

# “Wait...Not All Composers Wear Wigs and Use Quill Pens? Creating, Studying, and Programming Contemporary Musical Works Involving Diverse Compositional Practices with the CSUSB New Music Ensemble”

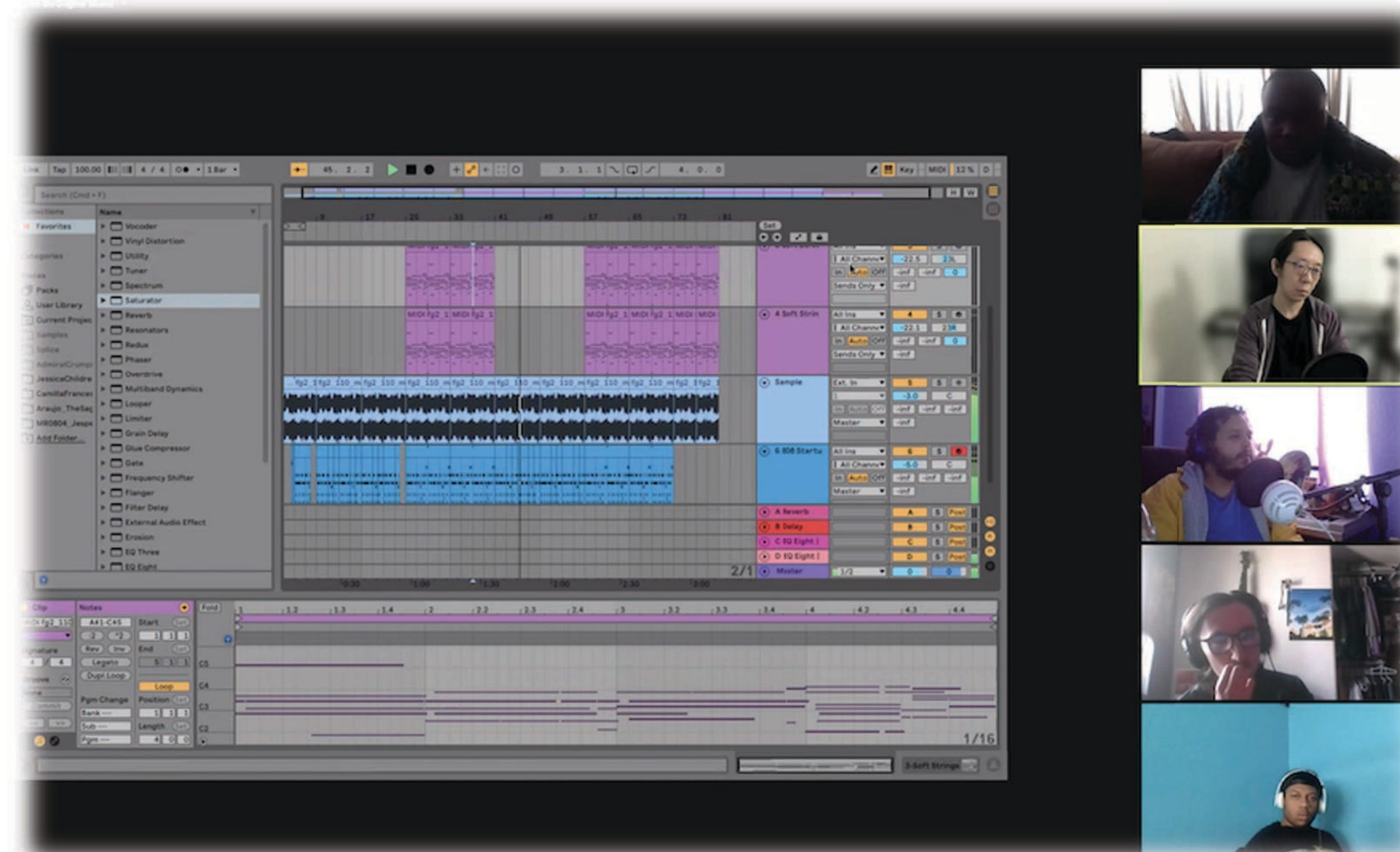


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## Multimodal Approaches to “The Score”

Historically, one of core tenets of most Western music-composition practices has been the prevalence of and reliance on the notated sheet-music score. During this past pandemic year, students of the ensemble had to work remotely, and took this challenge as an opportunity to study alternative and experimental modes, such as graphical notation, indeterminacy, free improvisation, and electronic music.

