CCM
COMPOSITION SERIES
PRESENTS

COMPOSITION DEPARTMENT RECITAL

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Monday, November 2, 2026
Cohen Family Studio Theater
7:30 p.m.

University of CINCINNATI | COLLEGE-CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

PROGRAM

Coruscate (2026)

Tyler Hodgson
(b. 2001)

Annie Donato, violin I
Emily Beckner, violin II
Maggie Lytle, viola

The Prayer of the Cricket (2024)

Hannah Bingrou Guo
(b. 2000)

Zachary Lindquist, tenor
Daniel Hagenbuch, violin
Erick Pico, piano

World of Unity (2026)

Aparna Nambirajan
(b. 2006)

Aparna Nambirajan, flute
Mateo Martinez-Schwartz, piano

“Prologue” from Arden’s (2026)

Wen Wen Van Der Wende
(b. 2001)

Alexia Rivera, Orlando
Zhisheng Wang, piano

Flux (2026)

Sam Eifert
(b. 2004)

Trinity Le, piano

PROGRAM

On the Edge of Dreams (2026)

Mateo Martinez-Schwartz
(b. 2003)

Aparna Nambirajan, flute
Vincente Pedroza, bass clarinet
Mateo Martinez-Schwartz, celeste
Trinity Le, piano

Walking Along a Stream on a Damp Night (2026)

Hao Chen
(b. 2001)

Laura Lin, flute
Andy Lee, piano

Self Checkout (2026)

Daniel Hagenbuch
(b. 2000)

Sloan Smith, soprano
Daniel Hagenbuch, violin
Joel Jamison, piano

PROGRAM NOTES

Courscate
Coruscate means to give off or reflect light in a series of sparkling bright beams or flashes. This work emulates these shimmering flashes in episodic form filled with bright outbursts that dissolve into lush lyricism before making turns back into high energy sparkling figures. Coruscate was conceived of as a concert opener for a recital program titled “Chiaroscuro”, which featured works having to do with the contrasts of light and dark and the journeys moving between them.

The Prayer of the Cricket
In the darkness I make my music for myself alone, I sing for the joy of singing. Father, of whose seed I am, The fire in my heart is from you. When you return in glory, at daybreak, Grant me — by then perhaps grown tired of song — Peace, benediction of your light.

World of Unity
This piece is a representation of a world of people who love themselves and are able to love other people for who they are. It’s meant to show a place of wellness. This piece was originally written for the Well organization and was used for their Mindful Music Moments project.

“Prologue” from Arden’s
Arden’s is a queer, modern adaptation of Shakespeare’s As You Like It that I’ve been writing for my dissertation. In this opening scene, Orlando recounts his feelings for his mysterious crush, Gale, while heading to the gay bar, Arden’s, for the first time.

Flux
Flux blends the slow, lyrical melodies of classical music with the syncopated groove of jazz. It is an ever-changing sequence that suggests that our perception of experience, emotions, and the world around us is always changing. Flux is unpredictable and ever-evolving, where intensity, contemplation, and motion are possible at once.

PROGRAM NOTES

On the Edge of Dreams
Early in 2026, I decided to write a chamber piece featuring the celeste, an instrument seldom used in chamber works. Originally, the idea was for the pianist to double on celeste (inspired by my experience as a pianist in the CCM Wind Symphony) in a septet featuring string quartet, flute, and bass clarinet. For logistical reasons, the instrumentation was simplified by omitting the strings and splitting the keyboard part.
My recent works have had an edgy, highly chromatic quality, which I sought to move away from with this piece, exploring a more diatonic and lyrical side of my music. The title is circumstantial (a reference how the idea for the theme came to me), but also reflects the character of the piece, becoming more dreamlike as the piece progresses, aided by the increased prominence of the celeste toward the end.

Walking Along a Stream on a Damp Night
One night, I walked alone beside a small stream. The air was cool and damp, and the gentle sound of water filled the silence. I stopped for a moment, listening to the wind moving through the trees. Everything seemed still, yet nothing was truly silent. The water continued to flow, carrying away thoughts I could no longer remember. I stood there for a while, until the sounds slowly faded into the night.

Self Checkout
Does AI have good customer service skills? Self Checkout examines the ethical issues surrounding recent trends promoting AI development and integration through a comedic lens. In this piece, AI takes the form of a grocery store self checkout machine having an increased level of self-awareness. Although intended to expedite the checkout process, this AI bot has a unique customer service approach. Would it have been easier to go through the regular checkout line? I'll leave that for you to decide.

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