

THE ST. OLAF COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

presents a
GUEST RECITAL

Kenneth Thompkins, *trombone*

assisted by
Rose Tyler, *piano*

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2025 • URNESS RECITAL HALL • 8:15 P.M.

PROGRAM

Sonata in One Movement

Kevin Day
(b. 1996)

Songs of Separation

Idolatry
Poeme
Parted
A Black Pierrot

William Grant Still
(1895–1978)

~Intermission~

Rhapsody for Trombone and Piano

Brian Nabors
(b. 1991)

Sonata for Trombone and Piano

Moderato
Andante cantabile
Allegro giusto
Allegro comodo
Grandioso

Alec Wilder
(1907–1980)

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ABOUT THE ARTIST

Kenneth Thompkins is currently the Associate Professor of Trombone at Michigan State University. He was Principal Trombone of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra from 1997 to 2024. Prior to this appointment he held positions in the Buffalo Philharmonic and The Florida Orchestra. He has also performed with the New World Symphony under the direction of Michael Tilson Thomas.

Thompkins enjoys working with young musicians and has performed masterclasses and recitals at many universities including the Curtis Institute of Music, The Juilliard School, and the Eastman School of Music. He has also been on faculty at the National Orchestral Institute, National Youth Orchestra, and Taipei Music Festival and Academy. In 2017 Thompkins recorded *Sonatas, Songs and Spirituals* featuring the music of Alec Wilder, William Grant Still and Philip Wharton. *Sonatas, Songs and Spirituals* was the winner of The American Prize in Instrumental Performance for 2018–2019. His latest recording, *Compelling Portraits*, features the compositions of contemporary Black composers including James Lee III, Brian Nabors, Kevin Day, Maurice Draughn and Shawn Okpebholo. He has performed as a soloist with Chineke! and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. He can also be heard on recordings with the New World Symphony and the Detroit Symphony.