



University of North Texas
College of Music

Departmental Recital | Thursday, April 3, 2025 | 8:00 p.m. | Recital Hall

**Co-Creation in Concert:
New Works for Contreras' Cello Studio**

The Perfect Glass (2025) * Anderson Kurk
(b. 2003)
Iris Fang, cello

Alijuna (The Outsider) (2025) * Sofia Vega
(b. 2003)
Maddy Dykhouse, cello

Midnight Reverie (2025) * Noah Salem
(b. 2002)
MinChing Lin, cello

Castle (2025) * Robert Jones
(b. 2003)
Jiapeng Liu, cello

** Asterisk denotes world premiere*

**Program four hundred eighty-seven of the 2024–2025 season
Photography and videography are prohibited**

Seafarer Variations (2025) * Ryan Fillinger
(b. 2001)

Patricio Gutierrez Vielma, cello

Wordless Pain for Cello Solo (2025) * Sampson Li
(b. 1995)

Xiyan Liu, cello

Time Crunch (2025) * David McCaulley
(b. 2002)

Julia Choi, cello

Passengers, for eight cellos (2025) * Colin Stokes
(b. 1987)

Cello

Claire Cabral | Maya Huber | Tyler Aguillard | Noah Sendir
Dawn Mansfield | Camilo Vasquez | Elise Abbott | Griffin Jones

Patricio Gutierrez- Vielma, conductor

** Asterisk denotes world premiere*

Program Notes

The Perfect Glass | Anderson Kurk

"Calamity is the perfect glass wherein we truly see and know ourselves."

—William Davenant

17th-century English poet William Davenant lived during a time of significant political and social upheaval. His works often reflected on human nature and self-reflection during times of hardship. This quote posits that adversity brings out one's true nature. His words still apply today as we live in a time marked by climate disasters, pandemics, and international conflicts. The Perfect Glass for solo cello symbolizes the reflective and introspective nature of these words. The piece begins with arpeggiated figures separated by large gaps of silence, like passing thoughts. The gaps between them grow shorter and shorter, building toward more complexity, before getting caught back into the same pattern from before. A slow interlude bridges the two larger sections of the piece and presents a resistance to the complexity from before. The piece concludes with a faster, coarser sound that shows a development in character from the beginning of the piece—a representation of one's true nature revealed during a time of calamity.

Alijuna (The Outsider) | Sofia Vega

This piece is inspired by the Wayuu word alijuna, which literally means "the one who damages." The Wayuu, an Indigenous ethnic group from the Guajira Peninsula along the northern border of Colombia and Venezuela, use this term to describe outsiders — those who are not part of their community. Struck by the weight of its meaning, I wanted to capture the anger and sorrow that come when an "outsider" is trying to destroy what belongs to you.

Midnight Reverie | Noah Salem

Midnight Reverie brings the listener into a world of quiet introspection and dreamlike solitude, exploring the stillness of the late hours of the night. The piece explores the serenity and mysticism of the night, and the peaceful yet veiled shadow of time that passes as the world is hushed and still.

Castle | Robert Jones

Castle for solo cello is a piece that represents the grandeur of a castle with its strong musical figures that give a hint of the darkness and intimidation that the grand structure can make you feel. The striking lines in the cello, paired with lamenting melodic lines that are showcased throughout this piece, express the intense histories and elegance that the structures hold.

Seafarer Variations | Ryan Fillinger

Seafarer Variations for solo cello is a set of seven variations based on an original theme. Each variation attempts to evoke the character and imagery of a noble – albeit drunken – seafarer; a pirate. The stories, tales, and fables this imaginary pirate tells are channeled through the style, mood, and energy of each variation, the effort of which is assisted by gestural motifs used throughout the piece. The listener may hear impressions of boisterous shantying, the squeaking and tapping of leg pegs, the wailing of seagulls, and the churning of the raging seas.

Wordless Pain | Sampson Li

Wordless Pain wants to talk about the pain that exists, however it is very hard to express it by words to someone.

Time Crunch | David McCaulley

The stress of a tight deadline is something most people have experienced, and it is certainly something commonly experienced among musicians of all professions. In this piece, I wanted to explore this feeling, not just of the stress, but also of the silently deadly stage of procrastination, the perpetual hours of "in-the-zone" productivity, and the race to the very end to meet the deadline. Of course, many musicians and others within the creative world will say that it's under these time crunch scenarios where some of their best work comes to life. Similarly, my hope is that I've brought this feeling to life as well.

About The Program

Co-Creation in Concert features eight world premieres born from a vibrant collaboration between the Composition Division and cellists from Professor Contreras' cello studio. Presented by the Composers Forum, the student organization dedicated to showcasing new works by UNT composers, this program includes seven solo cello compositions and a piece for 8-cello ensemble. Celebrate the artistry and ingenuity of the next generation of musicians and composers in this unique evening of new music.

Acknowledgments

Prof. Horacio Contreras

Dr. Sungji Hong