



CCM
PRESENTS

COMPOSITION
DEPARTMENT
RECITAL

“A VIEW FROM THE EDGE”

Monday, October 25, 2021
Cohen Family Studio Theater
7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

Dreaming of Pirates and Cowboys (2021)

Liam Kornoely
(b. 2002)

John Galik, violin
Matthias Young, viola
Hyrum Arnesen, piano

Collisions (2020)

Xiaoman Liu
(b. 2000)

Qitian Xia, clarinet
Jiarui Mai, piano

Landscape with Human Figure (2021)

Patrick Wickliffe
(b. 1981)

- I. Losing Him*
- II. On Christmas*

Hayley Maloney, soprano
Patrick Wickliffe, piano

Aphorism (2021)

Andrew Strawn
(b. 2003)

- I. The early bird gets the worm*
- II. He who hesitates is lost*
- III. Out of the frying pan and into the fire*

Braydon Sowell, alto saxophone
Jamey Strawn, piano

Desesperada [or A Song of Night, Sung Before Dawn] (2021)

Matthias Young
(b. 2002)

Shuta Maeno, clarinet
Noah Ward, guitar

Hazy Mirage (2020)

Xioaman Liu

Zhaoru Lin, bassoon
Xinhang He, violin
Shuang Feng, viola
Yixi Zhang, cello

Tremors (2021)

Aadhi Ramkumar
(b. 2001)

- I. Earthquake*
- II. Ocean Waves*
- III. Tornado*

Rafael Roig-Francoli, violin
John Galik, violin
Celeste Meisel, viola
Abby Leidy, cello

Program Notes

Dreaming of Pirates and Cowboys

This piece describes a young boy falling asleep and dreaming of daring pirates and heroic cowboys.

Landscape with Human Figure

Landscape with Human Figure was conceived when I read a poetry album of the same title by Rafael Campo whose work addresses empathy, identity, and desire. Landscape developed into a short cycle after a period of fifteen years during which marriage equality became reality in the U.S. and the Pulse shooting took place. This shooting, at the time the worst mass shooting in U.S. history, extinguished the lives of some 49 members of the Miami LGBT community and wounded 53 others. It belied continuing frustrations around gun law. With this work, I convey my hope for a future more resilient and diverse world.

Aphorism

When studying languages, we often focus on direct definitions and grammar. These are important elements, of course. But, perhaps the most rewarding part of such an endeavor is learning the intricate nuances of culture-specific notions. Notions most often portrayed through colloquial expressions known as figurative language.



An aphorism, one type of figurative language, is a blunt statement that contains a general truth. They are uniquely interesting due to their equivocal ability to provide both a moral and an intellectual lesson. “The early bird gets the worm,” for instance, teaches us the moral importance of arriving early to tangible endeavors. While simultaneously teaching the intellectual lesson regarding how we must approach intangible endeavors with equal haste. In other words, the aphorism can illustrate both pre-conventional (conditioned) morality and post-conventional (principled) morality in one concise, sometimes pithy expression.

The three movements of Aphorism aim to capture this duality by presenting both a face-value meaning, in addition to an interpretive, abstract concept.

Desesperada

Desesperada is an exploration of hopelessness and uncertainty through the timbres of the clarinet and guitar. The title alludes to the final poem in Pablo Neruda’s *Veinte poemas de amor y una canción desesperada*, or *Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair*. While the piece is not strictly based on the poem, it draws from the same ideas and emotions that Neruda encapsulates so powerfully with words.

The wordless song begins softly and poignantly, then blossoms into a richer, impassioned theme that recalls past happiness. This gradually gives way to a disorientation from which several different melodies arrive, all growing from the same thread but with different shades of tempo and tonality that express a progression of changing moods. The disconsolate melody and impassioned swell from the beginning return, followed by a brief moment of release. Ultimately though, as the melody tries to ascend again, hopefully into the second theme, it continually finds itself at odds with the inevitably descending harmony and eventually is forced to concede in despair.

Tremors

This three-movement work depicts vibrations which are results of various natural phenomena. The first movement represents a violent earthquake, the second movement depicts calm, peaceful ocean waves, while the last movement is about a ferocious tornado ripping through a neighborhood. Come along as we travel through the world of natural weather events.

This work was also the recipient of the first-place prize at the Prelude Chamber Music Composition Competition this past summer.

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