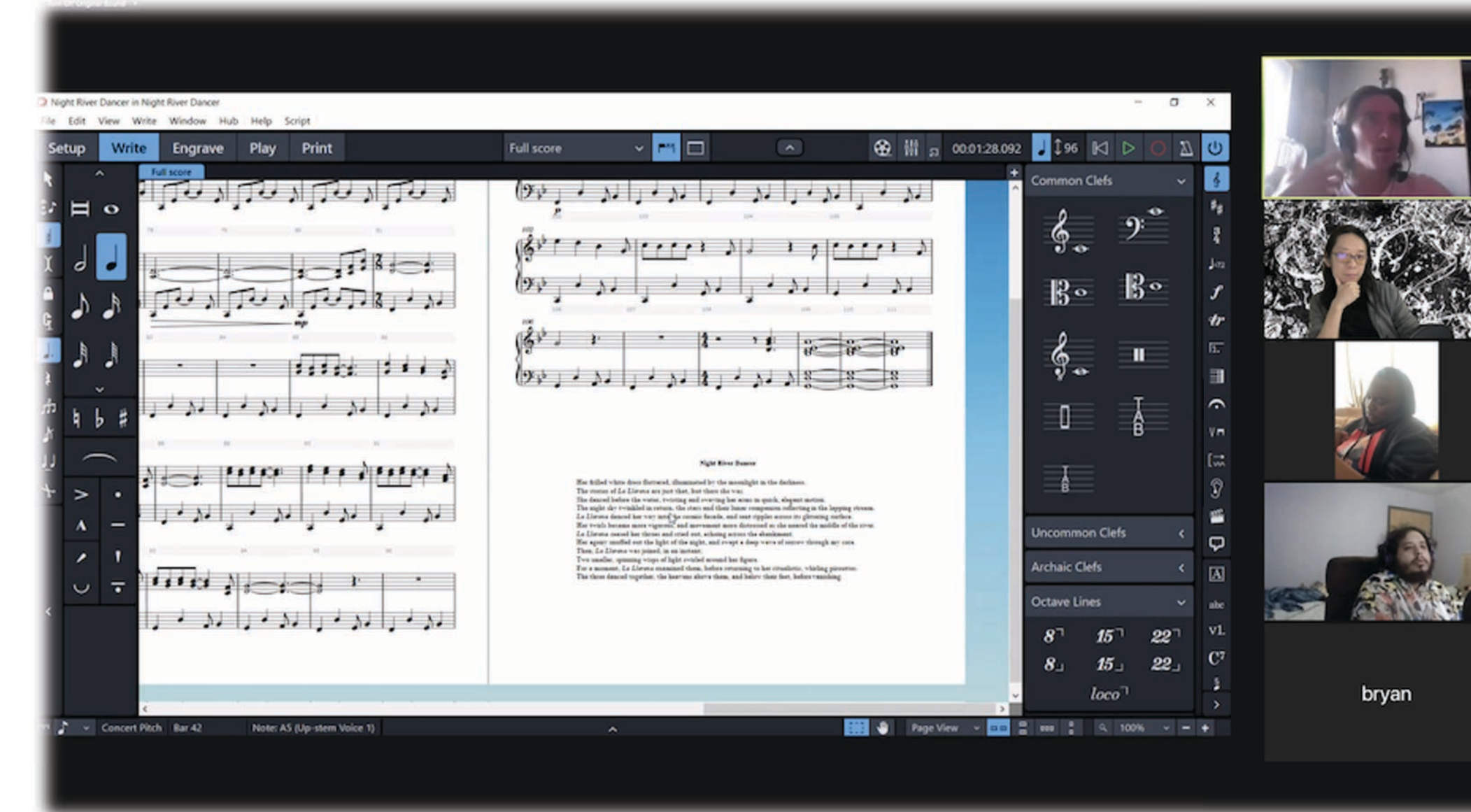


## Background

The 2020-2021 academic year was the inaugural year of the CSUSB New Music Ensemble course. While typical performance ensembles in university music programs often focus primarily on a historical Eurocentric canon of works, our New Music Ensemble is instead aimed at the study, preparation, and performance of contemporary repertoire. It was designed to serve as a workshop-laboratory resource for students in the composition/music-technology program at CSUSB, and is not bound by any style, genre, or instrumentation.

## Beyond the Composer-Performer Binary

Contemporary musicians engage in creative practices often distinctly outside of the standard composer-performer dichotomy model so prevalent in classical music. Indeed, the students of the ensemble this year self-identified not just as “composers,” but also as producers, singer-songwriters, beatmakers, and DJs.



