



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

# University of North Texas College of Music

Composition Recital | Monday, March 4, 2024 | 8:00 pm | Voertman Hall

## **SPECTRUM: A Performance of New Works by North Texas Composers**

a little bit of me (2023) ..... Alan Sanchez (b. 2004)

- I. I can't help but to think
- II. what if it's just me?
- III.

Ashlee Thompson, Jose Villegas, Nathan Granados, tenor trombone  
Jeremy Vale, bass trombone

Either Way (2024) ..... Lucas Conley (b. 2002)

Julian Johnson, clarinet

Georgian Hills (2023) ..... Adam P'Simer (b. 2002)

- I. The Hills
- II. The People
- III. The Sunset

Miguel Guillen, violin • Olivia Dinardis, violin  
Kelsey Felton, viola • Eric Rau, cello

Music for a Pot (2022) ..... Isaac Morgan (b. 2001)

- I. Pot
- II. Water
- III. crotale

Isaac Morgan & Sebastian Havner, percussion

香香啤' 窠咁拜 (Under a Starry Sky) (2023) ..... Beige Cowell (b. 2001)

- I. 山、湖 (Lake and Mountains)
- II. 峡 (Yellow Valleys)
- III. 厝 (Town)

Jiawei Liang, alto saxophone • David McCaulley, piano

**a little bit of me** is a trombone quartet meant to explain what (or who) it is I am. This work explores the techniques of using 12-tone serialism and proportional notation. In my search for a piece for trombone quartet that explored these techniques, I had no luck. So I decided to give it a go. This composition is written in three movements, 'I. i can't help but to think', 'II. what if it's just me?' and 'III.'. Each movement is meant to catch a glimpse into oneself. Each one going deeper and deeper until you reach the penultimate center of one's being.

**Either Way** is a work for any solo instrument that uses a graphic score with a single line that the performer must follow. The line contains different colors and contours so that the performers may interpret them any way they like.

**Georgian Hills** is about the landscape of north Georgia. The piece is an impression of the beauty of this region and attempts to encapsulate that beauty into music. The piece is also about the people and culture of Georgia. Within the piece there is a use of the folk song "Down By The Riverside". The piece is broken up into three movements. The first movement is about the landscape of the hills and mountains. The second movement is about the people and the cultural landscape and history. The third movement is about the sky and sunset and acts as a conclusion to the piece. Through these three movements the composer characterizes this region.

**Music for a Pot** is a 3-movement piece that utilizes the various sounds and functions of a standard kitchen pot. Movement I, Pot, is most people's first intuition when writing music for a pot... turn it upside down and hit it with a stick. This movement utilizes complex rhythmic overlap and various playing surfaces of the pot. Movement II, Water, is notated with a blend of graphic and proportional notation; both players fill the pot with water while striking the rim at various moments. The movement ends with both players rolling on the rim of the pot as it finishes being filled with water, resulting in ascending pitch changes. Movement III, Crotale, utilizes this small body of water to achieve pitch bends in crotales. This high energy movement displays unique colors of metals and liquid.

**Under a Starry Sky** was commissioned by Jiawei Liang and inspired by his hometown in Northwest China. This piece takes the folk music styles and aesthetics from the area and approaches them with Western saxophone writing techniques. It was an honor to study the folk music of Northwest China and write a piece for such a stunning musician like Jiawei. Movement I is inspired by the strong mountains and sparkling lakes of Northwest China, with high contrast between sections to reflect the bold yellows and deep blues of the region's natural features and flowers. Movement II is a more romantic movement, inspired by imagery from the Hua'er folk song lyrics in "'I've been missing you all night.'" The speaker laments about his missing love, and how he can't sleep, left awake all night counting stars. The movement moves through passion and heartache, mimicking intervallic relationships and meandering through-composed melodies present in the original folk song. Movement III is an exciting whirlwind full of bright colors, call-and-response conversations, and grandiose melodies. In this way, it reflects a bustling town full of proud people. This movement also features a saxophone cadenza with a range of difficult techniques to show off the ability of the player.

**Five hundred fifty-fourth program of the 2023–2024 season**