

University of North Texas College of Music

Senior Recital | Monday, April 15, 2024 | 8:00 pm | Recital Hall

Lucas Conley, composer

Explorations

Explorations
All the Same (2022)
Hollahaya (2023)Lucas Conley Rachel Cunningham, soprano • Diane Tiscareño, alto Austin Crowson, tenor • Jaden Jackson-Cooper, bass
Zodiac (2022)
Automobile Viewscape (2023)Lucas Conley I. Afternoon Highways II. Airport Nocturne

Di Cao, flute • Hyungju Oh, oboe • Brandon Von, clarinet Samuel Himes, horn • Victoria Donaldson, bassoon

III. Coastal Horizon

All the Same is a work for mixed ensemble that takes the disco style, jazz ideas, as well as serialism and combines them into one big, "tongue in cheek" mockery of the modern pop style. This piece comes from not only the desire to make pop music that sounds completely out of its element, but also to make twelve tone sound upbeat and fun.

Based on the music of the vocal ensemble Roomful of Teeth, **Hollahaya**, is a work made up of nonsense syllables, claps, stomps, and various vocal techniques.

Zodiac is based in twelve short movements, each about one of the twelve astrological signs, also known as the zodiac. Each movement is based on the character of what each of the signs are based on. Aries: The Ram. Aries is considered the beginning of the zodiac cycle and often associated with the beginning of spring, Taurus: The Bull. I took inspiration from Spanish bullfighting for this movement as well as the use of the flamenco scale. This movement is brash and chaotic, like an off the rails bull fight. Gemini: The Twins. This movement is reflective of two people, alike but different and the similarities in those differences. Cancer: The Crab. I had a visual image of a crab scuttling on to the beach, perhaps digging a hole or finding food, and then scurrying back into the ocean. Leo: The Lion. Lions are known for their ferocious yet regal natures, and this movement reflects that by being a fanfare, switching between both terrifying and grandiose. Virgo: The Maiden. The maiden is inexperienced with life, both its good and bad. Libra: The Scales. Libra embodies balance. In order to accomplish this feeling of balance, I utilize a palindromic twelve tone row as well as a palindromic form throughout the movement. Scorpio: The Scorpion, Scorpio is sinister and shady, very potentially dangerous. Sagittarius: The Archer. Sagittarius is very reminiscent of Chiron, a centaur from Greek mythology, the wisest and justest of all the centaurs. Capricorn: The Sea-Goat. Capricorn is often depicted as an animal with the front half of a goat and the back half of a fish. Aquarius: The Water-bearer. The water-bearer is someone who is burdened with this responsibility but carries it out with ease and elegance. Pisces: The Fish. Fast and playful, swimming freely through a river.

I've spent a lot of time in a car, driving through various parts of the United States throughout my childhood. **Automobile Viewscape** takes inspiration from my travels and the various sights I've seen along the way. The first movement, <u>Afternoon Highways</u>, comes from the sweeping, overarching bridges of the George Bush highway that I take going from my parents' house in Murphy to Denton. I have always thought that the blue skies and the twists and turns of the highway create this beautiful tapestry of motion and color. The second movement, <u>Airport Nocturne</u>, comes from a very different view, one of the LAX airport in California. I remember seeing these pillars illuminated by color lights and hearing the low hum of the engine as we drove home. The last movement, <u>Coastal Horizon</u>, takes from the beautiful beach view of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, where my family and I would frequently vacation.