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

Tuesday, May 7, 2024
8:00 PM
Gore Recital Hall
Roselle Center for the Arts
PROGRAM

Resolve (2023) ................................................................. Connor Fone (b. 2005)
Connor Fone, guitar
Connor Capizzi, bass
Aaron McCloskey, piano
Jonathan Rowe, drumset

Saving Picard (2024) ............................................................. Will Doyle (b. 2004)
Jazz Sonata in Bb Minor (2024) .................................................... Will Doyle
Movement 1

Time Passing By (2024) .......................................................... Angelina Boback (b. 2004)

Ökeanós (2024) ................................................................. Scott E. Andrews Jr (b. 2003)

Sonatina for Clarinet and Piano (2024) ......................... Robert Strauss (b. 2002)

Immensity
Glory

Will Doyle, piano

Yoshiaki Onishi, clarinet
Logan Slansky, piano
Rhapsody (2022, 2024) ................................................ Ben McMonagle
(b. 2001)
Robert Strauss, flute
Yoshiaki Onishi, clarinet
Angelina Boback, piano

Intermission

I Shall Not Care (2024) (Poem by Sara Teasdale) .. Scott E. Andrews Jr
Maddy Testa, soprano
Angelina Boback, piano

Caution to the Wind (2024) ........................................ Lillian Woulfe
(b. 2005)
Lillian Woulfe, flute
Robert Strauss, alto flute
Nicholas Danseglio, bass flute
Yoshiaki Onishi, conductor

Silver Linings (2024) .................................................... Ike Eichenberg
(b. 2001)
Hannah Goldstone, Chris Briody, trumpet
Madi Leslie, horn
Sam Worst, trombone
Ryan Miller, tuba

Let us Play (2024) ...................................................... Meghan Lalo
(b. 2002)
Prelude
Sketches
Brandon Leonhard, Julia Mescallado,
JT Clancy, Bensen Kwan, percussion

Vignettes in Sea (2024) ................................................. Aaron McCloskey
(b. 2004)
River
Ocean
Rain
Gabriel Labell, Kyle Skinner,
Angel Serrano, Jake Grimsley, percussion
Do YOU have a recital coming up??

Do YOU like what you heard tonight??

Wouldn’t it be great if there was some way to connect these two ideas and make some awesome music with it?

Well thankfully, there is! If collaborating with a UD composer interests you, we would love to hear from you! All of their emails are in the online program notes.

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**Resolve – Connor Fone**  
contf@udel.edu

Resolve is a piece that aims to resolve to the home chord in the most roundabout way possible. The home chord in any piece of music is essentially the collection of notes that sounds the most punctual and is typically used at the beginning or end of a phrase. Listen to how both rhythmically and harmonically the home chord is approached in obtuse and angular ways, with each instrument making leaps, slides, or odd rhythmic skips to unexpectedly and yet satisfyingly land back on the home chord. At the climax of the piece, it may even sound like we have ventured too far out to ever find the home chord again - though rest assured it will resolve back to its original constitution, no matter how far we have strayed.

**About the Composer**

Connor Fone is a composer who seeks to make their music anything but straightforward. Whilst many of their works begin with a core musical idea that is simple enough, the bulk of their creative process is spent amplifying, augmenting, and distorting these ideas until they are on the very verge of falling apart. In other words, their pieces aim to present clear & simple musical ideas in the most chaotic and unclear manner available to push the limit of what could possibly be enjoyable to listen to.

**Saving Picard, Jazz Sonata in Bb Minor – Will Doyle**  
wpdoyle@udel.edu

Both *Saving Picard* and *Jazz Sonata in Bb Minor* were the product of collaboration between myself and three of the jazz majors in the 11:30 section of Professor Rachael Smith's Music Theory III: Elliott Bastian, Trevor Otto, and Megan Erbe. These pieces were our solutions to composition projects that Professor Smith had assigned us. *Saving Picard* is a ballad intended to exhibit various
forms of modal mixture: the use of chords that have derived from a parallel mode in a major key (most often from Aeolian, or natural minor). *Jazz Sonata in Bb Minor* is a chart that uses the harmonic and melodic stylings of jazz (particularly bebop and hard bop) in the context of sonata form. A classical form consisting of an exposition, development, and recapitulation, sonata form here has been reconstructed as a head in, solo section, and head out.

About the Composer

Will Doyle is a sophomore composition major from Townsend, DE. He first began composing four years ago in his sophomore year of high school, creating miniature solo and chamber works inspired by the music of such video game composers as Hajime Wakai, Kinuyo Yamashita, Koji Kondo, Hirokazu Tanaka, Yasunori Mitsuda, and Austin Wintory. He has since progressed to writing solo and chamber works that take influence from French Impressionism, baroque counterpoint, modernism, jazz, contemporary Japanese music, and anything else he happens to be listening to at the moment. Post-college, he aspires to write music for video games; arrange for marching band and acapella groups; write, record, and produce songs for other artists; and perform as a pianist, singer, and percussionist.

