

3-18-2018

Timothy Parsons, Junior Composition Recital

Cedarville University

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**THE CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF
MUSIC AND WORSHIP**

PRESENTS THE

JUNIOR COMPOSITION RECITAL

OF

TIMOTHY PARSONS

**SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2018
3 P.M.**

**RECITAL HALL
BOLTHOUSE CENTER FOR MUSIC
DIXON MINISTRY CENTER**

PROGRAM

Sleepless: For String Quartet and Flute Timothy Parsons (b. 1996)

- I. Onus Contemplation
- II. Meandering Mind
- III. Interplay of Ideas
- IV. Restless to Rest

Chloé Lance, flute; James Ryan and Lydia Sarver, violins;
Brianna Patricca, viola; Tim True, cello;
Timothy Parsons, conductor

Three Glimpses into Memory Timothy Parsons

- I. Waves
- II. Dance
- III. Rain

Hannah Rinehart, piano

And Can It Be?: For String Quartet and String Orchestra
. Thomas Campbell (1800–1876)
arr. Timothy Parsons

String Quartet
Ellen Raquet and Lydia Sarver, violins;
Chris DeShields, viola; Josh Dissmore, cello

String Orchestra
James Ryan, Kristen Jarboe, Stephen Gaynier, and
Brianna Elias, violins;
Brianna Patricca and Sarah Staufer, violas;
Hanna Bahorik and Tim True, cellos;
Timothy Parsons, conductor

Timothy is a student of Austin Jaquith.

No flash photography, please. Please turn off all cell phones.

Program Notes

Sleepless

"Sleepless" is about a man who lies awake at night, thinking, searching, and pondering questions about God, life and purpose. He considers both the joys and horrors of life. He thinks about his many faults and finds great sorrow in them. He conceptualizes ideas in his head for how he can achieve his goals, how he can be a better friend, how he can better follow after God. He lies there, completely exhausted, yet wide awake, with thoughts swarming around his head, feeling as if he is going insane. The man finally lets go of his thoughts and prays, and after many hours of restlessness, he finds peace and rest.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

Three Glimpses into Memory

Each movement of this piece draws inspiration from joyful memories of my recent years. "Waves" is from a time spent with my family at the ocean. The movement itself is reflective of the rise and fall of ocean waves with a soaring melody overtop. The "Dance" derives from many fun moments with friends. It utilizes jazz-like syncopation and free harmony with a single dancing motif pervading through the whole movement. "Rain" comes from a memory with my great friend Brian, of us running through a heavy thunderstorm for the fun of it. The music portrays flashes of lightning in the distance with low and rumbling responses of thunder that gradually get closer and closer as the piece continues. There is a constant pitter patter of rainfall sounding, and a melody, representing our joyful run through the rain, which acts as a unifying thematic element for the movement.

And Can It Be?

This is an arrangement and variations on the tune by Thomas Campbell from my favorite hymn, "And Can It Be?" Charles Wesley wrote the text of this hymn soon after he came to faith in Christ in 1738. The words are as follows:

1. And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain-
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
 2. He left His Father's throne above-
So free, so infinite His grace-
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race:
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For, O my God, it found out me!
 3. Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray-
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
 4. No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
- Refrain:
Amazing love! How can it be?
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me.

While the arrangement is strictly instrumental, I wanted the text to drive the form and texture of the piece. Therefore, I wanted there to be a contemplative quality to the music, that over time breaks forth into pure and ecstatic joy at the thought of being free and alive in Christ.

