

CSUSB Music Department Presents the

COMPOSITION AND TECHNOLOGY CONCERT



April 11, 2024 at 7:30 PM
PA Music Recital Hall (PA 102)



PROGRAM

- *Duo* for percussion by Adam Arroyo
- *Duet* for marimba and vibraphone by Ian Granada

Dylan Munger and Kayte Otanez, percussion

- *Resistor* for amplified saxophone duet by Francisco J. Sanchez Montes
- *Joy of Life* for solo saxophone by Kazuko Smith
- *Eldest* for saxophone trio by Joseph A. Lopez
- *Looking Through a Broken Glass* for saxophone quartet by Nicholas Mundo
- *Dried Orange* for saxophone quartet by Naomi Keum

Oscar Munoz, soprano and alto saxophone
Jaden Garcia, alto saxophone
Alex Escobedo, tenor saxophone
Daniel Kinoshita, tenor and baritone saxophone

- *Pastorale* by Gabriel Herrera

Addy Epstein, cello
Allie Morones, piano

- *Morning Sun* by Gabriel Herrera
- *The Abandoned Ballroom* by Gabriel Herrera
- *Memories* by Adam Arroyo

Amy Macias, Anna Caracosa, violin I
Heather Lee, Edgar Villegas, violin II
Adam Arroyo, Gabriel Knights-Herrera, viola
Addy Epstein, cello
Evelynn Neuenswander, Deja Chandler, bass
Veronica Manzanera, conductor

**10 MINUTE
INTERMISSION**

PROGRAM

- *our harmony* by Haesu Lee

Haesu Lee, vocals and piano
Jaden Garcia, saxophone
Gabriel Knights-Herrera, violin
Adam Arroyo, viola

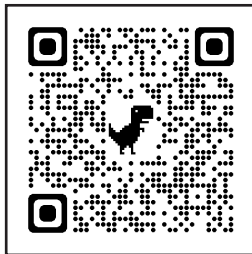
- *Dream Sense* by Eddie Loredó
- *Live electronics performance* by Jimmy Grissom
- *Thoughts of Emptiness* by Angela Rodriguez
- *Take Me Back* by Uriel Ortiz Avila

Uriel Ortiz Avila, vocals and guitar
Daniel Nunez, keys
Joseph A. Lopez, bass guitar
Dylan Munger, drums

- *Blasphemous Medley* by Carlos Viola,
arr. Francisco J. Sanchez Montes

Diego Dueñas Hernandez & Francisco Sanchez, acoustic guitars
Joseph A. Lopez, electric guitar
Dustin Pham, bass guitar

PROGRAM NOTES



Some Words from the Composers:

Adam Arroyo on *Duo for Percussion*:

This piece is a duet for two percussionists that focuses on the main rhythmic idea introduced at the start of the work. The first percussionist will have metal-based instruments like the triangle, cymbals, a tam-tam, and a gong. The second percussion player will have multiple drums all pitched differently. They will be playing 2-measure cells that repeat multiple times with different variations each time.

Ian Granada on *Duet for Marimba and Vibraphone*:

The piece, which is composed for marimba and vibraphone, has a somewhat minimalist style to it as the marimba, which has 4 mallets, plays the accompanying part that has some repeating patterns while the vibraphone, having 2 mallets, plays the main melody. The marimba, in the middle of section B, eventually gets the melody while the vibraphone gets to accompany it. In section C of the piece, the tempo changes and the marimba plays the repeating notes, and then once the section ends, it goes back to the A section.

Kazuko Smith on *Joy of Life*:

Joy of Life is for solo saxophone. It is a three part ternary form. Its opening A section is about youthfulness and discovering new experiences. The middle B section is about middle age and the new energy of adulthood. It ends with a return to the A section, reflecting the gradualness of advancing age.

Joseph A. Lopez on *Eldest*:

This piece is an exploration of jumping back and forth between parallel keys. It is meant to evoke some sense of adventure and mystery. It is one of three pieces exploring concepts dedicated to my children.

Francisco Sanchez on *Resistor*:

This piece is a visual score for a performance of multiphonics. The title, *Resistor*, reflects the use of electronic schematics as

the foundation for the score's imagery. The complexity of the schematics mirrors the layered sounds created by the multiphonics technique, where a single instrument produces multiple pitches simultaneously. The performance will translate the visual elements of the score into a sonic exploration of these harmonic textures.

