



University of North Texas
College of Music

Faculty Recital | Saturday, March 21, 2026 | 6:00 p.m. | Merrill Ellis Intermedia Theatre

**David Stout, audio-visual instruments, live electronics,
generative media**

Colin Stokes, acoustic and electric cello, live electronics
fEVER – V2

fEVER (2025) Music and lyrics by David Stout

1. Leavin' "slumber wump" (n.d.)
2. Coming for Us?
3. Cruce del Coyote
4. Her Loss
5. Skin-Walker
6. Glitch-Gulch
7. They Became Dogs
8. Flowers Burn
9. On Yonder
10. These Parts
11. Stirring
12. Soul's Circumference

*Program two hundred fifty-six of the 2025–2026 season
Photography and videography are prohibited*

Program Notes

fEVER is a moving image song cycle that sees the extended regions of the US-Mexican borderlands through the eyes of an immortal. An omniscient who does not recognize the existence of an artificial boundary but rather a living, breathing, numinous desert, home to an intercultural trade route that has existed for millennia. Within this framing, the work unfolds as a series of songs or poetic pre/post-industrial folktales ruminating on immigration, social inflammation, urban madness, and visionary illumination. Two years in the making, *fEVER* represents a fusion of digital and traditional image and music production techniques including drawing, writing, improvisatory play, singing, gen-AI image and sound prompting, mixing-remixing-sampling, novel interactive 2D/3D animation software design, and an array of audio-visual signal processes, all coming into dramatic form through the intensive final film editing phase. Once completed the selected movements were given to collaborator Colin Stokes (composer / cellist), who wrote the string parts for this evening's performance.

Merging aspects of experimental film, music-video, and mythopoetic storytelling, this cross-genre work, blends experimental, popular and historical music traditions. The work expresses a decidedly non-western view of temporality, evolving forward and back in time through a series of movements best described as an operatic animated graphic novel. The fluid genre defying aesthetic, synthesizing diverse sonic and visual-media references, is made possible through the artist's ongoing exploration of generative AI as a far-reaching pan-cultural music composition and film-making toolset. **fEVER** exists in several forms, 1.) as a traditional single-screen linear film, 2.) a live, interactive, single-screen performance for cello, electronics and live-cinema performer, 3.) a series of extractable short films and, 4.) an interactive immersive 5-screen performance-installation.

A special heartfelt acknowledgement goes to Dr. Stephen Lucas who has developed a series of novel M4L audio-visual modules that have furthered the production of this work.

Additional thanks to Kahan Taraporevala for lighting design and media playback systems programming, and to the CEMI staff who have made this concert possible.

Texts

All lyrics written by David Stout (2024–2025)

Leavin' / Slumber Wump

Shake off this slumber wump
Heya sleep walkers
Y'all Leaving the city behind
Almost there
Almost ...

Zero to one sixty-five,
My hair is a traffic snarl,
- Is a beast
We movin'
Movin'
Further, further with this, a wicked pill
Movin'
Further, further take this wicked pill
See my white knuckled teddy bear
Bread winners
All lined up
Leavin', Leavin'

Coming For Us?

The red lit glow,
On a distant road.
A night-time spin,
In a hybrid tin.
Are they coming for us?
Are they landing now?
Are they coming for us?
Are they landing now?
You read my mind,
And I feel it slow.
Where the years still bleed,
Where the weak don't go.
Are they coming for us?
Are they landing now?
Did they know our names?
When we planned this day
Uncertain to the end
Everything in play.
Are they coming for us?
Are they landing now?
Are they coming for us?
Are they landing now?

They Became Dogs

They became dogs.

Packs ... On the street.

Around corners.

They could read your hungers,
and smell our past.

