



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

# University of North Texas College of Music

Departmental Recital | Monday, October 27, 2025 | 8:00 p.m.  
Paul Voertman Concert Hall

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## **Spectrum:** **A Performance of New Works by North Texas Composers**

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A Clear Midnight (2025) ..... Kahan Taraporevala  
for SSAATTBB choir and cello (b. 1999)

Robby Napoli, conductor  
Colin Stokes, cello

What A Blessing... To Miss (2025) ..... William Bender  
(b. 2003)

Simón Ramírez, piano

The Moon (2025) ..... Abigail Lewis  
(b. 2006)

Text by Robert Louis Stevenson

Rachel Cunningham, soprano  
Collin Huffman, piano

Woodwind Trio in G (2024) ..... Emily Sylvester  
(b. 2005)

Zoe Bristow, flute  
Jacob Rodgehero, clarinet  
Jayden Guajardo, bassoon

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**Program ninety-seven of the 2025–2026 season**  
**Photography and videography are prohibited**

to Mitch (2012/rev. 2025) .....Justin Friello  
(b. 1989)

Justin Friello, voice and piano

Hold On To Freedom (2024) .....David Gaedke  
for SATB choir and piano (b. 1997)

Emma Davis, conductor  
David Gaedke, piano

Die Mannsprächtige (The Man-splendid Woman) —  
character study after Elias Canetti (2023) ..... Joseph Klein  
(b. 1962)

Jaymee Haefner, harp

Bespoke (2025) .....Simón Ramírez  
(b. 2003)

Luca Buongiorno Nardelli, violin  
Colin Stokes, cello  
Zoe Harris, double bass  
Ryan Klement, vibraphone  
Hanna Le, marimba

RC OPERA-TE (2025) .....Benjamin Shirey  
for modified remote-control monster truck, (b. 1985)  
Bluetooth speaker system, and Max/MSP

## Program Notes

### **A Clear Midnight (2025) | Kahan Taraporevala (b. 1999)**

This is thy hour O Soul, thy free flight into the wordless,  
Away from books, away from art, the day erased, the lesson done,  
Thee fully forth emerging silent, gazing, pondering the themes thou lovest  
best,  
Night, sleep, death, and the stars.

– Walt Whitman (1818–1892)

### **The Moon (2025) | Abigail Lewis (b. 2006) | Text by Robert Louis Stevenson (1850–1894)**

The moon has a face like the clock in the hall;  
She shines on thieves on the garden wall,  
On streets and fields and harbour quays,  
And birdies asleep in the forks of the trees.  
The squalling cat and the squeaking mouse,  
The howling dog by the door of the house,  
The bat that lies in bed at noon,  
All love to be out by the light of the moon.  
But all of the things that belong to the day  
Cuddle to sleep to be out of her way;  
And flowers and children close their eyes  
Till up in the morning the sun shall arise.

### **to Mitch (2012/rev. 2025) | Justin Friello (b. 1989)**

MITCH: Let's turn the light on here.

BLANCHE: Light? Which light? What for?

MITCH: This one with the paper thing on it.

[He tears the paper lantern off the light bulb.  
She utters a frightened gasp.]

BLANCHE: What did you do that for?

MITCH: So I can take a look at you good and plain!

BLANCHE: Of course you don't really mean to be insulting!

MITCH: No, just realistic.

BLANCHE: I don't want realism. I want magic!

– Tennessee Williams, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Scene 9

## **Hold On To Freedom (2024) | David Gaedke (b. 1997)**

This piece is a heartfelt psalm, reflecting on the themes of patience, suffering, and divine deliverance. It follows a structured journey from hope, to prayer, to deliverance, with each stanza deepening the connection between the speaker's experience and biblical promises.

The opening line is a common proverb - not directly found in the Bible - that echoes the sentiment of Psalm 37:7 or 2 Peter 3:9, emphasizing the importance of trusting in God's timing:

Good things come to those who wait,  
And my time will come.  
I've held on, it's in my fate,  
I can taste freedom.

This theme of patience is woven throughout the piece, as the speaker grapples with the reality of suffering, expressing weariness and burdens similar to those in Matthew 11:28-30, where Jesus invites the weary to find rest in Him.

Weary and burdened,  
heavy laden.  
All those who labor,  
Come unto him.