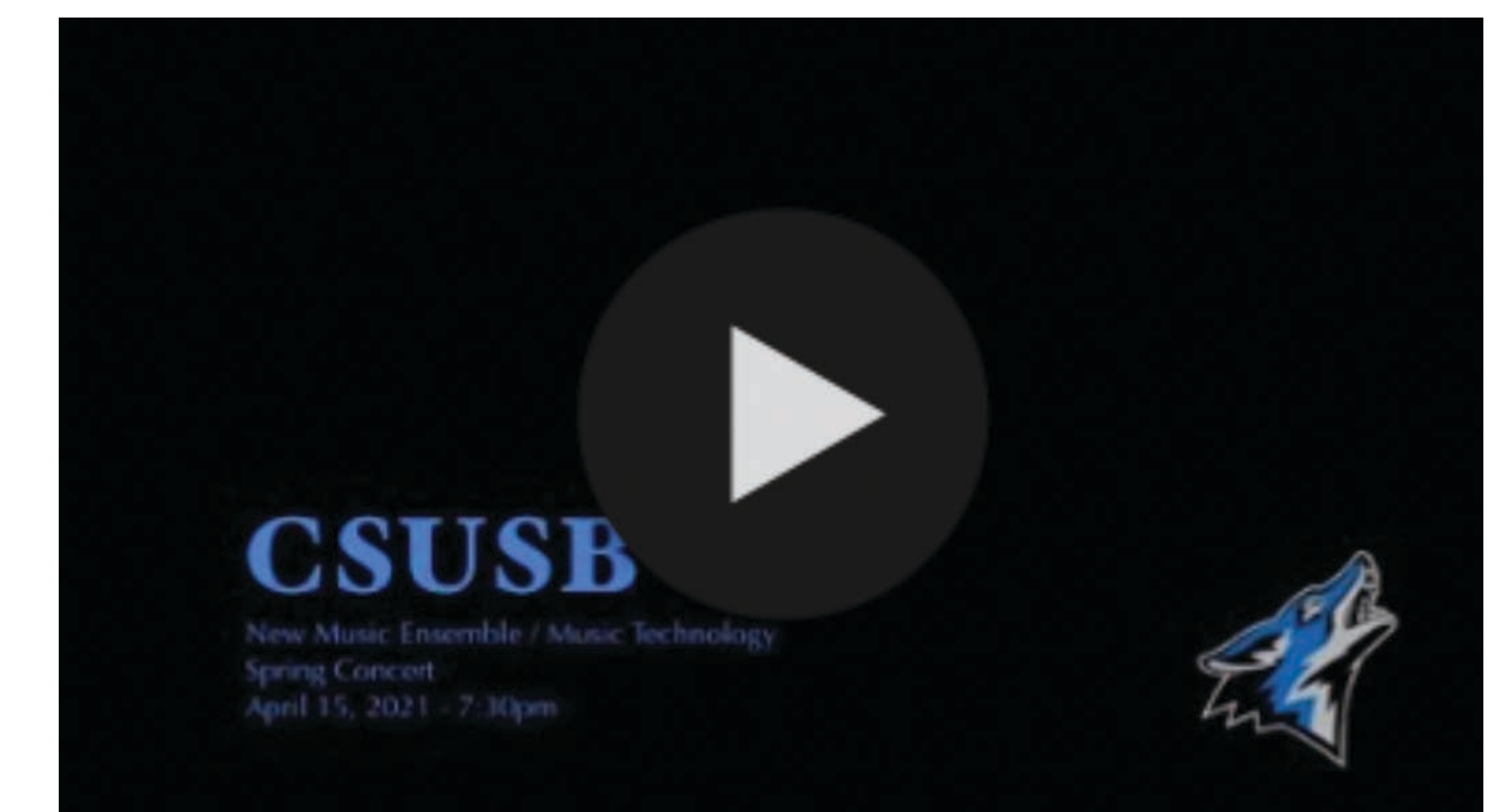
## A New Inland Empire Commissioning Project

The ensemble was the proud recent recipient of a CSUSB Mini-Grant, which will in part provide startup funds allowing us to engage in a new commissioning project once the pandemic ends. Over the next year, we look forward to commissioning, workshopping, and presenting 2-3 brand new works by peer and emerging composers and artists from around the Inland Empire.



## Virtual Spring Concert

Please join the CSUSB New Music Ensemble for our virtual Spring Concert on Thursday 4/15 at 7:30pm! The concert showcases solo, chamber, and electronic music by CSUSB’s composition and music-technology students, and can be viewed on YouTube for a limited time at the link embedded below:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QB2W5j2F-0Q>

## References

“New Music Course Comes to CSUSB,” *Inside CSUSB*, published September 2, 2020. <https://www.csusb.edu/inside/article/533946/new-music-course-comes-csusb>