Some sensed the movement of distant events,
trading howls across the push and tumble of another preening night.

here is something vivid we can't see

because ____ someone,

moves between a shadow,

cast by no thing - standing - alone in this crush

here is something vivid we can't see

because,

one moves between a shadow,

cast by no thing

standing ... alone in this crush

Wait up - I'm not through

Here, through that double vision checkpoint,

Where the world splits in two

"Come back, Come back Mims!"

on-it ... on-it ... on-it ... on-it ... got-it

in the night, once, once, once

in the night, once

This Story

This Story Once ... This Story Once ... This Story Once

Flowers Burn "falling, rising"

Slower, slower, watch the flowers burn

a phase space layer, R. G. B. vapor plume

I'll take it, take it all in stride

I can walk it, walk it

down the line

Higher, higher, changes state of matter

a change space maker, C. R. T. fractal-zoom

I'll move it, move it all outside

I can make it, take it

all in time

Our hands will hold you

These hands will heal

Their hands can keep us close

Your hands reveal

continued on following page

PT. 2

Oh - we are molten ecstasy
Free -
Breathe, breathe in, breathe out –
Falling through
Falling / Rising
Rising into the heart of all our hearts –
You – You – You –
Are Love

These Parts

There is no forge, no earthly vessel
to hold this fire.
No hand to play
that has not been seen before.
Between the two,
no cooling heads.
Not us?
Again?
Below.
A tight spot.
Spreading quickly.
No containment.
If we're the lucky sum
of all these parts.

Stirring

Five waters pour
glass to glass.
Four poisons, one pure
assured to change the past.
Stirring, Stirring, Stirring, Stirring
Stirring, Stirring, Stirring, Stirring
Oh - I put a spell ...
Twelve daughters ring the hourglass.
Two Cities, none pure
assured to be the last.
Stirring, Stirring, Stirring, Stirring
Stirring, Stirring, Stirring, Stirring
over the land and
over the cities and
over the long, black, black water
over the sand,
and over the blue peaks and
over the silver oh – water

continued on following page

lessens the fear
stirring
lessens the fear

Soul Circumference

Ssshhhhhhhhhhh - Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhh

Breathe - wshhhh

My soul circumference

Envelopes us

Where the edges bleed

Into its center

Forever, ever empty

when we,

we emerge

here, or here, or there

in quiet distance,

closer,

here, closer still,

still,

closer still.

CODA:

For Everrrrrrrrrrrrr

Ever

I will flyyyyyyyyyyy

For Everrrrrrrrrrrrr

Fly-iiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiii



Biographies

David Stout is a visual and sonic artist, writer, filmmaker and performance director. He is cofounder of the seminal audio-visual duo, NoiseFold, whose immersive performances and installations have toured worldwide. Drawing together the arts, technology, science and tenets of global wisdom traditions, Stout embraces the accelerating emergence of hybrid artforms and their potentials for exploring consciousness to activate greater cultural, self and planetary awareness. These conceptual threads find expression in his current engagement with large scale public projection works, virtual reality, print making, generative AI, and audio-visual performances that combine digital methods with art making traditions of the past including, generative design of novel sculptural vessels realized in blown glass, the emulation of woven fabrics using real-time video processes and performances wedding diverse musical traditions with synthetic media and responsive visual technologies. David is professor of composition at the University of North Texas, College of Music where he coordinates iARTA – Initiative for Advanced Research in Technology and the Arts.

Colin Stokes is a cellist, composer, music and media technologist, and researcher focused on artificial intelligence in computer media systems design. Colin is a PhD candidate at The University of North Texas, where he works with Jon Nelson, Marco Buongiorno Nardelli, David Stout, and Panayiotis Kokoras. He also holds degrees in cello performance from The Juilliard School and the Eastman School of Music. As a cellist, Colin tours actively with the Berlin-based electronic group Symphoniacs. His music can be heard on more than 20 albums released by Universal Music/Polydor, Warner Music Japan, EMI, Neuma Records, and others. He has shared the stage with performers ranging from Yo-Yo Ma, Gidon Kremer, and John Williams, to Lady Gaga, Chaka Khan and Heidi Klum and his performances, broadcasts, and streams have been seen and heard by hundreds of millions of people worldwide.