

RUTGERS

Mason Gross School
of the Arts

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Rutgers
New Music Workshop

Scott Ordway, Director

Fall 2023

Wednesday, November 15, 2023 | 7:30 p.m.

Shindell Choral Hall
Robert E. Mortensen Hall
Douglass Campus

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

PROGRAM

Astray

Anthony D'Antuono
(b. 2004)

Amanda Harberg, *piano*

Wuxing

I: Mù (Wood)

Em Savarese
(b. 2002)

Ross Matos, Dizi; Graham Harris, *marimba*

We Finish Each Other's...

Julian Ossa
(b. 2002)

Matthew Wall, Jordan Beckman, *euphonium*

Autumn Meditation

Brandon DiNatale
(b. 2005)

Brandon DiNatale, *piano*

Flowers in the Garden

Dustin Symonette
(b. 2003)

Maysa Sukkarieh, *piano*

Title: Castle on Stilts

Will Scott
(b. 2003)

Will Scott, *piano*

Senza Lacrime

Ben Soo Hoo
(b. 2005)

Huyan Nguyen, *violin*

petal by petal

Kyle Valorose
(b. 2003)

Sergio Ramirez, *flute*; Maysa Sukkarieh, *piano*

NOTES ON THE PROGRAM AND COMPOSERS

Anthony D'Antuono: Astray

"Astray" reflects the emotional journey of the mind when confronted with the chaos of modern life. The piece captures the intricate nuances of drifting into a world of daydreams, away from the constraints of reality. The musical narrative unfolds through a series of contemplative melodies and harmonies, echoing the fluctuating thoughts and reflections that pull the mind in various directions.

Anthony D'Antuono is an up-and-coming composer focusing on band, orchestral, and chamber music. His music has been performed by groups such as the Rutgers University Brass Band and Rutgers University Horn Ensemble. Currently, he studies composition with Dr. Amanda Harberg and horn with David Peel at Mason Gross School of the Arts.

Em Savarese: Wuxing

"Wuxing" (pronounced *wu-hsing*) translates to "The Five Phases" and is akin to the Western concept of Classical Elements but with notable differences. The elements flow into and become one another. The first movement (performed tonight) is "Wood," which signifies expansion, curiosity, idealism, and benevolence. It is associated with the solfege note "mi," Spring, and early childhood. The piece blends Chinese and Western traditions, drawing inspiration from the rhythmic development of Chinese music.

Em Savarese, a third-year student at MGSA, is an aspiring composer and pianist. His works have been performed by various ensembles, and he is dedicated to blending culture in his compositions. He also works on a personal video game project and enjoys playing video games.

Julian Ossa: We Finish Each Other's...

This piece explores the performers' personal opinions about cutting sandwiches – one prefers to cut them down the center, while the other cuts them diagonally. The musical material reflects this preference, and the piece hopes to inspire change in performers to switch from center-cutters to diagonal-cutters.

Julian Ossa is a composer and pianist based in New Brunswick, New Jersey. He studied composition at the Juilliard Preparatory Division and is now pursuing his Bachelor of Music degree in Composition at Mason Gross. His works have been performed by professional ensembles, and he looks forward to graduate studies.

Brandon DiNatale: Autumn Meditation

"Autumn Meditation" captures the change and aesthetic beauty of autumn, with warm colors contrasting the dropping temperature. The piece begins with a simple motive and develops it over changing harmony. It explores fragmentation and different tonal contexts, returning to the original motive before closing in tranquility.

Brandon DiNatale, a first-year student at MGSA, is a pianist and composer with diverse influences. He seeks to blend various musical ideas within different stylistic contexts and appreciates Dr. Harberg's guidance and support.

Dustin Symonette: Flowers in the Garden

This piece represents the natural growth of flowers emerging from the soil and blossoming into their full potential, paralleling the human experience of following passions and self-improvement.

Originally from South Florida, Dustin Symonette began his compositional journey in theater and has expanded into various music styles. He serves as Music Coordinator for Livingston Theater Company and aims to pursue a graduate program in Film Scoring after his undergraduate degree in Composition.

Will Scott: Castle on Stilts

This piece depicts a raging storm upsetting and rearranging a poorly placed castle.

Will Scott is a third-year student in composition, studying with Dr. Scott Ordway. He has written for a variety of ensembles and was recently premiered by the Rutgers Glee Club.

Ben Soo Hoo: Senza Lacrime

"Senza Lacrime," or "Without Tears" in Italian, reflects on a person's sad and harsh past, transitioning into themes of healing and personal growth.

Ben Soo Hoo has been performing music as a bassist since middle school, earning accolades in high school, and is now pursuing musical skills and passions in college.

Kyle Valorose: petal by petal

As the digital age approaches, I feel a longing for a deeper connection to nature. Evening walks, greenery, sunlight peeking through the trees- throughout all of these journeys, I find myself obsessed with flowers. Flower beds are nature's art galleries. We associate everything with them: love, fairy tales, sex, rebirth, frailty. I found myself in the bloom of flowers and this piece was about learning to appreciate every part of life, petal by petal. Thank you for listening.

Kyle Valorose is a third year composition major studying under Dr Robert Livingston Aldridge at the Mason Gross School of the Arts. Originally from Richmond Virginia, Kyle moonlights as a jazz pianist and has a deep appreciation for music in totality, whether it be the colors of French symbolism, the groove of funk music, or the spiritual ventures into Indian Classical music. An alumnus of Brevard Music Center, Boston University Tanglewood Institute, and a fellow in the New York Youth Symphony, Kyle has extensive experience in playing, writing, rehearsing, and living in the concert music sphere.

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