

Demondrae Thurman

is considered one of the stars of the formidable generation of brass soloists. His euphonium playing has been described as “awe inspiring”, and he is touted as “an amazing musician”. Demondrae has a firm international reputation as a euphonium soloist having performed in France, Germany, England, Norway, Romania, and throughout North America. Many of America's premiere colleges and universities have hosted him as a performer and teacher and he continues to be in high demand. Over the last ten years, Demondrae has been an invited guest artist/clinician at many of the world's prestigious euphonium festivals including the International Tuba/Euphonium Conference, U.S. Army Band Tuba and Euphonium Conference and the Leonard Falcone Competition.

Demondrae is also an active chamber musician. He plays first euphonium and trombone in the highly regarded Sotto Voce Quartet which tours extensively. The quartet has released three recordings on the Summit Records label; all of which have received stellar reviews. *Viva Voce!: The Complete Quartets of Johns Stevens* won the International Tuba/Euphonium Association award for best chamber music recording in 2006. The quartet has been featured several times on American Public Media's, *Performance Today*. He also plays first baritone horn in the Brass Band of Battle Creek, a British brass band comprised of many of the world's best brass and percussion performers. In addition to his chamber music work, Demondrae is in demand as a euphonium specialist for symphony orchestras including those of Atlanta, North Carolina and the Eastern Music Festival.

Demondrae's conducting career began in 1999 when he co-founded the wind ensemble at Alabama State University. In the six years with that ensemble, his



reputation grew as conductor and clinician. He conducted several honor bands and served as an adjudicator for the Alabama Bandmasters Association. His symphony orchestra debut came in 2008 conducting *Scheherazade* by Rimsky Korsakov with the Huxford Symphony Orchestra of the University of Alabama. Demondrae released his first solo recording on the Summit Records label in 2005 entitled, *Soliloquies*. It received a 9/9 out of 10/10 from classicstoday.com and he was referred to as “having earned (his) stripes as one of the premiere euphonium players in the world”. Showing his dedication to new music, all of



the music on the recording was written for him or with his playing in mind. His second release, *Songs of a Wayfarer*, is set for release in 2010. Demondrae can also be heard on recordings with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Brass Band of Battle Creek, and the New South Jazz Orchestra.

Currently, Demondrae is Associate Professor of Euphonium and Tuba and Chair of the Brass Area at the University of Alabama. He is also teaches at the annual Miraphone Academy.

Demondrae Thurman is a Miraphone Performing Artist and plays exclusively the Miraphone 5050 Ambassador “Edition” euphonium which was designed specifically for him. He also plays the custom “Demondrae” model mouthpiece manufactured by Warburton Music Products.