



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

# University of North Texas College of Music

Composition Recital | Monday, April 22, 2024 | 8:00 pm | MEIT (M1001)

## **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 Kinsmarnock, 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

Become (2024).....Max Rubenstein-Miller (b. 2003)  
Jeremiah Arenas, trumpet • Michael Petty, bass clarinet  
Max Rubenstein-Miller, piano  
Brendan Nie, bass • Ashton Weigel, drumset

### **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 Kinsmark for reciting "a wilting decision" and to Michael Casiano for his assistance. Read along at [braesrecords.com/merrycure](https://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.