The third stanza is an original prayer for deliverance. The words, "Free me from this bondage," reflects a deep faith in God's ability to rescue and redeem, much like God's deliverance of Israel in Exodus. The declaration "You said, It is done!" echoes Christ's dying words on the cross in John 19:30, signaling a confident belief in the fulfillment of God's promises.

Bathe me in your radiant light,  
I know you'll make it right.  
Deliver me lord,  
From suffering, pain, and sorrow.  
Everything is made possible through you,  
Yahweh.  
You said, "It is done!"  
Free me from this bondage,  
Lord I ask you.  
Please deliver me!

The fourth stanza brings the piece full circle and reinforces the central theme of patience. The lyrics "...hold on" are a reference to the Negro spiritual Hold On, also known as Gospel Plow. This spiritual is inspired by Jesus' words in Luke 9:62, which emphasize commitment and perseverance in following God's path. By drawing on this rich tradition, the piece taps into a legacy of spiritual resilience, underscoring the power of holding on through faith in the face of adversity.

Good things come to those who wait!  
All that I have to do is wait and hold on!  
To freedom!

A variation of the plagal cadence, often referred to as the "Amen" cadence, concludes the entire piece and harmonically mirrors the sense of peace and resolution that comes from trusting in God.

**Die Mannsprächtige (The Man-splendid Woman) —  
character study after Elias Canetti (2023) | Joseph Klein (b. 1962)**

Die Mannsprächtige (The Man-splendid Woman) is the twenty-second in a series of short works for solo instrument based upon characters from *Der Ohrenzeuge: Fünfzig Charaktere* (Earwitness: Fifty Characters), written in 1974 by the Bulgarian-born British-Austrian novelist Elias Canetti (1905–1994). Canetti's distinctive studies incorporate poetic imagery, singular insights, and unabashed wordplay to create fifty ironic paradigms of human behavior. This collection, begun in 1997, was inspired by the vividly surreal depictions of Canetti's characters, and comprises twenty-two solo works to date—composed for familiar instruments such as violin, guitar, piano, and trombone, as well as less common instruments such as ocarina, cimbalom, glass harmonica, and carillon. In Canetti's depiction of this character, the man-splendid woman "likes to stand... slowly lifting her arm aloft, and holding it aloft with a carefully studied gesture. When all the onlookers close their dazzled eyes, she drops her arm.... She does not say a word, what could she say anyway to heighten her splendor, she holds her tongue, and her silence speaks volumes.... Perfection belongs to no one and requires distance, that, and that alone, is why she stares into the distance."

Die Mannsprächtige was composed in May-June 2023 for harpist Jaymee Haefner.

**Bespoke (2025) | Simón Ramírez (b. 2003)**

Cloth, Glass, Metal, Stone, Wood; Light & Shadow

**RC OPERA-TE (2025) | Benjamin Shirey (b. 1985)**

RC OPERA-TE is performed in memory of my brother, who loved all things remote control, and who lived with love, joy, and curiosity. This work embraces the absurdity of life and a celebration of the "fun stuff."

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## **Ensemble Personnel**

### **"A Clear Midnight" Choir**

Victoria Cerda | Julianna Carden | Kyrie Laybourn | Georgia Barge  
Rachel Cunningham | Lauren Abell | Sarah Barrow | Mattison Beezley  
Marianna Delgadillo | Beige Cowell | Abigail Lewis | Jade Wesley  
Emma Barrow | Faye Barber | Alyssa Schelski | CJ Stanley | Jay Quinn  
Davide Gucciardi | William Parris | Noah Salem | Gavin Godbey  
Piero Centurion | Alan Quinn II | Wyatt McNeeley | Matt Carlson  
Jordan Davis | Colin Huffman | Jaden Jackson Cooper  
Collin Busch-Kennedy | Demetrius Robinson Jr. | PJ Mooney  
Ely Eckles | Aydrick Griffin | Milo Warrior | Seth Bazan

### **"Hold On To Freedom" Choir**

#### **Soprano**

Kaitlyn Rivera  
Mia Jamison  
Samira Hutson  
Rachel Cunningham  
Alyssa Schelski

#### **Alto**

Delia Esparza  
Julianna Estrada  
Gracie Harrison  
Samira Hutson  
Maryanne Schwalm

#### **Tenor**

Jacob Escobedo  
Connor Scroggins  
Rishab Calyanakoti  
Ethan Hexter

#### **Bass**

Milo Warrior  
Aydrick Griffin  
Michael Boike  
Julius Ricks  
Ian Granado  
Landon Beaty  
Ely Eckles