**Time Passing By – Angelina Boback**

aboback@udel.edu

Time passing by is a piece for string quartet, piano and celesta. Angelina began writing it inspired by nostalgia of home. After a while she started developing the piece to represent how we look back to our childhood and realize how time passes quickly. It is a full immersion in memories and the composer tries to describe the shift that happens between good memories and bad ones. When we are kids we are very innocent and have a wonderful point of view of the world. However when we grow up we slowly start to see the world with its cruelty and sadness. It is important to find a balance of the two and find the best in everything, even when it is hard.
About the Composer

Angelina Boback is a first year student in the University of Delaware and she majors in both piano performance and music composition. She grew up in Italy where she has studied music since she was 8 years old. She started composing during high school and decided to continue studying composition in University.

Caution to the Wind – Lillian Woulfe
lawoulfe@udel.edu

Caution to the Wind is a continuation of my most recent piece, Quiet in the Storm. Upon finishing that piece, my mind was still stuck on the idea of the different qualities of air, and I wondered what these different qualities of wind might sound like. The first section symbolizes a harsh wind that strikes suddenly and repeatedly. The octatonic scale is used in this section to bring out different layers of sound, but still blend the voices together in each chord. The wind picks up and grows faster and wilder, until suddenly it slows down and becomes calming. The third section features more melodious solos to symbolize a peaceful wind, blowing above the clouds. This section brought to mind the story of Icarus, tasting freedom before he flew too high. But just as Icarus plummeted, so too does the music fall back into chaos before finally fading out into a quiet breeze.

About the Composer

Lillian Woulfe is a freshman composition and flute performance major from Lansdale, PA. She has been composing throughout her high school career, drawing inspiration from concert and solo flute pieces she has performed. She is interested in film soundtrack composition and composition for middle grade bands. Her pieces are often inspired by nature, and tell stories of her own life or other’s lives. Outside of the composition studio, she is also a part of the UD Marching Band and Symphonic Band, as well as the flute choir.
Ōkeanós, I Shall Not Care – Scott E. Andrews Jr
scottist@udel.edu

Ōkeanós: An ongoing work and part of a hypothetical larger suite interpreting the Titans of Greek mythology. In mythology, Ōkeanós is the eldest Titan, who rules over the primordial oceans. He is sometimes referred to as the nine-fold stream which encircles the earth.

- Movement 1: Immensity - Immensity explores the vastness of the ocean in a journey spanning awe, fear and finally beauty.
- Movement 2: Glory - Glory seeks to evoke the steady motion of the ocean's currents, and the near-divine power commanded by them.

About the Composer

Scott is a composition student as well as vocalist here at UD. He enjoys drawing out as much music as possible from a relatively simple idea, something he has and continues to explore with Ōkeanós, an ongoing work. As a singer he brings his vocalist perspective to instrumental writing, but also loves to write for voice itself, and the fevered creation of the art song "I Shall Not Care" was a result of this passion both for the human voice and for the poetic genius of Sara Teasdale. He hopes you enjoy both his work and that of his peers.

Sonatina for Clarinet and Piano – Robert Strauss
robertls@udel.edu

This piece was written for my roommate and clarinetist, Michael Fascetta, for his senior recital. It premiered there two and a half weeks ago. I began writing the material for this piece last fall, on a relatively somber night. I had just been notified that a family member of mine had been hospitalized, so I couldn't sleep. I felt a need to do something, even though there was really nothing I could do to help. Yet, I had a feeling everything was going to be okay, which fortunately it was. It turns out this particular family member had just had a bit too much to drink. This piece reflects
on that feeling of helplessness and hopefulness, and a little bit of silliness.

About the Composer

Robert Strauss is a Third-Year composition and flute performance major at UD. He began composing seriously in high school, focusing primarily on chamber works. His music features heavy technical demands from performers and a hefty load of drama. He will present a composition recital next fall consisting of works never before heard at UD, featuring performances by the Trellis String Quartet and our very own Dr. Yoshiaki Onishi.

Rhapsody – Ben McMonagle
benmc@udel.edu

Rhapsody is built on a sense of ambiguity. Featuring passages of bitonality, extended harmonies, polyrhythms, and fluid, shifting runs, the main theme of these sounds always comes back to a thinly veiled ambiguity. Throughout the piece, the texture and harmonies change often, beginning to slowly solidify to feel more full and confident, until once again, they are pulled out from underneath you.

About the Composer

Ben McMonagle is senior composer and arranger here at the University of Delaware. He initially entered the realm of composition through jazz inspired big band arrangements, and over his time at UD, slowly found his footing in the realm of contemporary musical composition.

