



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

University of North Texas College of Music

Faculty Recital | Tuesday, March 26, 2024 | 8:00 pm | MEIT (M1001)

Jung Choi, oboe
Bokyung Byun, guitar

Premiere Works by UNT Composers

But, it'll return (2024)Shahrzad Talebi (b. 1995)

Jung Choi, oboe • live electronics

Dorn Pyramid (2024)Taylor Hatch (b. 1997)

Bokyung Byun, guitar

overflowing fog (2024).....Ben Damann (b. 1994)

Jung Choi, oboe

who(is?are)who (2024)Justin Friello (b. 1989)

Jung Choi, oboe • Bokyung Byun, guitar

Special thanks to Prof. Sungji Hong and the Center for Experimental Music and Intermedia (CEMI) for their support to this concert.



Six hundred seventy-fourth program of the 2023–2024 season
Photography and videography are prohibited

Program Notes

Dorn Pyramid

In my hometown of San Luis Obispo in the Central Coast of California, there is a large masonic tomb in the shape of a pyramid that sits on its own slope at the local cemetery. The design of the tomb not only captivates me, but the meaning behind it is filled with a mysterious history. A lawyer by the name of Fred Adolphus Dorn lost his wife and son during childbirth, and so to honor them in the amount of time that they both had to live, Dorn erected a pyramid in their honor. The pyramid stands alone and isolated on the ground that it stands. The location was the only one that ended up being the only figure with solid rock to support the massive mausoleum. There are two stones laid in the front of the door that are waiting to be cemented once everyone in the Dorn family is laid to rest inside.

This piece is about the strangeness of life and death, from its moments where we question life and uncover things about how unexpected events can either cause us to feel out of place, but also remind ourselves that we have a place in the world. The symbolic aspect of Dorn's story had such an impact on me that composing this piece felt like I could connect from a place of wondering why things in life, such as death, become attached to us as humans. The concept of having the guitar display this kind of emotion is something intriguing about its range and the emotions it can convey with how each string and chord ring out. The most interesting aspect of the piece, was exploring how the guitar can have an emotional effect with the carefulness of its range. As a guitarist myself, I am gravitated by the instrument's flexibility, even if the range seems limited once you go higher up on the neck. I am glad that I can use the guitar in this kind of setting to experiment with the amount of possibilities to bring this composition to life.

who(is?are)who

who(is?are)who

(two faces at a dark
window)this father and his
child are watching snowflakes
(falling & falling & falling)

eyes eyes

looking(alw
ays)while
earth and sky grow
one with won

der until(see

the)with the
bigger much than biggest
(little is)now(dancing yes for)white
ly(joy!joy!joy)and whiteliest all

wonderings are silence is becom

ing each
truebeautifully
more-than-thing
(& falling &)

EverychildfatheringOne

—e. e. cummings

Biographies

Oboist **Jung Choi**, a native of South Korea, has quickly established a career of both performing and teaching. She was honorably mentioned twice as the finalist for the Gillet-Fox International Oboe Competition and started teaching and giving masterclasses at a collegiate level

Having made her concerto debut at the age of 16, Choi has since appeared as soloist with the Seoul Yego Orchestra, SNU Wind Ensemble, Buchoen Youth Philharmonic, Seoul Youth Philharmonic, Seoul Chamber Orchestra and Eastman Philharmonia. She also has appeared internationally as a chamber and orchestral musician in Germany, France, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Japan.

While she was working on her master's degree at the Eastman School of Music, Choi was appointed as oboe/English horn player at the Binghamton Philharmonic. She taught at Nazareth College and Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester, NY as well. Upon graduation from Eastman, she was appointed assistant principal for the Korean Symphony Orchestra and gave up to 90 concerts annually. Choi also taught oboe at Seoul National University, her alma mater. As a devoted teacher her students won major music competitions in Korea, were invited to compete in oboe competitions such as the Muri Competition and Prague Spring Competition, and were invited to the Pacific Music Festival, American Institute of Musical Studies, Norfolk Chamber Music Festival and Interlochen Summer Arts Camp.

Choi is an avid chamber musician and a member of the wind ensemble Winds, the Piri oboe ensemble and a woodwind quintet, Sunyul. She was invited as principal oboist of Daegwanryoung Music Festival, Incheon and Arts Festival and Malaysia Festival Orchestra. Apart from classical music, Choi's interest lies in other genres of music as well. She has recorded music for movies, musicals, and K-pop songs. She also performed the oboe on a Korean national television show collaborating with a poet.

Choi's principal teachers include Richard Killmer, Yun Jung Lee, Myung Jin Lee, Soo Keum Kim and Jong Duk Kim. She comes to UNT from Missouri State University.

Recipient of the 2023 Avery Fisher Career Grant, **Bokyoung Byun** enjoys a reputation as one of the most sought-after guitarists of her generation. Bokyoung holds the distinction of being the first female winner of the prestigious JoAnn Falletta International Guitar Concerto Competition, where Falletta herself described Bokyoung's performance as "stunning, showcasing her gorgeous tone, immaculate technique, and sophisticated musicianship." Other recent honors include the grand prize at the 2021 Guitar Foundation of America International Concert Artist Competition and the Montreal International Classical Guitar Competition.

Born in Seoul, Korea, Bokyoung began playing guitar at the age of six. At eleven, she took the stage for her first solo recital, leading to an early start in her teen years performing numerous concert tours in Asia. At the same time, Bokyoung gained international attention for first-prize finishes in international competitions.

Bokyoung soon moved to the United States, where she entered The Juilliard School at the age of sixteen. She holds bachelor of music and master of music degrees from The Juilliard School and a doctor of musical arts degree from the University of Southern California. Teachers and mentors include Scott Tennant, William Kanengiser, Chen Zhi, Tae-Soo Kim, and Sharon Isbin.

Bokyoung's debut recording in 2020 has been praised by *Soundboard Magazine* as, "a very beautiful disc...We are treated to extraordinary musicianship, technical assurance, and beauty of sound." In 2022, *American Record Guide* chose her Naxos Laurate Series recording as the Critics' Choice Album, remarking her style as "very reminiscent of Andrés Segovia."

Bokyoung is currently on the guitar faculty of University of North Texas. She is an Augustine Strings artist and plays a guitar by Dieter Mueller (2019).

