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ISU Guitar Studio and Ensemble, April 7, 2021

Dr. Angelo L. Favis Director

Max Cichock

Harrison Gordon

Matthew Kwon

Miguel Lumbao

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Illinois State University
College of Fine Arts
School of Music

ISU GUITAR STUDIO & ENSEMBLE

Dr. Angelo L. Favis, *Director*

Max Cichock

Harrison Gordon

Matthew Kwon

Miguel Lumbao

Jackson Miller

Jack Mistretta

Andrea McAfee, *special guest*

Kemp Recital Hall
April 7, 2021
Wednesday Evening
7:30 p.m.

This is the sixty-ninth program of the 2020-2021 season.

Program

Please turn off cell phones and pagers for the duration of the concert. Thank you.

ISU Guitar Studio

Estudio Sencillo No. 2		Leo Brouwer (born 1939)
Study in C Major, Op. 60 No. 1		Matteo Carcassi (1792-1853)
	Jack Mistretta	
Estudio Sencillo No. 7		Leo Brouwer
Study in C Major, Op. 60 No. 1		Matteo Carcassi
Estudio Sencillo No. 6		Leo Brouwer
	Harrison Gordon	
Study in A minor, Op. 60 No. 7		Matteo Carcassi
Estudio Sencillo No. 1		Leo Brouwer
Estudio Sencillo No. 7		(born 1939)
Study in C Major, Op. 35 No. 13		Fernando Sor (1778-1839)
	Max Cichock	
Study No. 1 in C Major		Giulio Regondi (1822-1872)
<i>from</i> Suite in D Major, BWV 1007		Johann Sebastian Bach
Courante		(1685-1750)
Gigue		
<i>from</i> Serenade for Guitar and Optional Percussion (1978)		Lou Harrison
I. Round		(1917-2003)
	Matthew Kwon	

ISU Guitar Quartet

Tocata (1994)	Leo Brouwer
Six Fish (2003)	Nigel Westlake (born 1958)
Guitarfish	
Sunfish	
Spangled Emperor	
Flying Fish	
Leafy Sea-dragon	
Sling-Jaw Wrasse	
Miguel Lumbao, Jackson Miller, Matthew Kwon, Angelo L. Favis	

ISU Guitar Ensemble

Sextet VII	Maasz (1906-1984)
Nine Planets, Op. 4 (2021)*	Philip Hemmo (born 1968)
Mercury	
Venus	
Earth	
Mars	
Jupiter	
Saturn	
Uranus	
Neptune	
Pluto	
Brajamazil (2008)	Andrew York (born 1958)
Beyond Ferguson (2014/rev. 2019)	Thomas Flippin (born 1983)
<i>Based on a melody in Michael Brown's Music</i>	
Andrea McAfee, <i>reader</i>	
Nebulae (2012)	Olga Amelkina-Vera (born 1976)
Homage to Elliott Smith ("Snapshot") (2007)	Alan Thomas (born 1967)

**World Premiere*

PROGRAM NOTES

Nine Planets, Op. 4 was written as short studies for guitar ensembles. Each movement explores one or more technical or musical ideas. – *Philip Hemmo*

Mercury: The smallest and closest planet to the sun speeds through its orbit, always on the move. A year on Mercury lasts only 88 Earth days. In contrast, one day-night cycle takes almost 176 Earth days. The surface temperature is a scorching 430 degrees Celsius (800 degrees Fahrenheit) during the day, and a frosty -180 Celsius (-290 Fahrenheit) at night.

Venus has been thought of as Earth's twin. The two planets share a similar size. However, the similarities end there. With an atmosphere demonstrating the 'greenhouse' effect gone mad, the average daily high is approximately 470 degrees Celsius (880 degrees Fahrenheit). Venus's atmosphere is composed of carbon dioxide and sulfuric acid. At ground level the atmospheric pressure is 90 times that of Earth. This 'twin' has a dark side to her.

Earth: It is easy to forget that our home is, at the time of writing this, the only planet that can support life. As human beings we have many shared experiences with our ancestors. I choose to focus on the awe of a sunrise and the start of a new day with its endless possibilities.

Mars: In 2004 2 rovers landed on Mars with missions to explore, sample and photograph the red planet. Both *Spirit* and *Opportunity* were estimated to have 90-day life spans. *Opportunity* remained active for over 5111 Earth days until June 10, 2018. Although void of feelings, I wonder what life was like for *Opportunity*, who forged a path across the Martian surface with its only communication an intermittent signal to Earth.

Jupiter is the largest planet in our solar system and is twice as massive as all the other planets combined. The planet's composition is similar to the sun, composed of mostly hydrogen and helium. If the planet's mass had been larger, gravity might have been enough to begin fusion and become the second star in our solar system. As it is, Jupiter gives off more light than it receives and is easily seen from earth. I can only imagine the image if humans are ever able to visit.

Saturn: This beautiful world has intrigued man since ancient times. The majestic ring system that we know associated with the planet was first viewed by Galileo in 1610. Saturn is the only planet in our solar system with a mass less dense than water. Orbiting by over 60 moons, Saturn holds many mysteries worthy of discovery.

