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Music Factory, April 18, 2023

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Alex Stephenson Instructor

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**Illinois State University
Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts
School of Music**

Music Factory

Works by composers enrolled in Music 205 and 405
Martha Horst, Carl Schimmel and Alex Stephenson, *Instructors*

**Kemp Recital Hall
April 18, 2023
Tuesday Evening
7:30 p.m.**

This is the one hundred and sixty-seventh program of the 2022-2023 season.

Program

Peithman Award presented

Lava World

Wesley T. Smith
(b. 2003)

Thomas Guilfoyle, *Soprano Saxophone*
Chris Olson, *Alto Saxophone*
David Lukaszczyk, *Tenor Saxophone*
Seth Berkshier, *Baritone Saxophone*

Lava World tells the story of an erupting volcano. Deep in the magma chamber, magma begins rising until the inevitable eruption. Lava and ash then engulf the surface, resulting in the iconic “lava world” look within the *Super Mario Bros.* franchise. Being the main inspiration, soundtracks from the *Super Mario* games became my reference tool for writing my own music with that characteristic sound. This is why most of the piece’s harmonic structure is built off parallel major triads, a heavily exploited sound within *Mario* “lava music”. Additionally, a motif comprised of a semitone upper neighbor tone is very prominent in the first half and returns throughout the piece.

Pyromaniacs

Ben Keene
(b. 2004)

Joe Brackmann, *Cello*
Charlie Miller, *Clarinet*
Emma Turner, *Bassoon*

Pyromaniacs explores two themes in parallel. The first theme being that of fire and the second being that of passion/obsession. The music ignites itself with intensity and grows before it is quickly extinguished. This pattern of igniting, growing, and then being extinguished continues until the music finally catches fire and begins to 'spark.' As these sparks are spread throughout the ensemble the music continues to grow until the sparks become alive. The dance-like quality of the music symbolizes the way fire dances in the wind but also the energy one has when they have found one's passion and become obsessed.

Valleys: Three Short Movements for Guitar, Cello, Piano

Sean C. Duffy
(b. 2002)

Joshua Dahmm, *Piano*
Brandon Campos, *Cello*
Jack Mistretta, *Guitar*

In its broadest sense, "Valley" is a culmination of ideas, emotions, and stories that mark the milestones I've accomplished thus far into my composition journey. I would like to personally thank Alex Stephenson for his help and guidance.

The Storyteller

Kevin Riedl
(b. 2003)

I. The Storyteller
II. Clouds

Joseph Johnson, *Trumpet*
Lauren Cancio, *Flugelhorn*
Nicholas Phelps, *Narration*

The Storyteller is a pair of two duets inspired by poetry from “Musings” by Nicholas Phelps. The first movement creates a comforting atmosphere reminiscent of a cold night, a warm drink, and glowing hearth. It explores who this mysterious storyteller is and what their purpose is. The second movement begins with a more somber mood, embodying dark, mournful, low-hanging clouds. Portrayed by the flugelhorn at first, a falling motive can be heard throughout the movement, ever present, but changed as the sun pierces through the clouds.

Violin Duo

Antonio Zavattini

(b. 1964)

Kate Drechny, *Violin*

Blake Bowers, *Violin*

In the context of art and music, I was trying to go beyond the mind and to develop thinking patterns. My first idea was to do something that had to do with chaos, but I don't think it turned out like that. For my first piece, I started with what I know: the violin, and drew inspiration from the Bartok violin duos, but I don't think I emulated them much. Because it didn't turn out as chaos, I couldn't find a title for it so I just called it '*Violin duo*.'

Satellites

Cole Richey

(b. 2000)

I. Float

II. Flight

III. Fling

Noah Berkshier, *Marimba*

Emma Kutz, *Vibraphone*

Satellites is a series of three miniatures that each examine satellites from a different perspective. Movement one is a representation of the objects floating slowly through space, and the way you see them in the night sky. Flight is from the perspective of a satellite, as it rotates around the earth at incredible speeds. Ultimately though, the satellite returns to its original position, repeating the same path for an eternity. Finally, Fling imagines the change from launch to orbit. It changes from slowly streaking to the sky to adjusting into a path parallel to the other satellites.

