



University of North Texas  
College of Music

Master's Recital | Wednesday, April 9, 2025 | 8:00 p.m. | Lab West

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**Nathan Fisher, jazz trumpet**

**Jack Goode, guitar**

**Brenin Coin, piano**

**Kai Wagner, bass**

**Josh Ferrell, drumset**

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Western Wilds (2025) .....Nathan Fisher  
Home (b. 1999)  
Journeys  
Mountains  
Forest  
Desert  
Ocean  
Home (Reprise)

## Program Notes

**Please Note:** "Western Wilds" is made up of seven movements of continuous music. Applause is welcome throughout the performance. Please remain for a few minutes after the show for spoken acknowledgements. Please silence all electronic devices, as recording is in progress.

"Western Wilds" is a sonic odyssey across the American West. Each movement seeks to capture the spirit of the great expanses of wilderness this continent offers for our enjoyment, our education, and our humility. Though partitioned and transmogrified by human development, the deserts, mountains, forests, and oceans still testify to the power, beauty, and ultimately untamable wildness of the natural world. They also symbolize the inner journey we experience as we travel through life.

### **Home (Isaiah 32:18)**

Home is the place of both beginnings and endings - the place from which we emerge, and the place we ultimately seek to reach, regardless of the journey taken. Whether an exact physical location or otherwise, it is a place of safety, of security. It is the emotional or spiritual "nest" where the traveler is most secure.

### **Journeys (Joshua 1:9)**

The first step in our journeys, whatever they may be, is often accompanied by excitement for the coming experiences and anticipation of the goal or destination. Whether the traveler seeks to meet a goal, achieve a new level of spiritual awareness, or just "see what is out there," they depart from what is familiar and comfortable, face turned to the road ahead.

### **Mountains (Amos 4:13)**

Gently rising above the plains, gradually gathering into towering summits and ridges, mountains symbolize strength, dominance. They are chosen as dwelling places for the strategic advantage they provide, and also for their spiritual connotations. For most of human history, a mountain peak was the closest one could get to heaven. Here, high above the surrounding earth, God comes down to commune with humankind.

### **Forest (1 Chronicles 16:33)**

Peaceful yet bursting with life, forests radiate energy, whether they are the vast seas of pine on the slopes of the Cascade mountains or the sprawling deciduous woodlands of warmer regions. Rarely tidy or organized, they are complex systems made up of millions of individuals, supporting every variety of animal and providing places of safety and provision for humans. Amazingly, modern science has discovered that individual trees connect with each other through their root systems, sharing nutrients and even communicating. Trees, then, are not only pillars in great natural temples, but active members of symbiotic communities.

### **Desert (Psalm 63:1)**

The desert, more than any other place, is the abode of silence. Baked by the hot sun and sparsely watered, it is a place where life is put to the test. Great spiritual seekers of all ages have entered the desert to purge their lives of distraction and seek pure and unhindered connection with God. Deserts stand in every traveler's path, regardless of the journey they take. The crossing of any desert, whether physical or not, reveals the true quality of the traveler's resourcefulness and resolve.

### **Ocean (Psalm 93:4)**

The journey West leads, inexorably, to the great Pacific Ocean. Their currents fueling the weather systems that give life to our atmosphere, their organisms giving us the oxygen that we breathe, oceans are ultimately unfathomable in their depth and breadth, untamable in their flowing, surging strength and fury. Humankind knows more about the stars than the sea; even now, they are an enigma to us. While wild and threatening, they support and uphold all life on earth, boundless in their provision.

### **Home (Reprise) (Hebrews 11:16)**

The ultimate journey is the journey home. The traveler arrives where they truly belong, transformed and enlightened, more deeply connected to their world and to ultimate reality.

"Man instinctively regards himself as a wanderer and wayfarer, and it is second nature for him to go on pilgrimage in search of a privileged and holy place, a center and source of indefectible life. This hope is built into his psychology, and whether he acts it out or simply dreams it, his heart seeks to return to a mythical source, a place of "origin," the "home" where the ancestors came from, the mountain where the ancient fathers were in direct communication with heaven, the place of the creation of the world, paradise itself, with its sacred tree of life."

-Thomas Merton

### **Thank-Yous:**

I want to thank Jesus Christ for creating me, saving me, giving me a love for music, and bringing me this far in my own journey.

Thank you to my mother Mathilde, my father Nick, and brother Ben, as well as my extended family in the United Kingdom and my cousins Jason and Stephanie in North Carolina, for their unceasing love, support, encouragement, advice, and hospitality.

Thank you to my aunt, Rosemary Triche, to whom "Western Wilds" is dedicated, for the love, the laughs, and the excursions in the Cascade mountains that inspired this music.

Thank you to my bandmates, Jack Goode, Brenin Coin, Kai Wagner, and Josh Ferrell, for bringing life to this music and infusing it with your passion. You, along with all of my peers at UNT, are a constant source of inspiration to me.

Thank you to all of my teachers for pouring your energies into me and my fellow students, and for teaching love of music and dedication to artistry. Some of my amazing teachers are: Bart Gish, Dan Beich, Mike Divelbiss, John Harbaugh, Lewis Norfleet, Paul Bain, Chris Bruya, Mark Samples, Lenard Simpson, John Raymond, Greg Williamson, Maegan Ley, Philip Dizack, Alan Baylock, Davey Mooney, Dr Teal, Dave Meder, Quincy Davis, Rich DeRosa, Brad Leali, Lynn Seaton, Nick Finzer, Rob Parton, Rodney Booth, Pete Claggett, and Jeff Smith.

In particular, thank you to Professor Dizack for revolutionizing my approach to jazz and trumpet and for your trust and encouragement. Thank you to Professor Baylock for your kind leadership, and for having me in the band. Thank you to Professor Davis for your encouragement and your words of wisdom in the classes I have had with you.

Thank you to recording services, for your diligent attention to detail, and for all your work on behalf of the musicians of UNT.

Finally, thank you to all of you, the audience, for attending my recital and for supporting live music! If you enjoyed this musical experience, please stay tuned for updates as I work towards releasing the music of "Western Wilds" on CD and streaming.