Ben is the winner of the 2023 UDCB Composition Competition, a recipient of the Michael and Janet Arenson Music Theory Award, a Presser Scholar, and a University of Delaware Summer Scholar. Outside of his studies Ben is also one of the main recording engineers for the School of Music, and enjoys listening to the blues.
Silver Linings – Ike Eichenberg
ikeeichenberg06@gmail.com

When I first began writing Silver Linings, I had one goal in mind: write a piece for brass quintet that sounds nothing like a typical brass quintet. The first word that came to my mind was ‘drama’—whereas brass quintet music is often bouncy and lively, or mellow and calming, I wanted to write something that carried in it some dramatic tension. As I wrote the piece, I reflected on my struggles this semester. These last few months for me have been dark and cloudy (on most days, literally), but as the semester progressed, I was reminded that this kind of atmosphere is temporary. On even the cloudiest of days, a silver lining will ultimately appear as the sun comes shining through, opening the path to brighter tomorrows.

About the Composer

Ike is a transfer student attending the University of Delaware. After graduating high school in 2020, he first began his education at West Chester University that year as a Music Education major. During his time there he got involved with the composition department, and began to discover his love for writing music. After struggling with work and the Covid pandemic throughout his first spring semester, he grew discouraged and decided to leave school to pursue other avenues in life—however, his love for music never dissipated, and eventually he felt called to return to college and finish his education. In the Fall of 2023, he became a student at UD to study to receive his Bachelor of Music in Composition degree. He plans to continue to grad school after graduation to further his knowledge, and he hopes to one day go on to compose full scores for films and video games, as well as teach Composition and Music Theory at the collegiate level. His music is often inspired by the soundtracks he grew up listening to, and he feels that music should ultimately strive to invoke an emotional connection within the viewer.

Let us Play – Meghan Lalo
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As I come to the end of my journey at UD, I reflected much on
my time here and my progress as a musician. At the beginning of my journey, I saw myself going into music for the purpose of expressing myself and experiencing it with others. I found so much joy in music as it relates to so many different aspects of life, period. From math, to art, to philosophy, and even competition, music brings it all together for me. Once I started to heavily integrate studying music more into my life, I have encountered low moments where I wondered if I am going to make it. Recently I have reflected on why I went into music in the first place. I asked myself, “How would I make my younger self proud? What would make her happy?” Younger me, and present me, loves games. To cope with stress, I would find myself doing a puzzle, playing board games or playing mario kart. The thrill of winning fueled the young competitive spirit in me, but as I matured, I learned that it’s more rewarding to collaborate and connect with others to reach an end goal. I want to bring out the fun of music that little me has experienced and combine it with the collaboration that I get to experience with my colleagues today.

About the Composer

Meghan Lalo is graduating this spring with a BM in music Composition with a concentration in Voice and a minor in Theatre Performance. She has been studying voice for 8 years and is currently studying with Garrett Thomas in Contemporary Commercial Music and Musical Theatre styles. At UD, she is currently involved with University Singers, UD Lyrical Theatre, and also is an active member of HTAC. At home, Meghan has a sound engineering/music production internship with the Vault Music Studio. Her plan after graduation is to participate in the Disney College Program at Walt Disney World Florida. She is so grateful for all the connections and opportunity UD has given her the past four years: from amazing friends, professors, mentors and collaborators, they all have supported her throughout a rocky journey.

Vignettes in Sea – Aaron McCloskey
aaronmc@udel.edu

Vignettes in Sea is a multi-movement percussion piece that represents the personified elements of water in its many forms.
The first movement, River, uses frog guiro to create the joyful and whimsical atmosphere of rushing water! Listen for whale calls and thunderous crashes in multiple instruments during Ocean. Rain, the final movement, is a short selection using melodic material to represent a gentle rainfall.

About the Composer

Aaron McCloskey is a second year composer and pianist at the University of Delaware, and is a member of the composition studio, the piano studio, and the Treasurer of the Society of Composers. He has studied under Dr. Jennifer Barker and Dr. Yoshiaki Onishi for composition, and Prof. Christine Delbeau for piano. This is his fourth work composed as a part of his studies at the University of Delaware.

ABOUT STILL BREATHING

*Still Breathing* is a course at the University of Delaware School of Music which organizes two concerts per semester, showcasing works by UD student composers as well as contemporary pieces. Its aim is to foster and cultivate composer-performers, while creating a space for collaboration among composers and students at the UD School of Music.

Starting Fall 2023, *Still Breathing* is directed by Dr. Yoshiaki Onishi, Assistant Professor of Music Composition at the University of Delaware School of Music.

For more event information and purchasing tickets, visit: [www.music.udel.edu/events/calendar](http://www.music.udel.edu/events/calendar)