



School of Music

Presents

*Still Breathing:* The University  
of Delaware School of Music  
Composer-Performer  
Collective

Saturday, March 2, 2024, 8:00 p.m.

University of Delaware

Gore Recital Hall



# PROGRAM

**Held Dear (2024)** ..... **Alejandro Lobo**  
(b. 2004)

Will Doyle, piano

**A Piece for Every Written Key (2024)**..... **R. L. Aurora**  
(b. 2002)

C: *Playful and Free*

Cm: *Furious*

Gb: *Playful and Free*

R. L. Aurora, piano

**Bottle Up The Sun (2024)** ..... **Alejandro Lobo**  
(b. 2004)

R. L. Aurora, Carter Steffen, William Schwantes, tenor 1  
Scott Andrews, Alexander Costas, Noah Farnsworth, tenor 2  
Jules Gumus, Max Niedziejko, Alejandro Lobo, baritone  
Ryan Moody, Will Doyle, Dario Cinaglia, William Slater, bass

Yoshiaki Onishi, conductor

**Graveyard (2022)** ..... **Angelina Boback**  
(b. 2004)

Angelina Boback, piano

**Fairytale (2022)** ..... **Angelina Boback**  
(b. 2004)

Yoshiaki Onishi, clarinet  
Ben Holcomb, cello  
Angelina Boback, piano

**I was never a dancer, but I find myself wanting to dance with you (2024)** ..... **Alejandro Lobo** (b. 2002)

Alejandro Lobo, Guitar

## Program Notes

### Held Dear – Alejandro Lobo

Nostalgia—we all chase for it. Inspired by the nostalgia for your favorite movie, your favorite soundtrack, or the smile you spot from across the room when a stranger turns into a friend. Inspired by the sunny day that reminds you of the weekend you spent with your childhood friend all those years ago that you haven't spoken to in years. A reminder of better times and of people who did not care what you did, but only cared for who you were and who you wanted to be.

These are the moments and the people I “Held Dear.” This score is littered with remarks about my past and the afterburn of friendships that I have lost but will never forget. I am older now, and yet I hold on tighter and more dearly than ever before, because all life has taught me is that the best things are never permanent. Time is the greatest thief, as it takes more than anything else. Here we stand, supposedly wiser, yet each of us is scared and traumatized to the point where we suffocate those we still have because we hold on so tightly. Sometimes it turns out we were holding on too hard. However, the scars heal, and we can still reminisce. We can hold onto our memories with nostalgia.

— Alejandro Lobo

### About the Composer

Alejandro Lobo is a sophomore composer and guitarist at the University of Delaware. Outside of music, Lobo enjoys running, writing poetry, rock climbing, cooking, and strategy games. He writes music across a wide variety of styles, but most commonly writes romantic music (inspired by non-musical stimuli such as nature, literature, poetry, personal life, culture, and people). His upcoming projects are mostly geared towards jazz and percussion. Lobo also creates singer-songwriter music, which can be found on streaming platforms including Spotify, Apple Music, YouTube, and more.

Lobo is an active member of Phi Mu Alpha, Club XC/Track, and the Wilmington Classical Guitar Society. He is the current Vice President of the Society of Composers. He is a Mária Telkes Distinguished Scholar here at UD's honors college, a DMEA Young Composers Contest Winner, and the recipient of the National Hispanic Recognition Award, the Jason Reazor Music Scholarship, and the Woody Herman Jazz Award.

— Alejandro Lobo

## **A Piece for Every Written Key – R. L. Aurora**

With this ongoing set of pieces, I'm looking to analyze what I expect out of a piece when I see its key signature on the page. As a composer, I feel that even the key a piece is in can affect the tone and story it will deliver. With the C, i wanted it to feel sophomoric and childish, since pieces in C are many musicians first; the Cm is mimicking the full and unrelenting nature of pieces like Bach's Prelude In Cm, and the Revolutionary Etude of Chopin; and for the Gb, the more flats in a major key signature, the more i feel it wants to break the rules. It wants to have its unbridled joy and emotion break out of the page.

