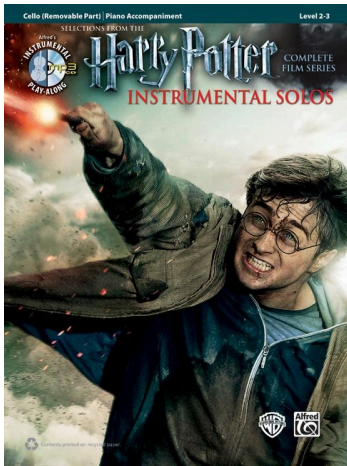
And should fate to ye return me

Tu lo sai

You now know how I loved you,
You now know, my cruel love !
Other loves I don't desire
just remember your old lover
bringing scorn to the unfaithful.

My Mountain Top is one of Andy's most performed and recorded works. Commissioned by the ISCM World Music Days & originally written for the Apollo Saxophone Quartet, with words and narration by [Lemn Sissay](#), My Mountain Top has subsequently been arranged by the composer for a number of solo instruments including saxophone, tuba, alto flute, & tenor horn. This piece commences with a crackle on the accompanying CD, representing lying under the gaze of the sun and feeling the heat on your skin. The rhythmically free opening euphonium statements represent a mind that is active with thoughts but which gradually floats into a semi-conscious state. At this point the warm keyboard pads emerge and the stage is set for Lemn Sissay's magical words. The solo part weaves its way around the voice, gesturing and supporting, but never overpowering.

I created the backing track for **Cheese Spread** using Apple's [GarageBand](#) software in 2005, as an experiment. Inspired by the tape loop composition *It's Gonna Rain* by [Steve Reich](#), I used a five-second sample from a Television commercial for "America's number one cheese spread" and started performing improvised solos to it. For my solo recording [Field Notes: Tuba Music from Iowa](#), I recorded an improvisation in one take, and liked the result enough to transcribe it and perform it as a composition. A colleague of mine jokingly suggested inserting a [musical cryptogram](#) using the Bostonian pronunciation of Cheddar ("chedda"): C natural, B natural (which equals H in the German method), D natural, D natural, and A natural. It is the only portion of the piece that is not in G-flat major, represented by the drone. Listen for it about a minute into the piece.



A few years ago, while teaching at the Atlantic Brass Quintet Seminar at Lawrence Conservatory in Appleton, Wisconsin, I visited [Heid Music](#) and purchased a copy of [Harry Potter Instrumental Solos for Strings](#) (cello edition) published by Alfred's Instrumental Play Along. I am a big fan of the Harry Potter films and have had a great time playing through this book.. In addition to J.K. Rowling's story, for me it is the scenery, the great actors and especially the music that helps make these films great. The four selections I have chosen were composed by John Williams, Patrick Doyle, and Nicholas Hooper. Each has a style unto its own and the music evokes the movies for me every time. Being a "play along" style book, the cello part is supported by many instruments, so I try to blend in more than project as a soloist for these selections. Please note that the third selection, *Harry in Winter* requires a four-beat click for a synchronous start

Kick-ass Sonata is now the first movement of a longer work called *Journey for Tuba*, which was recently recorded by a former student of mine, Dr. Jeremy Crawford, on his new CD [Hummingbird](#). The composer, [Brian Sadler](#) is known for his work for concert bands, films and video games. It is a fun, high-energy work for tuba and CD and a fitting finale to my recital. Thank you for coming to my recital, I sincerely hope you enjoyed it! If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at john-manning@uiowa.edu.

BIOGRAPHY:

[John Manning](#), Associate Professor of [the tuba and euphonium studio](#) at the [University of Iowa Voxman School of Music](#), is a founding member of the award-winning [Atlantic Brass Quintet](#). Originally from Raynham, Massachusetts, Mr. Manning received his undergraduate degree from Boston University and his graduate degree from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. From 1986 to 1989, John served as the tuba soloist with the Air Force Band of the Golden West. While stationed in California, former Staff Sergeant Manning was involved in numerous recordings and performed extensively throughout the Western United States.

With the Atlantic Brass Quintet, Mr. Manning has toured across 48 U.S. states and 20 countries around the world, including Korea, Japan, Costa Rica, France, Kuwait, India, Pakistan, England, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The quintet has won six international chamber music competitions and performed at the White House, Tanglewood, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Savannah Onstage, the Sacramento Festival for New American Music, the Bank of Boston Celebrity Series and the International Trumpet Guild Conference. The Atlantic Brass Quintet has conducted master classes at dozens of schools and colleges across the country including Rice University, the San Francisco Conservatory, and the Juilliard School.

Mr. Manning has served on the faculty of The Boston Conservatory, Boston University's School for the Arts, and Tanglewood Institute, and the University of Massachusetts. He has also taught at Brandeis University, Mount Holyoke College, and Amherst College and conducted tuba master classes at Louisiana State University, the University at Buffalo, Chautauqua Institution, and New England Conservatory. Outside the United States, John has worked with brass students in Tokyo, Japan; San Jose, Costa Rica; Panama City, Panama; the Cairo Opera House in Egypt; and the Royal Omani National Orchestra School in Muscat, Oman. In 1997, prior to competing in the World Euphonium and Tuba Competition of Guebwiller, France, he appeared as a guest on the NPR radio program "The Connection," hosted by Christopher Lydon.

In service to his profession, Manning has hosted two regional tuba euphonium conferences; the Northeastern Regional Tuba Euphonium Conference at University of Massachusetts in 2003, and the Hawkeye Regional Tuba Euphonium Conference at the University of Iowa in 2007. He has also served as an adjudicator for tuba and euphonium competitions in Canada, Korea, Taiwan and the United States. In 2019, he hosted the International Tuba Euphonium Conference (ITEC) at the University of Iowa Voxman School of Music, and was appointed to the Executive Board of the International Tuba Euphonium Association as the Conference Coordinator. In 2021, he helped organize and host the first Virtual Tuba Euphonium Conference.

As a freelance musician, Mr. Manning has performed with the Boston Symphony, the Empire Brass and the Boston Pops. He has also served as principal tuba with the Vermont Symphony, the Albany (NY) Symphony and the Cedar Rapids Symphony Orchestra

John has presented solo recitals across the United States, and at International Tuba Euphonium Conferences in Regina, Greensboro, Denver, Tucson, Knoxville and Tempe. Has appeared as a guest soloist with the Pioneer Valley Symphony, the Eastern Iowa Brass Band, and the University of Iowa Symphony Orchestra and Symphony Band. He has recorded two solo CDs on the Summit Records label. His debut solo recording, [Four Corners: Tuba Music from around the World](#), was released in 2009, followed in 2016 by [Field Notes: Tuba Music from Iowa](#).

John is a [Yamaha Performing Artist](#) and plays exclusively Yamaha tubas and Signature Mouthpieces. For solo work, he plays the [YFB-822 F tuba](#), with the "[Roger Bobo - Solo](#)" model mouthpiece, and in the Atlantic Brass Quintet, he plays the [YCB-621S CC tuba](#) with the "[Jim Self](#)" model mouthpiece.