Cool Vibes

Dyllan Bowering

(b. 2004)

Grant Cermak, *Piano*

Ben Haushalter, *Vibraphone*

Sean Duffy, *Drums*

Cool Vibes is meant to capture a chill, relaxed atmosphere. Even as tension starts to rise, the music always falls back to peacefulness. There are also a lot of “fake-outs,” as if the music can feel the tension rising and takes a deep breath. This instrumentation parallels the music I listen to when I need to calm down, and I hope listeners can find their own joy in *Cool Vibes*.

The Recovery Cycle

Miki McCarthy

(b. 2001)

Reactivity

Mind's Eye

Medusa

Miki McCarthy, *Alto*

Shelby Fick, *Viola*

Brandon Campos, *Cello*

Collin Powdermaker, *Drums*

This cycle feels as if it's been the story of my life for the last few months. Through pain, disdain, recovery, and fear I feel as if this cycle has helped me become a stronger person after the events in my life. Through the therapeutic ways of music, I am able to tell my story in the way I most vividly feel it.

Content warning: profanity and reference to sexual assault.

Equilibrium

Peyton Gray

(b. 2001)

Ryan Baur, *Soprano saxophone*

Luke Podvrsan, *Alto saxophone*

Grace Gatto, *Tenor saxophone*

Mike Jeszke, *Baritone saxophone*

Equilibrium is defined as a state of balance between opposing forces. It can also be defined as a peaceful state of mind, or a state of balance with oneself, either physically, mentally, emotionally, etc. This piece tackles all these concepts of equilibrium, and it depicts an ongoing cycle of trying to balance one's life; sometimes it's a struggle, and other times you're at peace with yourself.

little Sax, the ghost

Kirsten Townander
(b. 2001)

Ryan Baur, *Soprano Saxophone*
Luke Podvrsan, *Alto Saxophone*
Grace Gatto, *Tenor Saxophone*
Mike Jeszke, *Baritone Saxophone*

little Sax, the ghost is a musical storytelling of the peculiar life of Adolphe Sax, the inventor of the saxophone. With a career so legendary, it is unsurprising that many musicians know his name...but what most people don't know is just how unusual his life was. Sax's childhood years were permeated with near-death experiences—incidents so unique and frequent that one can't help but laugh.

Split into five movements, the tale of *little Sax, the ghost* follows Sax's life chronologically. The piece opens and closes warmly, the bittersweet *Lullaby* and *Eulogy* acting as covers of a book that envelop the story; it ends the same way it begins. The melodic material of these movements was drawn from *Chant Sacré*, a work of Hector Berlioz that served as the platform for the saxophone's premiere. Between the bindings, the piece delves into three specific accounts of Sax escaping Death's grip: a dangerous encounter with a staircase, an almost-lethal mishap in his father's workshop, and a treacherous trip down a raging river. At times obvious and others discreet, the Dies Irae is incorporated into all five movements—each time, a warning that Death may be on its way.

Suffice it to say...it is nothing short of a miracle that we have the saxophone today. My intention with this piece is to celebrate the instrument of the saxophone and to poke fun at the unlucky life of its creator. I hope you enjoy!

Exposed

Olivia Wexler
(b. 2003)

- I. Adolescent Bliss
- II. Overload
- III. Conformity

Olivia Wexler, *Guitar*
Satomi Radostits, *Violin I*
Antonia Tapias, *Violin II*
Grace Eom, *Viola*
Jenny Komperda, *Cello*

Exposed reflects our moral and emotional development. In the early stages of our lives, we are unaware of the human experience beyond the safety of our childhood. However, we can be negatively influenced by our environment, and our emotional growth can be a bumpy road. Eventually, the values, moral compass, and behaviors that are instilled in us are challenged, leaving us to decide how to move forward.

Cattywampus

Mike Endres
(b. 2001)

Ryan Valdivia, *Trumpet*
Lauren Cancio, *Trumpet*
Ryan Burns, *Horn in F*
Trombone - Peyton Gray, *Trombone*
JT Butcher, *Tuba*

Cattywampus came from a desire to subvert my own creative process. A lot of my work tends to have a lyrical lean with an emphasis on harmonic progression, and my pieces for Music Factory have all had a serious tone underlying them. With this in mind, I ended up composing a piece that follows an atypical journey of sorts, filled with odd, tongue-and-cheek diversions. The musical forms here are familiar, but the way in which they are presented is intentionally askew (or catawampus, if you must). At the end of the day, this piece is meant to be playful for both the players and the audience, so don't be afraid to have a little fun with it!