



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

University of North Texas
College of Music

Senior Recital | Sunday, April 7, 2024 | 8:00 pm | Voertman Hall

Ryan Fillinger, composer

Reflections

Solemn Reflections (2024)Ryan Fillinger (b. 2001)
I. Meditation
II. Song

Connor Rury, oboe • Hannah Weller, clarinet
Margaret Anne Gunter, harp • Abigail Bahng, soprano
Tyler Aguillard, cello • Ryan Fillinger, conductor

Volatile (2023).....Ryan Fillinger

Harmonie Quatuor

Scott Coward, soprano saxophone • Jacob Ryter, alto saxophone
Joseph Zapp, tenor saxophone • Andrew Byrd, baritone saxophone

Lament (2022).....Ryan Fillinger

Hyacinth String Quartet

Kelly Huang, violin • Ella Curb, violin
Shanya Chynwat, viola • Ethan Nelson, cello

Caprice (2024).....Ryan Fillinger

Arturo Ortega, tuba

Fanfare (2024)Ryan Fillinger

Brassvenue C Quintet

MacKenzie McCulloch, trumpet • Robert Jones, trumpet
Isaac Fowler, horn • Thomas Spencer, trombone
Charles Moats, tuba

Solemn Reflections—*Solemn Reflections* is not necessarily "solemn" at its core, but rather takes its name from the mood established by the music of each of the two movements. The text is introspective in nature, which is how the piece earns the "reflections" part of the title; the first movement contemplates existence itself, and is very disconcerting, while the second movement is much more passionate with a gentler character.

I. Meditation

Is this,
is this it?
Let's pray so.
Don't ask.
Who is there,
who is there,
who is there to answer?
God's forever hints?
A cocoon in cyclic bloom;
muted colors and invisible wings
fly away and return reincarnate
a tint evolved
to die again;
a tint evolved
to die again.

II. Song

The creek flirts as I walk along its cliff,
Flaunting between braided flowers,
flowers of black metal;
a frog rings like a telephone,
the brook whispers between lips of hashed bark and brown moss,
the wind brushes me like paint.
From under cloth, I remove my left ear towards the Earth,
and let Her gather around me,
consume me,
and teach me.

--Text by Samuel Ash

Volatile—volatile /vol • uh • tl/Adjective

1. tending or threatening to break out into open violence; explosive:
2. changeable; mercurial; flighty

The above definitions of the word "volatile" are the main inspiration for this work. Each of the four saxophones remain almost exclusively in their own pitch environments, creating very dense polytonal sequences that seem restless and sporadic. The through-composed aspect of the composition also adds to the unpredictability, unexpectedly throwing in ecstatic bursts of energy throughout the surrounding churning counterpoint.

Lament—It is human nature to mourn that which we have lost, and to grieve in the absence. This indescribable pain, while bearing not a single drop of blood, contests to be by far the most visceral and profound. To an overwhelming majority, there is nothing else in this world that matches the pain of grief. *Lament* is a meditation on this human experience, and is a sort of reflection on events of tragedy, crisis, and violence. *Lament* was adapted from an earlier work of mine of the same name, for SATB Saxophone Quartet.

Caprice—*Caprice for unaccompanied solo Tuba* is a short — but challenging — composition structured as a sonata, which showcases the virtuosic potential and acrobatic capabilities of the Tuba. The music is purely absolute with no programmatic context, but still possesses a playful, energetic, and flashy character. *Caprice* was written for talented tubist and close friend Arturo Ortega, whose passion and drive for music continues to inspire me.

Fanfare—Fitting for an exciting concert opener or a triumphant encore, *Fanfare for Brass Quintet* lives up to every sentiment of the word. Primarily centered around Bb, the piece acts almost rhapsodically, taking the primary 2-bar ostinato and layering it several different ways before recapping in a satisfying coda. *Fanfare* was happily written for the Brassvenue C Quintet to assist their mission of expanding the catalog of brass quintet music.

*Seven hundred fifty-sixth program of the 2023–2024 season
Photography and videography are prohibited*