Nicholas Mundo on *Looking Through a Broken Window*:
Looking Through a Broken Window is more of an outro than an actual song. It's short and sweet, and has a very jazzy feel to it. It consists entirely of SATB saxophones, and is the outro to a song that is the pinnacle point of a dramatic and intense film, and makes you ponder what the actual song and movie is.

Naomi Keum on *Dried Orange*:
Dried Orange is a piece for saxophone quartet. It presents four ideas, that are repeated and passed around between the four players, with the goal of having a memorable effect on the listener.

Gabriel Herrera on *Pastorale*:
The *Pastorale* for cello and piano is a short lyrical piece that focuses on bringing out the rich qualities of the cello. The piece begins with the cello stating several short melodic phrases before the duo begin to present different permutations of the phrases. Following each variation, the duo return to the opening four bar phrase before stating the next variation. The piano's waltz-style playing combined with the depth of richness the cello provides gives allusion to a leisurely evening stroll just before sunset.

Gabriel Herrera on *Morning Sun*
Morning Sun, for string orchestra, comes from a brief melody with a simple ascending bass line made of a compressed stack of fourths. The resulting piece is meant to be a lyrical piece that allows the violas to carry an equal importance as the violin sections would, while also supporting an equally important counter melody underneath the violins. Through these melodies, imagine the sun's rays peeking over the snow

covered mountains as they land onto a calm, lush green forest canopy.

Gabriel Herrera on *The Abandoned Ballroom*

Written for young string students, *The Abandoned Ballroom* is an eerily simple waltz that mixes pizzicato and arco techniques to portray an empty ballroom filled with dancing ghosts. The violins, cellos and basses come together in a pizzicato waltz accompaniment to create the feeling of a spooky, decaying ballroom before the violas enter in with the melody. The low strings get a chance to play the melody before the violins introduce a more happy waltz melody, pulling the listeners into an imaginative dance with the surprisingly friendly ghosts!

Adam Arroyo on *Memories*:

This piece for string orchestra takes inspiration from the book, "The Giver" by Lois Lowry. The first section is seemingly normal but features a modulation halfway through the phrase, signaling that there is a feeling of uneasiness. The second section features a fanfare depicting the scene of the Elders choosing the roles of the recent graduates. Then, the music slows down to a slow and lyrical section that represents the flood of feelings that the main character is feeling after receiving the memories from his newly appointed role. As he realizes how dystopian the world is, he comes up with a plan to return the memories that the Elders kept from themselves and the community. The main character gets caught and starts to run. He makes it to his goal and the community receives all the memories that the main character had received and everything becomes emotional but stable at the end.

Haesu Lee on *our harmony*:

our harmony is a song composed of a total of four instruments (piano, saxophone, violin, and viola) and vocal. The song is all about different people coming together to make our harmony enjoyable, and it may seem like a minimalist instrument composition, but it is composed of rich sounds.

Angela Rodriguez on *Thoughts of Emptiness*:

Thoughts of Emptiness is an upbeat, danceable electronic piece that includes traces of hyperpop, chiptune, and french house. The kicks create energy and move the track plus the addition of live percussion samples give the track more energy. The synth layering and the chords that play a soft moving progression make the track feel more vibrant and full of life.

Francisco Sanchez on *Blasphemous Medley*:

This atmospheric medley reimagines themes from "Arpeggios en Ocre" and "Entregarás Tu Rostro a La Señora" from *Blasphemous*. Nylon guitars and bass evoke Cvstodia's desolate beauty, while electric guitar adds bite. Prepare to descend into a world of flickering hope and relentless penance.

About the Composers:

Adam Arroyo is a third-year music composition major at CSUSB and a former foster youth. He started his music and composition careers around the same time in middle school dabbling in creating arrangements on MuseScore. Now, he is working on his Bachelor of Arts in Music degree as he refines his composing skills. He specializes in arranging and orchestration which is his motivation to study composition at CSUSB to create his music works to move audiences and inspire people to do the same. Through the music composition program at CSUSB, he hopes to become a revered composer for orchestras, from educational music to film scoring.

