



Department of Music

Bellsong Hymn

A Student Composers Recital

March 18, 2024 6:00 PM
Ruth H. Barrus Concert Hall

*Presented by composition students of Sue Neimoyer and members of
the BYU-Idaho Student Composers Society*

Program Notes by the Composers

Where Light Meets Darkness – Andrew Burnham

Light and darkness are in a constant battle, always trying to overcome the other. But what happens when the borders of light and darkness meet? This plane of existence is often overlooked but is a thing of true beauty. The result of these two complete opposites conjoining harmoniously is often a splendid display of deep and bright colors.

Musings No. 2 on a Theme for Bass Clarinet – Michael Morton

I have played the clarinet for many years and am very fond of this instrument. The bass clarinet is a member of the clarinet family that I feel doesn't really get the attention that it deserves, so I decided to write a solo piece for it. I wrote a piece titled "Musings on a Theme for Solo Clarinet" a couple of years ago, so writing a second piece along the same lines but for bass clarinet seemed fitting.

Wandering Waltz – Ryan Christensen

This piece evokes thoughts of wandering through somewhere empty or abandoned, a place that feels both intriguing and unsettling. Places like this are a great setting for a mystery/thriller, so I think of this piece as the main theme of a story that happens in such a location.

Song Cycle for Tenor and Piano: II. "Stars"

This song cycle features musical settings of texts by poets Sara Teasdale, Robert Frost, and Alfred Lord Tennyson. The second song, entitled "Stars," is a setting of Robert Frost's poem of the same name. Echoing effects between the soloist and piano can be heard throughout the piece, emphasizing the twinkling nature of a star-filled sky as well as the vast emptiness of space.

Hope Is the Thing – Luke Aaron Crockett

This is a musical setting of Emily Dickinson's poem, *"Hope" is the thing with feathers.*

AlphaSet – Ryan Terry

This electronically-accompanied clarinet piece is built entirely upon a single group (or set) of four notes, which music theorists call the "alpha set." It is categorized in the numbers (0, 3, 4, 7), which creates a triad containing both a major and a minor third. The sound it creates is quite dissonant but is eerily beautiful. The electronic accompanying track draws techniques from the composer's early roots creating synthetic boss-battle music.

Bellsong Hymn – BYUI Student Composers Society

For this semester's collaborative composition, the BYU-I Student Composer Society put together a piece written for a handbell choir. Considering the nature and history of handbells, we wanted to create a piece that had religious roots and was filled with rejoicing. So *Bellsong Hymn* was created, constructed on two main themes that were inspired by two tunes from the Church's 1835 hymnal, "A Collection of Sacred Hymns for the Church of the Latter-Day Saints", selected by Emma Smith. The piece is in sonata form, and its development begins with a short three-voice fugue.

PROGRAM

Where Light Meets Darkness
Riley Palmer, organ

Andrew Burnham

Musings No. 2 on a Theme for Bass Clarinet Michael Morton
Michael Morton, Bass Clarinet

Wandering Waltz
Ryan Christensen, piano

Song Cycle for Tenor and Piano: II. "Stars" Ryan Terry
Joseph Mathusek, tenor
Ryan Terry, piano

Hope Is the Thing Luke Aaron Crockett
 Vanessa Hudman Crockett, soprano
 Luke Aaron Crockett, piano

AlphaSet
Ryan Terry, clarinet / with electronics

Bellsong Hymn **Student Composers Society**

Handbells: Danielle Grambo, Jarom Bradshaw, Adam Whittaker, Nathan Egbert, Michael Morton, Rhonwen Janssen, Rebekah Grover, Jessica Brown, Mallory Olson, Bryan Welton III, Hannah Webb, Ryan Terry