



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

University of North Texas
College of Music

Senior Recital | Monday, February 26, 2024 | 8:00 pm | MEIT (M1001)

Noah Salem, composer

**Cinematic Fragments: An Exploration in Acoustic
and Electronic Musical Imagery**

Across the Field, in Meditation I Lie (2024)Noah Salem (b. 2002)
clarinet • marimba • piano
Olivia Dinardis, violin • Leonardo Sobral, viola

from *I'm New* (2022)Noah Salem
I. Dani
II. I Don't Understand
III. Eating Alone
IV. Friends?
V. I Can't Talk / I'm New

String Ensemble • piano
pre-recorded guitar • fixed media electronics

from *The Student Film* (2023)Noah Salem
I. Prelude
II. Black and White
III. One Gun, Please
IV. Seeking Revenge
V. Boss Battle/ Trigger
VI. The Student Film

String Ensemble
piano • pre-recorded guitar • pre-recorded electric guitar
fixed media electronics

from *Feeding Tube* (2023)Noah Salem

- I. Feeding Tube
- II. Cyrus and Lilah
- III. Why Do You Do It?
- IV. Lilah's Childhood
- V. Cyrus' Childhood
- VI. Breaking Point
- VII. This Is How It's Affecting Me

String Ensemble • piano • live electronics

Stardust (2023)Noah Salem

fixed media electronics

PERFORMERS

Conductor: Reagan Maginn

Piano: Insun Choi

String Ensemble

Violin I: Alyssa Hall, Abby Gonzalez, Mia Caliri, Colton Weed

Violin II: Olivia Dinardis, Ethan Dunn, Marlon Barrios

Viola: Leonardo Sobral, Rachel Liu

Cello: Olivia Graber, Deohanze Buenafe

Double Bass: Camryn Lafargue, Rebecca Lang

Clarinet: Emily O'Brien

Marimba: Luke Gibson

Live Electronics: Michael Casiano

Pre-Recorded Guitar: Mark Sierra

Pre-Recorded Electric Guitar: William Bender

Special thanks to my stage crew Nolen Liu, and Andrew Rubio,
JD Fuller, Shahrzad Talebi, Insun Choim, Patrick Reed,
as well as the professors on my committee
who have helped shape me and my work:
Jeffrey Hepker, Drew Schnurr, and Sungji Hong

Across the Field, in Meditation I Lie is a chamber piece for 5 instruments exploring the mind's contemplations during a meditative experience. As you lie alone in a field of green pastures, you close your eyes and focus on a single nothingness. Out of that nothingness, a thought. That thought grows, expanding into more and more thoughts, until each thought is acknowledged and promptly pushed aside, as the plethora of other images come racing to the forefront of your mind's eye. You're engulfed by all of these ideas, until suddenly, you open your eyes. A single thought returns. You are renewed.

I'm New is a short film written and directed by Marlon Rubio Smith, inspired by his experience as an ESL student throughout his high school years. The film follows a girl named Dani, an ESL student from Mexico who is having trouble adjusting to her new school and her new life. With no friends and not being able to understand what anyone is saying, Dani feels incredibly alone and that there's no one here to help her. Her misunderstanding causes her classmates to laugh at her and tease her, it gets her in trouble at school, and leaves her to go about her days with no one at her side. When she asks a classmate to help her understand what's going on during a quiz, the teacher throws her out of the class for cheating. When approached by the assistant principal who tries to comfort her and make her feel welcome, Dani counters that she feels that she can't even talk, and leaves to go sit outside by herself. While alone outside, she sees another ESL student from Mexico and goes to sit next to him.

The Student Film is a short film written and directed by Brandon Herrera and Will Tran. The film is a meta-film which sees a film major struggling to begin a script. When his friend walks in, claiming to have worked for the mighty Quentin Tarantino, he begins to give the friend inspiration for a script. As they are coming up with the film, we see it enacted. The Main Character wakes up, and as we see the writers argue about what should happen in the script, many scenes restart halfway through. The Main Character gets ready for his day and walks outside only to see a Love Interest. He approaches the Love Interest, only to be confronted by Love Interest's Boyfriend, first a tall, muscular man, then on repeat a tiny, scrawny boy. Main Character fights Love Interest's Boyfriend and wins Love Interest until she suddenly, and with no explanation, dies. Main Character goes into a depression before seeing Love Interest's Ex Boyfriend mock her death on Social Media. Main Character then gets ready to fight, arriving at Love Interest's Ex-Boyfriend's house to see him with another girl. The two argue and then fight, "Quentin Tarantino style!" Main Character knocks him out. When he sits down after the fight, he gets pulled into a flashback sequence, only to wake up in bed and realize that it was all a dream. The two film majors, happy with their script, cut to filming day, where everything is going terribly. A bystander gets knocked out, prompting the film majors to take a picture of the event, and when the flash subsides, we find the actual filmmakers, Brandon Herrera and Will Tran, writing the script for this film.

Feeding Tube is a student short film written and directed by Aashish Thakur and Kaylee Johnson. It follows a chef, Cyrus, who developed an eating disorder when he was a child, causing him to constantly smoke to keep his hunger low. When invited to dinner with his girlfriend Lilah and her parents, he is confronted about this disorder. When learning that Lilah had been discussing it with her parents behind his back, Cyrus gets angry, and Lilah's father invites him outside, where they're caught smoking by Lilah and her mother. Lilah and Cyrus get into a huge argument, resulting in Cyrus passing out. He's taken to the hospital, where he's put under a feeding tube to keep him alive.

Stardust is a piece for stereo fixed media electronics exploring the vastness of the Universe in all of its serenity and chaos. The title Stardust physically refers to the particles that exist in the Universe, being remains of celestial bodies, but metaphorically depicts the cosmic force that binds it together. This piece depicts the birth of our Universe, explores the beauty of the creation of a galaxy and a star, and the overwhelming mayhem of a black hole. The Universe is stunning, beautiful, and unending.