

3-25-2023

Maryssa Duncan, Senior Composition Recital

Maryssa Duncan

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THE CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF
MUSIC AND WORSHIP

PRESENTS THE

SENIOR COMPOSITION RECITAL

OF

MARYSSA DUNCAN

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2023
7 P.M.

RECITAL HALL
BOLTHOUSE CENTER FOR MUSIC
DIXON MINISTRY CENTER

PROGRAM

- 'Tis So Sweet* arr. Maryssa Duncan (b. 2001)
Assisted by Abigail Karn, flute; Elise Camillone, violin;
Kyra Becker, cello; and Logan Lipke, piano
- Spatial Awareness* Maryssa Duncan
Assisted by Timothy Barnes, xiao;
and Christopher Staufer, cello
- The Awakening Brook* Maryssa Duncan
Assisted by Joanna Lauer, harp
- Shiny Penny Rag* Maryssa Duncan
Assisted by Timothy Elliot, xylophone
- A World of Many Dangers* Maryssa Duncan
Assisted by Graci Kelley, euphonium;
Logan Carter and William Stone, tenor trombones;
Matthew Burgess, bass trombone;
Brady Schick and Charles Lorenz, tubas;
Stephen Cressman and Timothy Elliot, percussion;
and Maryssa Duncan, conductor
- A Warbler's Song* Maryssa Duncan
Assisted by Abigail Motter, Autumn Kuntz, and Joanna Lauer, sopranos;
Lily Reese, Laura Robin, and Katie Philiposian, altos;
Nic Dysert and Corriッサ Smith, tenors;
Logan Lipke and Benjamin Heady, basses;
and Maryssa Duncan, conductor
- Precious Stones* Maryssa Duncan
- Lapis Lazuli
Assisted by Elise Camillone, violin
- Opal
Assisted by Corriッサ Smith, horn
- Peridot
Assisted by Lewis Plank, alto saxophone
- Citrine
Assisted by Autumn Kuntz, violin

Caution: Handle with Care Maryssa Duncan

Nitroglycerin

Thermite

Black Powder

Assisted by Davi da Silva and Elise Camillone, violins;

Kenneth Bechtel, viola; and Christopher Staufer, cello

A.A.B...... Maryssa Duncan

Assisted by Emmah Bagin and Joanna Herrlin, trumpets;

Caleb Staten, horn; William Stone, trombone; and Brady Schick, tuba

Maryssa is a student of Austin Jaquith.

This recital is presented in partial fulfillment
of the Bachelor of Music in composition degree.

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Program Notes

'Tis So Sweet (Arrangement)

I've loved this hymn for many years and it always reminds my heart of what a joy it is to serve our Lord. I chose it to start the program because it helps to set a frame of mind that our own beloved Dr. Curlette encourages constantly, "We get to do this."

Spatial Awareness

This piece was written especially to show off the space it is performed in. It uses various modal scales and rhythmic fluidity to create a sense of tension and unsteadiness. Listen for the contrasting motives of the xiao and cello that help to give the piece texture.

The Awakening Brook

I tried to capture the trickling nature of a brook that is just starting to thaw in the spring. The running eighth notes help to give the sense that the water is bubbling with anticipation while the world starts to come back to life after a long winter of rest.

Shiny Penny Rag

Those of you who came to my junior recital may recognize this tune... It was composed by my great grandma Klatik; however, I've transformed it into a xylophone rag. If you remember how it goes, try to pick out the ways that I've altered the notes to fit this iconic style. If not, just enjoy!

Continued on the back

A World of Many Dangers

I originally wrote this piece for a solo trombone and looping station; however, due to technical difficulties, it is being played live. There are a few alterations to fit this new format, the most notable of which is the percussion. Before, it was various forms of tapping on the bell or other non-playing sounds, but, for the sake of being able to hear it over a six-piece ensemble, it was adjusted. The important thing to listen for is how each new layer adds to the groove and interacts harmonically with existing parts of the puzzle.

A Warbler's Song

"Perched within lofty boughs, each warbler trills
his multicoloured melody; silvered notes craft patterned wing.
Eyes but glimpse through leafy palms clasped o'er, but
Name such feathered constellations, and such comets, as they sing.
Though hid, learned syringes pour out praise;
Let us so magnify the Lord by lays." – Grace Kohler

This poem was written by a dear friend of mine. There are two soloists for this piece: The first is the narrator of this story, and the second represents the warbler's song. The lyrics draw attention to how the birds, as part of God's creation, glorify Him through their song and point to His majesty through their very existence. It ends with the response we should all have: to join creation in magnifying the Lord through song.

Precious Stones

This collection is composed for and about my closest friends. These are the ones that have grown with me over the past four years and become the most precious to me, no matter how dirty and unfinished we were back then, and often still are! These pieces attempt to capture a mere snapshot of their personality and our friendship as a whole. Each piece is very different—but that's part of the fun!

Caution: Handle with Care

As many of you may know, I am a fan of most things "fire" and "explosive"—soooo, naturally, I attempted to capture the detonation of different types of explosives. Nitroglycerin has a very fast and violent reaction when detonated. I interpreted this through quickly moving lines and "explosive" chords with dissonant harmonies. As a stark contrast, Thermite is known for catching fire and burning at very hot temperatures for a long time—being almost impossible to extinguish. I interpreted this by using a slower melody, and adding harmonic pressure that increases intensity right to the end.

A.A.B.

This final piece, while not utilizing the musical form "AAB," was written with the sole intention of being An Absolute Banger.

No flash photography, please.

Please turn off all cell phones.