Uranus: Consisting of a solid core surrounded by methane, water, and ammonia and an atmosphere of hydrogen, helium, methane; Uranus was first visited by mankind in 1986 when Voyager 2 visited this distant world. Uranus rotates sideways compared to our other planetary neighbors.

Neptune: Like Uranus, it is an 'ice giant' roughly 4 times the size of our earth. Neptune's atmosphere is composed of hydrogen, helium, and methane. It boasts winds that reach supersonic speeds whipping around the atmosphere. This is a cold and windy world far from the sun.

Pluto: I have included Pluto in this set even though it was reclassified as a dwarf planet in 2006. As a young person, Pluto always interested me. I can only imagine looking at our life-giving sun from its surface where all we might see is a brighter than normal star. Pluto wanders across our solar system in cold, isolated silence.

I was commissioned in 2003 by Australian guitar quartet Saffire, with the support of the Australia Council Music Board, to write a guitar quartet, resulting in ***Six Fish***, a suite of six contrasting fantasies, each inspired by the curious and exotic qualities of various sea creatures. The six movements could be thought of as a collection of miniature colorwash portraits. – *Nigel Westlake*

Guitarfish: The guitarfish is a member of the ray family with an elongated body and a flattened head, appearing a little like a guitar. I've never seen one in the wild, but my discovery that such a fish actually existed seemed reason enough to name one of the movements after it.

Sunfish: Sunfish live on a diet that consists of large amounts of jellyfish. Very slow moving, they are the heaviest known bony fish in the world, weighing in at over 1,000 kg and earning their name from their habit of sunbathing on the surface of the water.

Spangled Emperor: The spangled emperor is one of the more conventional fish types amongst this collection of beasts. Known also as a snapper, these fish tend to move in schools across coral reefs and sand-bottomed flats and are commonly seen along the coastline of tropical northern Australia and up through the Torres Strait.

Flying Fish: Flying fish can make powerful self-propelled leaps out of the water into air, where their long, wing-like fins enable them to glide for considerable distances above the water's surface. This uncommon ability is a thrilling spectacle and a natural defense mechanism to evade predators. I have seen them frequently along the east coast of Australia and always regard their appearance as a good omen.

Leafy Sea Dragon: Undoubtedly the most exotic and beautiful of this collection, the leafy sea dragon is a sea horse found along the southern and western coasts of Australia. It is named after the long green leaf-like protrusions that cover its entire body, so it looks for all the world like a piece of floating seaweed that is propelled through the water by a set of transparent fins.

Sling-Jaw Wrasse: The sling-jaw wrasse is characterized by a protruding mouth that can stretch half its body length in order to catch its prey; a diet of crabs, shrimps, and small fish. The name seemed to suit the raw, bony swamp-blues character of the music.

On August 9th, 2014 an unarmed Black teenager, Michael Brown, was fatally shot by the White police officer Darren Wilson. The shooting came less than a month after the widely reported and graphic police choking of Eric Garner and was part of a streak of stories about unarmed minorities being killed by police or civilians across the country. Consequently, the events in Ferguson felt both familiar and

tragic. It was tragic that Michael Brown needlessly lost his life weeks before starting college, and it was tragic that Darren Wilson had to go into hiding after receiving death threats.

I originally felt called to write *Beyond Ferguson* for guitar ensemble students in nearby St. Louis. I had performed an outreach concert at Brown's high school mere months before his death and felt compelled to respond. Writing a piece about such a timely and sensitive topic is certain not to please everyone, but the piece neither seeks to vilify all police, nor glorify unlawful or vulgar conduct. Rather, it attempts to give a historical context for the outcry to these shootings through a 1903 W.E.B. Du Bois reading, and through a musical collage of Negro spiritual, jazz, hip hop, and African influences. Accordingly, *Beyond Ferguson* begins with a melody from one of Michael Brown's raps, to give him a chance to speak directly and metaphorically for the dozens of unarmed citizens who have been killed by police in the past two years. And the music comes to an inconclusive end, waiting to be resolved. –
Thomas Flippin

Olga Amelkina-Vera wanted to write a guitar ensemble piece that used some elements of minimalism but would not be strictly minimalistic. "Since I am fascinated by all things about space, I chose *Nebulae* as an evocative title which reflects the nebulous effect of multiple superimposed guitar ostinatos." *Nebulae* received first prize in the 2012 Austin Classical Guitar Society Composition Competition.

Homage to Elliott Smith: The title of this nostalgic little song ("Snapshot") refers to the now outdated term for a hastily taken photograph, and in writing it I had in mind the mixture of fleeting memories and bittersweet emotions that surely I am not alone in feeling in response to an old yellowing photo of a family scene, time-frozen face of a lost love, etc. Elliott Smith is one of my favorite singer-songwriters, and was himself very fond of wistful waltzes, releasing several on record before his tragic suicide in 2003. – *Alan Thomas*