Ian Kyle Rosario Granada is an undergraduate student who currently attends California State University of San Bernardino and is majoring in music in the field of composition under the teaching of Dr. Zhang, and is pursuing a Bachelor degree in music. Ian's primary instrument is the piano, which he relies on in composing his music. Another thing about Ian is that he does have some special needs, but is pushing through those boundaries to achieve his goal in earning his Bachelor degree in music.

Naomi Keum is an exchange student from South Korea, majoring in music composition at Dankook University. Naomi has a background in popular music and music production. This saxophone quartet composition is Naomi's first piece for live instruments without electronics.

Gabriel Knights-Herrera is an undergraduate student pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Viola Performance and Education under Dr. Lucy Lewis and Composition under Dr. Kevin Zhang. As a composer, Gabriel is frequently programmed in CSUSB Composition and Technology Showcases where he has been able to premiere several chamber works, and work alongside fellow composers in premiering their works. Notable off-campus premieres include a collaborative composition entitled *Rotting Away*, for solo viola, with artist/violinist Priscilla Ibarra as part of her art

exhibit entitled "*Mortification.*" Other notable works include his first orchestral suite *Acrylic Dreams*, for symphony orchestra which is set to be premiered by the CSUSB Symphony Orchestra May 9th, 2024. Gabriel's current music composition goals include writing both educational pieces for K-12 string orchestras and sophisticated professional level chamber pieces, and incorporating an engaging composition curriculum into his private violin/viola teaching.

Haesu Lee is an exchange student from South Korea. As a singer-songwriter who likes to write and sing songs, she released her own song on Jan 23 this year. She plans to continue making her songs and release albums in the future.

As a first-generation student, **Joseph A. Lopez** is working hard to break expectations in and out of his family. He is primarily a father and a musician after. Now that his three children are older, his attention has returned to the music he has not been able to get out of his head since he first started writing music at the age of 15. He hopes to inspire his siblings and friends that even later in life, many things are still possible.

Eddie Loredo is a transfer student taking electronic music production. A person who got into music late and loves the production and composition side of music through engineering, lyrics, or just the simple side of how music is created. Overall just a music enthusiast.

Nicholas Mundo is a music major student at CSUSB, who's aspiring to make the beautiful and sometimes melancholic scores that you hear when watching your favorite films. Heavily influenced by Hans Zimmer, and Ludwig Göransson, Nicholas' style and genre is one that is for the ages. The epic and heart wrenching scores that Nicholas makes is what makes him stand out from the rest. With 1 full year of composition under his belt, and one of his scores being outside his comfort zone, Nicholas has the ability to make music for whatever a film might require, and has the ability to recognize that.

Angela Rodriguez is currently in her fourth year at California State University, San Bernardino where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Music with a concentration in music technology under Dr. Martim Galvao and also a member of CSUSB's Chamber Singers. She specializes in music production, recording, integrating chiptune trackers and gameboy mixing with acoustic and live effects, and a launchpad to launch samples made from original tracks into her live performances. Angela is also an experienced, in demand DJ, having worked for numerous CSUSB University and student organization sponsored events. She also performed with two gameboys mixing two original songs live for a student organized showcase at CSUSB and DJ'ed for the Music and Art and Design Department collaboration event Art Machine. In the future, Angela hopes to produce and mix more music and release them publicly to bigger platforms and extend her recording and mixing skills along with working with artists in studios.

Francisco Sanchez, currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Music Composition with a minor in Music Technology at California State University San Bernardino, is actively shaping his musical skills. His experience extends beyond academics. Francisco has honed his sound design skills through diverse projects. From crafting a captivating soundscape for Frank Mihelic's production of "Murder on the Orient Express" to contributing innovative audio experiences for virtual and mixed-reality environments at XREAL Lab, Francisco demonstrates a mastery of sound design principles. However, Francisco's true passion lies in video game sound design. His participation in successful game jams on itch.io, showcases not only his technical prowess but also his dedication to the immersive world of game audio. Francisco's journey highlights his unwavering dedication to his artistic calling.

Kazuko Smith is a new transfer student from Palm Desert. She was originally from Tokyo, where she was a jazz, standard, and pop vocalist. Several years ago, she began to study music again at College of the Desert, where she completed her Associates degree last year.