– R. L. Aurora

### **About the Composer**

I am a Non-Binary Neo-Romantic Pianist-Composer and aspiring Recorder player. I take a lot of inspiration from Russian Romantic and 20th century composers as well as more modern Jazz fusion in both my classical and electronic work. I'm a big fan of crazy harmonies, especially using fleeting episodes of far away keys. I think this keeps everything interesting and sporadic.

– R.L. Aurora

## **Bottle Up The Sun – Alejandro Lobo**

"Bottle Up the Sun" is a harmonically rich take on modern love. We all have bottles of sunlight we can open just a crack late at night when we feel particularly lost and alone. The light captured in these bottles is the memories of that one person who always brightens up your day, warms your heart, and clears your mind. You all thought of that one person, friend, family member, or partner when reading that description. The compelling text and extended chords in this piece highlight the people and moments that get you through your darkest moments. When you are in need of a little light and you can think of that person, it can carry you through to morning again. In a rather bitter but realistic light, the light will not shine forever.

– Alejandro Lobo

Lyrics (Written by Alejandro Lobo):

I'll remember you.

Know that my silence doesn't speak the truth.

My words are yours to keep.

The memories and the scattered smiles,

Oh if it's fine with you, I'll keep them too.

I could hide away in you.

Bottle up the sun

for nights you need a little light for one.

If it doesn't help this time I'll be there,

Cause I can spot your flame from anywhere

If you don't love me,

do what you know best and push me away

But I'm here to stay.

When I hear your name

I feel the flowers in my heart

Bloom again, only for you.

I'm here to stay.

Do you feel the same?

It'd be so lovely of you

To say all of it to me.

Who would have thought

It was always a dream.

You would chew me up.

I could never leave your side.

I thought it was always a dream.

The sunlight may never see my eyes, my skin, again.

I will remember you.

Will you remember me too?

I'll remember you.

Know that my silence doesn't speak the truth.

My words are yours to keep.

The memories and the scattered smiles,

Oh if it's fine with you, I'll keep them too.

I could hide away in you.

Bottle up the sun

for nights you need a little light for one.

If it doesn't help this time I'll be there,

Cause I can spot your flame from anywhere

If you don't love me,  
do what you know best and push me away  
But I'm here to stay.  
When I hear your name  
I feel the flowers in my heart  
Bloom again, only for you.  
I'm here to stay.  
Do you feel the same?  
It'd be so lovely of you to say.

### **Graveyard – Angelina Boback**

Graveyard is a piece for piano solo and it was inspired by a scene of a mystery story. A mysterious man walks inside a cemetery in the middle of a beautiful green landscape in England that is covered by fog. The man slowly walks toward a specific grave where he stops and starts staring at the flowers until a tear starts sliding in his cheek. No one knows who the man really is in the story.

– Angelina Boback

#### **About the Composer**

Angelina Boback is a first year student in the Composition Program of University of Delaware. She grew up in Italy where she started studying music at the age of 8 years old. She began to compose music during high school and decided to study composition in University.

– Angelina Boback

### **Fairytale – Angelina Boback**

Fairytale is a trio originally composed for piano, cello and violin but arranged for piano, cello and clarinet for this concert. This piece is meant to represent a childish and nostalgic fantasy that children would find in books. The scene that inspired Angelina to compose this piece is a dance where creatures of the fantasy world such as fairies, elves and trolls, reunite together to remind humans of their childhood. The original version just came out on all platforms on March 1st.

– Angelina Boback

**I was never a dancer, but I find myself wanting to dance with you**  
**– Alejandro Lobo**

One of the greatest misfortunes of life is not trying. This piece is a melancholic depiction of wanting to try and do things you never thought you'd be able to do. There is a beauty to the imperfection of failure because it denotes that one has made an effort. The entire landscape becomes much less hostile when you have someone to take that first step with you. The hardest path to travel is the lonely one. I have found that by surrounding myself with the right people, I have the security to grow and change.

I was not a dancer. Now I am a terrible dancer, but nowadays I try. Are you a dancer? What's the dance you've been wanting to learn, and what's stopping you from trying?

– Alejandro Lobo