SPECTRUM: A Performance of New Works
by North Texas Composers

YS' Merry Cure (2022) ........................................ Joshua "JD" Fuller/YS Kilmarnock (b. 2004)/(b. 1948)
YS Kilmarnock, voice  •  MJ Kilmarnock, voice (Mvt. V only)  
fixed media

Apricity (2024) ..................................................Dominic Willis  (b. 2003)
Dominic Willis, marimba

Our Little Ones' Feet (2023) ............................................ Colin Stokes  (b. 1987)
fixed media

ICE (2023) ..........................................................Beige Cowell  (b. 2001)
fixed media
Jonna Jinton, video  •  Beige Cowell, audio

Is It Worth It? (2024) .................................................. Alan Sanchez  (b. 2004)
Joseph Zapp, tenor saxophone

moth maidens (2022) ................................................ Benjamin Damann  (b. 1994)
JT Baker, percussion  •  fixed media

Watch the Only Way
Home Disappear (2024) ...........................................Shahrzad Tallebi  (b. 1995)
fixed media

12:14 AM Oak Street (2024) ........................................Colton Weed  (b. 2002)
Noah Salem, piano

Taut Steel (2024) ..........................................................Ian Callard  (b. 2002)
Ian Callard, electric bass guitar

the frst date (2024) ...................................................Sabren Espinosa  (b. 2004)
fixed media
YS’ Merry Cure
A merry cure for all is YS’ story of leaving his home of Mercury and being on Earth while his family fell ill due to a widespread Mercurian pandemic. This work features poems written in an autobiographical style about his situation and is accompanied by found percussion from Braes Records & SD’s Saturn Station, MW. Merry Cure is dedicated to family, and to those affected by the COVID-19 on Earth and the quite unrelated pandemic on Mercury. Also, a special thank you to MJ Kinsmarnock for reciting “a wilting decision” and to Michael Casiano for his assistance. Read along at braesrecords.com/merrycure.

Apricity
Apricity is a contemplative marimba solo reflecting on the title’s definition: the warmth of the sun in winter. I decided to write a marimba solo based on this niche word after a call with my mom in January in which we realized that, by sheer coincidence, we both came across the word “apricity” and its definition for the first time that day. In fact, the day in which that call happened was also the first partially sunny day in an otherwise entirely cloudy week. On top of that, one of the first pieces I ever wrote, entitled “The Sun is Bright But It’s Still Cold Outside,” deals with a similar subject matter. I was already planning to compose a marimba solo at this point, but all of these signs helped me establish a clear thematic direction for the piece right from its inception.

This piece is a personal milestone for me in a few ways. First, it’s the first solo piece I’ve written for what I consider to be my primary instrument, which I’ve wanted to do for quite a while. Second, it acts as a sort of spiritual successor to the aforementioned “The Sun is Bright But It’s Still Cold Outside,” to the extent that a melodic motif from that piece is incorporated throughout this solo. Finally, this marimba solo feels like my first opportunity to give back to marimba composers like Robert Oetomo and Ludwig Albert, whose pieces have helped shape my identity both as a percussionist and as a composer.
Our Little Ones' Feet
Dawn broke on our heads.
Endings were cut down to size.
Our little ones’ feet
rapidly turned
toward the sky.
Time set itself aside
and places shut their eyes,
like a child with words
that gray behind her lids.
Ceilings tumbled
waterfalls of stone,
and under the rubble
the last perceived image
hangs: a final painting
sculpted on our faces.
Alone we grow old tonight,
weave hours and wear them,
gobble the terror that runs
down our kids’ mouths.
Who will devour
our rusted lips?

Rawan Hassan
-Gaza

ICE
During the winter in Northern Sweden, the ice becomes so thick that it
fractures and cracks under its own pressure. The resulting sounds are
otherworldly, and as Jonna puts it, the ice sings. I accompany Jonna’s
stunning video with a mixture of acoustic and electronic sounds. The
sound of the cracking ice is reproduced synthetically, while on top floats
a mournful exchange between a warm wind sound and cool wind
sound, performed by me on a wooden recorder and ceramic ocarina
respectively. The melody accompanies the viewer through this strange
and beautiful land.

Is It Worth It?
"Is It Worth It?" was written without an answer in mind. This piece is a
question to leave unanswered. The only person that can answer it, is You.
Is It Worth It? Is it really? Think of the number of times you’ve gone through
change, you’ve gone through loss, you’ve gone through something almost
inexplicable. If you knew it was going to be fine in the end, would you have
gone through as much as you did, mentally? I’ve recently gone through
something that changed the way I’ve thought of life and relationships. This
piece tries to emulate my thought process while deciding if I wanted to let
this consume me or not. (Spoiler Alert: I did not let it, I moved on). You are
the only person who has to power to make it worth it.
moth maidens
no notes

Watch the Only Way Home Disappear
no notes

12:14 AM Oak Street
12:14 AM Oak Street is a piano nocturne inspired by the sounds and sights of Denton outside my apartment at night.

Taut Steel
"Taut Steel" is a work exploring the concept of steel as a whole through the various sounds of a steel string bass guitar. Tonally, this piece utilizes a sound very similar to Indian Classical Raag Bhairavi, an early morning Raag, since India was one of the first locations to thoroughly utilize the strengths of steel. The piece transitions over time into a more militaristic, Western sound, as the industrialization of the Western world led to the de-industrialization and exploitation of India for European capital gain, changing steel from an icon of Eastern innovation to a symbol of Western greed.

the first date
"the first date" is the beginning of a series that follows you going on dates with a guy who is way too into himself! Is this blossoming romance? Or are you just too nice to decline his romantic advances? Good luck on your date, I guess…

(Special thank you to Benson Brunkhorst for vocals and character modeling!)

Become
"Become" is a work written for a mixed "jazz" ensemble, which hopes to encapsulate the idea of something new being birthed into existence. This piece was written with the dichotomy of clarity and uncertainty in mind, both of which arise in times of change and flux. These ideas are represented through the transition from set, repeated motifs into indeterminacy.

Nine hundred fourth program of the 2023–2024 season
Photography and videography are prohibited