



Monday, December 12, 2022, 7:00 PM
Taplin Auditorium, Fine Hall

MUS 310 Concert

Advanced Workshop in Musical Composition Final Concert

Prof. Dmitri Tymoczko

The use of photographic, video, or audio equipment is strictly prohibited. Please turn off or mute electronic devices for the duration of the performance.

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PROGRAM

Ben Shi '24

Bildungsroman in F (2022)

Act 1 – Interference
Act 2 - Cavern
Act 3 - Voyage

Yuqi Liang '23

Four Pieces for Percussion (2022)

Ben Edelson '23

Miniatures for Percussion Ensemble (2022)

Fanfare
Waltz
Adagio
Perpetuum Mobile
Fugue

Prince Takano '24

El Montuno (2022)

Lola Constantino '23

FIRECAUGHT (2022)

Lost
Future
Past
Present
Found

Molly Trueman '24

vertigo (2022)

Brendan Zelikman '23

A Circus Show (2022)

1. Curtain Call
 2. The Juggler
 3. A Quick Scene Change
 4. The Clown
 5. The Dancer
 6. Don't Mind the Technical Difficulties...
 7. Unveiling The World's Safest Tightrope!
 8. *Open the Shark Pool*
 9. Oops, the Sharks Were Hungry!
 10. Just Kidding...
 11. The Sharks Were Vegan!
 12. Oh Yeah, Did We Mention There's Also A Huge Surprise At The End?
 13. The Stage is Empty...
 14. But The Thing Is...
 15. The Circus was a One-Clown Show!
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PROGRAM NOTES & BIOS

Ben Shi '24

Bildungsroman in F (2022)

This piece, at the time of composition, was intended to convey a general narrative of the process of growing up. However, in retrospect, there exists an infinite amount of valid interpretations of the story behind the piece, that it feels almost criminal to ascribe a solidified interpretation behind it. Feel free to draw your own conclusions from the music, and enjoy!

Ben is a songwriter/composer who is at the beginning stages of mastering composition, an impossible feat in itself. He plays the piano and the guitar, and draws heavy inspiration from video game and film music, such as those by Toby Fox and Joe Hisaishi.

Yuqi Liang '23

Four Pieces for Percussion (2022)

Four Pieces for Percussion is my first composition for percussion ensemble and written with the goal of finding a personal musical voice. Movement 1 is slow, contemplative, and inspired by Arvo Pärt's algorithmic musical thinking. Movement 2 and 3 proceed at a brisk pace and use familiar (even banal) musical materials in a new way. Movement 4 returns to the slow contemplation of Movement 1 with some transformations.

Yuqi Liang is a senior concentrating in Philosophy and pursuing Certificates in Music Performance and Composition. He plays the violin and the piano and enjoys reading, debating philosophy, running, and exploring hidden places on campus in his free time.

Ben Edelson '23

Miniatures for Percussion Ensemble (2022)

Miniatures for Percussion Ensemble is made up of five movements, each with a distinct character. It opens with a fast-paced fanfare that introduces the listener to the sound of the group. Second is a light-hearted and playful waltz in which the listener's expectation of a typical 3/4 time signature is subverted. Next is a slow movement that explores the darker textures the ensemble is capable of producing. The fourth movement is minimalist in character, with driving rhythms in the ensemble's upper register throughout. A quiet fugue concludes the piece with shimmery textures provided by the vibraphone, glockenspiel, and piano. The harmonic style of the piece is broadly tonal, but often makes use of bitonality.

Benjamin Edelson is a senior in the Philosophy Department, and is also pursuing a Certificate in Music Composition. Aside from composing, Benjamin plays the piano, French horn, guitar, and organ. On campus, Benjamin writes for the Legal Journal, plays in the University Orchestra, and is a member of the Society of Philosophy.

Prince Takano '24

El Montuno (2022)

El Montuno features the distinct Cuban "montuno" style blended with modern percussive elements. The word "montuno" translates to "from the mountains" and is regarded as the heart and soul of Cuban music, known for its danceability and distinct rhythmic qualities. The first section features rhythmic layering, which abruptly changes to a classic Cuban style montuno. Following a series of collaborative solos, the piece ends with a more salsa-like rhythm with rapid percussion complementing the piano.

Prince Takano is a third year student studying Politics and Music Composition. He enjoys composing in a variety of styles, particularly for films and video games. He believes that expressing his feelings through music allows him to capture the ephemeral and communicate the softest of subtleties. It is this intoxicating chase between man and sound that compels him to compose music.

Lola Constantino '23

FIRECAUGHT (2022)

This piece is comprised of five movements: *Lost*, *Future*, *Past*, *Present*, and *Found* each of which is inspired by the entrancing filmography of Andrei Tarkovsky. Both *Lost* and *Found* sonically recreate the dilapidated wastelands in *Stalker* (1979) and use tonal shifts to parallel the moral uncertainty of the character's journey through The Zone. *Future* uses dissonance to represent the clash of archival and dreamlike footage in *Mirror* (1975). *Past* draws from the depictions of war in *Ivan's Childhood* (1962) with the use of bowed percussion and muted piano to signify the sparkling flares soaring through the overcast war-torn landscapes. The unpitched percussion used in *Present* is inspired by Taiko drumming.

In fifth grade, Lola started playing around on a worn-out Knabe grand piano her father brought home from the public school he worked in. It was this event that sparked her interest in composing music and throughout middle and high school she would record improvisations on the piano and transpose them in music notation software. Interested in becoming a feature film director and writer, Lola is interested in how film and music work together to tell a story. Many of her works draw inspiration from film, photography, and painting.

Molly Trueman '24

vertigo (2022)

Molly began her writing process with a snare beat in 7/8. With the snare on loop, she kept hearing the same simple melody that would later act as a recurring theme throughout her final piece. *vertigo* is the product of a semester's worth of expanding on this melodic theme and finding ways to seamlessly move through pitch families, meters, and timbres to keep the piece interesting from beginning to end. The final result ended up feeling unsettled, on edge, and off balance, thus earning the title of *vertigo*.

Molly is a junior in the Music department. She is most interested in songwriting, music production/arranging, and audio engineering. Although she's been writing music for several years, this is her first time working exclusively with percussion. Given that she typically gravitates towards music that highlights voice and guitar, she's excited to be working out of her comfort zone and hopes to expand the makeup of her instrumentation in future projects.

Brendan Zelikman '23

A Circus Show (2022)

A Circus Show was created from a set of initially unrelated sketches that all eventually found their home in the Big Top. With the power of swing and humor, this piece offers a new perspective on "circus music" as it takes you on a tightly-crafted journey filled with wacky antics and zany characters. The work features fifteen movements that showcase the bizarre and the unusual, whether it be the hypnotic patterns of The Juggler or the groovy rhythms of The Dancer. As you listen, please feel free to reflect on your own experiences and think about what the circus means to you. Remember—the only limit is your imagination!

Brendan Zelikman is a senior from New York City studying Computer Science and Music Composition. Raised as a classically trained pianist in the age of the Internet, Brendan has a deep affinity for both classical and electronic music that he has continued to pursue academically at Princeton. Though he treats music with the utmost seriousness, his original composition *A Circus Show* reflects a new and unexpected turn into the world of musical satire.
