



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

University of North Texas
College of Music

Ensemble Recital | Monday, November 28, 2022 | 8:00 pm | Voertman Hall

SPECTRUM: New Works from North Texas

Fanfare for the Righteous (2022)Ryan Fillinger (b. 2001)

Quasar Trombone Quartet

Tim George, Connor Altagen, Kyle Husby, tenor trombones
Connor Fallon, bass trombone

Memory (2022)Kahan Taraporevala (b. 1999)

Helen Lundy, violin • Bennett Morgan, bass clarinet
fixed media

Albumblatt (2022) Willyn Whiting (b. 1993)

Benjamin Damann, percussion

from *Polarity* (2016)Patrick Reed (b. 1991)
II. In Exaltation

Alvin Leung, piano

Two Hölderlin Songs (2022)..... Erik Ulman (b. 1996)

I. An

II. Gestalt und Geist (Form and Spirit)

Nova Ensemble

Te Yu Huang, tenor • Anne Dearth Maker, flute
Justin Weis, euphonium • Amanda Hamilton, viola
Kory Reeder, bass

Scenes from Somewhere (2022).....Heather Pryse (b. 2000)
I. Like Clear Fog
II. Floating
III. Dancng
IV. And Fading Away to Nothing

Felicity Fulton, flute • David Kriete, clarinet
Victoria Donaldson, bassoon

Frision (2022).....Dylan Pich (b. 1995)
I. Flow
II. Linger
III. Erupt

Maxwell Borah, alto saxophone • Graham Viegut, drumset

Parting Dance (2020).....PJ Mooney (b. 2000)

Pyxis Saxophone Quartet

Ronald Bonitatibus, soprano saxophone • Max Windsor, alto saxophone
Devon Isaac, tenor saxophone • Beige Cowell, baritone saxophone

the emergency alert system is
on alert and will be with you
shortly (2021) Louise Fristensky (b. 1987)

Justin Kujawski, double bass • Conner Simmons, double bass

Klar bäck (2022) Beige Cowell (b. 2001)
I. Back to Nature
II. Unafraid
III. We Must Leave Them Behind

Helena Vassiliades, voice and frame drum
Zoe O'Shaughnessy, harp and frame drum

performed in Spec's Courtyard

Fanfare for the Righteous by Ryan Fillinger

During the late fall of 2021, I was approached by Connor Altgen, a trombonist in the Quasar Quartet, who asked me if I'd compose a piece for their spring recital in 2022. An homage to the University of North Texas, the recital sought to showcase works by UNT composers and new music for the trombone. I gladly took up the offer, though quickly realized I'd never written a trombone quartet, so I'd have to experiment. While it seemed cliché, my first instinct was to write a fanfare; something flashy, impressive, and energetic. For inspiration, I studied some works of the great John Williams. Williams is especially known for his bright, triumphant fanfares, so borrowing a bit of his technique seemed appropriate enough. In particular, influences from the original *Superman* theme and "The Flight to Neverland" from *Hook* can be heard throughout. The feeling of this style of music, and the overall nature of the trombone, seemed self-described as righteous. Thus, the title *Fanfare for the Righteous* was born. The best qualities in us as people are defined by righteousness: excellence, confidence, and heroism. From a more precise perspective, righteousness can also define a strong friendship: nobility, trust, and honor. These two characters are the makeup of the piece, represented by two contrasting themes tied together by acrobatic fanfares and piercing ostinatos.

Memory by Kahan Taraporevala

Memory is a piece inspired by a particular feeling we all encounter. It is the moment where we experience something that simultaneously causes us to feel polar opposite emotions. For example, the thought of an old friend that brings back wonderful memories yet sends a twinge to your heart because you miss them.

Albumblatt by Willyn Whiting

Written in 2020, but fully notated in 2022, this piece focuses on the intimate sounds of paper and their relation to my creative work.

Polarity Movement II In Exaltation by Patrick Reed

The second movement *In Exaltation* focuses on the Divine, moving through fields of beauty to the slow waltz of death.

Two Hölderlin Songs by Erik Ulman

These brief songs set two fragments by Friedrich Hölderlin (1770–1843); they were written expressly for the Nova Ensemble, and are dedicated to my dear friends Elizabeth McNutt, Andrew May, and Daniël Franke. In his book *Hölderlin's Madness*, the British poet David Gascoyne renders Hölderlin's poems as follows:

the emergency alert system is on alert and will be with you shortly by Louise Fristensky

the emergency alert system is on alert and will be with you shortly is a panicked meditation on the sonic geographies of continuous catastrophe. This piece specifically explores the timbral similarities between the mechanical air stream sirens iconically associated with many different systems of emergency alerts and the double bass bow artifacts and ability to duplicate and fine-manipulate tones across its range. Special thanks to Justin Kujawski for prototyping this piece with me.

Klar bäck by Beige Cowell and text by E. F. Hayward

Klar bäck (Clear Creek) is named after the Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center in Denton, TX. The area is a beautiful nature reserve with a prairie of native wildflowers, a small wetland, trails, and the Clear Creek itself. I was moved by the poetry of E. F. Hayward in his collection *Poems from the North Woods*, so I set three poems for this song cycle.

The connection to nature that Hayward writes about, is both a very human and very magical thing. It's a sentiment at the core of the ancient Swedish practice of *kulning*, a feminine style of singing or herding call. I have leaned into *kulning* for several aspects of this piece, but in *Unafraid*, which is a quick but reluctant acceptance of Death, I find a spiritual dwelling that can only be expressed through the haunting, piercing, and melismatic cry of *kulning*.

I. Back to Nature

I've played my part in Life's affairs
I'm weary of the noise and strife
So let me put aside my cares
and live the quiet simple life.

I love to dwell in forest wild
Where giant pine trees pierce the sky
A beauty spot where nature smiled
A fitting place to live and die.

II. Unafraid

I have no fear of this thing called Death.
When the body goes back to the Earth,
and I breathe the last bit of breath
that was breathed in my nostrils at birth.

I'm not afraid to lie down and die,
I shall quit this old world with a smile.
But I'm not ready to say Good-bye,
I would like to stay here, yet a while.

III. We Must Leave Them Behind

I ponder and marvel at Nature's great plan,
The vast panorama She spreads before man;
A World filled with beauty of every kind,
Man views them awhile but must leave them behind.

There are some who forget while passing along,
That avarice and greed are essentially wrong.
They covet and claim the treasures they find,
May use them awhile but must leave them behind.

So enjoy the beauties of Nature each day,
For you like all others must soon pass away.
The things that we love and our hearts have entwined,
are snatched from our grasp we must leave them behind.

The beautiful things which today we behold,
Keep their beauty forever they never grow old.
The eyes which now see them will someday be blind,
They'll see them no more they must leave them behind.

The pleasures of life which now hold us so fast,
Will greet those who follow when we shall have passed.
While Life, Death, and the Soul, three words undefined,
Shall mystify those we are leaving behind.

COMPOSERS
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