premieres of pieces by Kenneth Frazelle, Christopher Ozley, and others. He is an enthusiastic performer of the Great American Songbook; at a recent recital, he revived the virtuoso song transcriptions of mid-20th century cocktail pianist Cy Walter; a close friend of Walter’s described the performances as “damn[ed] good,” saying that it was the first time since Walter’s death that he had been so moved by a rendition of the transcriptions.

Recent performances include presentations of Kenneth Frazelle’s song cycle “Songs in the Rear View Mirror” throughout Texas and North Carolina, as well as a performance at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall in the spring of 2013. At that concert, he gave the world-premiere of Frazelle’s solo piano work “The Book of Blue Flowers.”

His writings include an in-progress biography of the American pianist and Debussy specialist George Copeland. An article on the history of accompanying appeared in the February/March 2011 issue of American Music Teacher.

Dr. Masters holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music (DMA), the Juilliard School (MM) and the University of Colorado at Boulder (BM).
PROGRAM

Divertimento for Trumpet, Trombone and Piano (1946) Boris Blacher (1903-1975)
Exigencies (2014) Kent Holliday (b. 1940)
Trio for Trumpet, Trombone and Piano (2014) T. L. Mainland

World Premiere

BRIEF PAUSE

Grand Duo Eric Lyon (b. 1962)
Cousins H. L. Clarke (1867-1945)

BIOGRAPHY

Jason Crafton is Assistant Professor of Trumpet at Virginia Tech, where he teaches studio trumpet and directs both of the department’s large jazz ensembles. Prior to this appointment he held positions at Texas A&M University-Kingsville and North Central Texas College. In addition, he has presented recitals, clinics and master classes at the University of Virginia, the Colorado All-State Music Festival, University of Akron, Texas State University, the Shanghai Community International School, and the “Hindemithon” festival at William Paterson University.

Crafton holds a doctorate in music from the University of North Texas where he was a student of Keith Johnson. He also holds degrees from the University of Northern Colorado and Drake University, having studied with Robert Murray and Andrew Classen. He has undertaken additional studies with Adam Gordon (baroque trumpet), John Holt and John D’earth.

As a performer he has appeared professionally with a wide variety of ensembles, including the Roanoke Symphony, Opera Roanoke, Ash Lawn Opera (VA), Shenandoah Symphony, Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival, Des Moines Metropolitan Opera, Cheyenne Symphony, Wyoming Symphony, Mannheim Steamroller, Bigfork Summer Playhouse, Dallas Wind Symphony, and Dallas Opera. These experiences have been augmented by the opportunity to perform, record, and tour with the North Texas Wind Symphony and University of Northern Colorado’s Jazz Lab Band One. He can be heard on numerous recordings on the Mark and GIA labels, including over a dozen releases by the North Texas Wind Symphony and four volumes of Teaching Music Through Performance in Band.

David Ball is an Assistant Professor of Music at Concord University in Athens, West Virginia. He serves as the Director of Bands where he conducts the marching, pep, jazz and concert bands; teaches individual applied lessons for brass instruments in addition other courses in music. David has spent the past three summers with the Ohio Light Opera at the College of Wooster and can be heard on the Albany, Chandos, and Polyphonic record labels. He is a founding member of Spark Brass and can be followed at www.sparkbrass.com.

David holds degrees in trombone and euphonium performance from the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities; the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, England; and Virginia Tech.

Praised by critics as “extraordinary” (The DCist) and “astounding” (CVNC), Richard Masters is a soloist, opera coach, chamber musician and orchestral pianist based in Blacksburg, VA, where he recently joined the faculty at Virginia Tech.

Significant collaborations include concerts with baritone Donnie Ray Albert, mezzo-soprano Kathryn Findlen, mezzo-soprano Barbara Conrad, and many others. He has appeared with former Boston Symphony principal trombonist Norman Bolter, former Juilliard String Quartet violinist Earl Carlyss, saxophonist Harvey Pittel, and under the baton of Lorin Maazel. Dr. Masters has performed solo, chamber and vocal recitals throughout the U.S. and in Europe.

As a solo pianist, Dr. Masters plays a wide variety of standard and non-traditional repertoire, including contemporary pieces written for or commissioned by him. A strong proponent of contemporary American composers, he has performed world