

CCM

COMPOSITION SERIES

PRESENTS

A VIEW FROM THE
EDGE

COMPOSITION DEPARTMENT
RECITAL

Tuesday, October 24, 2023
Cohen Family Studio Theater
7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

Hyper Train (2023)

Liam Kornoely
(b. 2002)

Corbin Russ, mellophone

In May (2023)

Catherine Fields
(b. 2000)

Rachael Bell, mezzo
Yue Quin, violin
Anne Ziegler, piano

String Quartet No. 3: "Le Sardonique" (2023)

Zach Graham
(b. 2004)

I. Les Mathématiques
II. Les Arts du Langage
III. La Physique
IV. La Chimie

Paul Francis, violin 1
Aadhivan Ramkumar, violin 2
Zach Graham, viola
Arianna Hoskins, cello

Rainforest Fantasia (2022)

Aadhivan Ramkumar
(b. 2001)

Noah Burns, soprano saxophone
Ian Marr, vibraphone
Kieran McAuliffe, electric guitar
Maksym Mahlay, piano

In Memoriam (2023)

Andrew Strawn
(b. 2003)

Emma Joyce, violin 1
Ava Shedd, violin 2
Ryan De La Ree, viola
Aidan Bolding, cello

PROGRAM NOTES

Hyper Train

"Hyper Train" is an exhilarating and dynamic solo piece for mellophone, showcasing the virtuosity of the performer and the unconventional instrument. This composition takes the listener on a thrilling musical journey, evoking the sensation of a high-speed train hurtling through an ever-changing landscape of sound.

In May

This song is based on the work of American poet Paul Laurence Dunbar. I was struck by this poem—it had just the right simplicity to be set to music. It lends itself well to lyrical melodic lines and lush jazz harmonies. The song is based on a single descending motive, E-D-B-A, which recurs through the piece in all parts, including the inner voices of the piano part. It ends without a conclusive cadence, the final chord vanishing into nothingness.

String Quartet No. 3: "Le Sardonique"

String Quartet No. 3, nicknamed "Le Sardonique," chronicles four of my most troublesome learning experiences from the past two years. The choice to title the quartet and its movements in French stems from my reactions to the subjects. I have never studied French, but I always found the language both interesting and very frustrating, which is the same way I feel towards the four subjects detailed in this piece. I had a great deal of difficulty in each of these classes at one point or another, and I wrote this quartet to mock the idea of success being linked to being good at everything. It seems silly to me now, but it makes me sad how prevalent this idea is. This quartet marks my departure from that mindset and the beginning of the journey towards new horizons where I can look back and appreciate my stumbles rather than abhor them.

Rainforest Fantasia

This work depicts all the various ambient noises that I heard while taking a long hike at the sprawling and vibrant El Yunque National Forest, which is, as present, the only rainforest designated as a national park by the National Park Services, during my Puerto Rico adventure this past July. In particular, the end of the piece is depicting all the sounds as one would hear in not just El Yunque, but in any given rainforest around the world. For example, the octave leaps in the Soprano Saxophone emulate the sound produced by the coqui birds, which are native to Puerto Rico and are a rather common sight when visiting El Yunque. Some other figures in the piece represent hiking through the numerous hiking trails throughout the entirety of the forest.

In Memoriam

This work is composed in memory of Joshua Hein. For many, he was a beloved choir and musical theatre director. For me, he was my first theory teacher. In his class I did not simply learn the names of chords and scales, instead he taught me the joys of music. Here I found my love of counterpoint, started calling dissonant chords "spicy," explored my favorite soundtracks, and began to seriously consider a future in composition. Since his loss, it has been breathtaking to witness the impact he had on countless students. This composition is a testament to that foundation and dedication. It combines a J.S. Bach chorale, like the many we would have studied, with my current style of writing in a kind of then-and-now reflection. I hope that this In Memoriam will exemplify the inspiration he was to me and countless others.

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