



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

University of North Texas College of Music

Master's Recital | Tuesday, October 24, 2023 | 8:00 pm | Recital Hall

Ethan Nguyen, jazz piano
Bodin Chompoosri, bass • Joshua Ferrell, drumset

Someday Soon (1988)Bobby Watson (b. 1953)

Chicken An' Dumplings (1960)Ray Bryant (1931–2011)

Chan's Song (1986)Herbie Hancock/Stevie Wonder
(b. 1940)/(b. 1950)
arr. Ethan Nguyen

Madison Russell, voice

Memories Of You (1930) Eubie Blake/Andy Razaf
(1887–1983)/(1895–1973)

solo piano

Chorinho (1988).....Lyle Mays (1953–2020)

Natalie Suvarnasuddhi, soprano saxophone

In Time (2023) Ethan Nguyen (b. 1998)

One hundred eighty-second program of the 2023–2024 season
Photography and videography are prohibited

Someday Soon—*Naima's Love Song* by John Hicks has easily earned a spot as one of my favorite albums discovered while at UNT. When I heard "Someday Soon," it captured the feeling of coming to a place where so many people were passionate about the same thing as me. It was exciting, intimidating, and challenging all at once, yet I couldn't wait to see what the future had in store.

Chicken An' Dumplings—I have always felt a connection to music from the hard bop era, and in coming up with this set, I knew I had to pay tribute to a tune recorded by the great Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers. I first heard "Chicken An' Dumplings" played live by drummer Ulysses Owens Jr. and was instantly hooked by its contagious groove. If you hadn't heard it before, allow me to introduce it to you as he did for me.

Chan's Song—"Chan's Song" made its debut on the soundtrack of the 1986 film *Round Midnight*. For this arrangement, I drew inspiration from the sound of wind chimes to showcase the lyrics in a cinematic light. I think the lyrics contain a profound message that love is all around us if we look and doesn't necessarily need to be said in order to be felt. Especially since we sometimes never get the chance to express how we feel in words.

Memories Of You—One of the things I've really grown to value is taking the time to appreciate each unique stage of life. You can imagine how difficult it was this past summer when I had to say goodbye to some of my closest friends, whom I met at the start of my master's degree, after they graduated and moved to different states. Like the saying goes, "Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory." Nevertheless, I have plenty of memories with them to smile and think back on as I complete my last semester.

To my friends in Texas: I want you to know, I cherish every moment we have together because I know there may come a day when we have to say goodbye and I'm left with the wonderful memories we've made. This tune is dedicated to the everlasting friendships I've made here, and I thought it would only be fitting to play it solo.

Chorinho—"Chorinho," which translates from Portuguese to "little cry," is a Brazilian choro written by late pianist and UNT alum Lyle Mays. My close friend introduced it to me almost two years ago and I thought it had one of the most intricate melodies I had ever heard. The melody spans multiple octaves and goes through an array of twists and turns, all while the continuous, driving left-hand builds steady momentum.

In Time—During the first semester of my master's, I suffered an injury that resulted in chronic pain down the right side of my neck and right upper extremity. I ended up making the decision to postpone my second year by taking a semester off and focusing on recovery. The mental and physical toll it took, especially on my ability to play the instrument I dedicated my life to, taught me so many lessons about resilience. I wanted to write a tune that would capture that journey to recovery and what it meant to find the strength within me to keep moving forward. I hope you can find strength in it as well.