

CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING AND CINEMATIC ARTS
Boyer College of Music and Dance

conTemplum Soundprints II

April 21, 2021
Presented Virtually

Wednesday
7:30 pm

Program

My Funny Demons (2020)

John Kairis

- I. All the Spiders Crawling
- II. Walk at Midnight
- III. Ride

Olena Haviuk-Sheremet, piano

“Winter” from *Four Mountain Songs* (2020)

Hannah Selin

Hannah Selin, voice

Two Three Four (2021)

Alexander Glass

Alexander Glass, piano

Storks Piano Trio (2020)

Morgan Moss

Dakota Kievman, violin
Jordan Brooks, cello
Morgan Moss, piano

Program Notes

My Funny Demons

John Kairis

These are three piano pieces that I wrote in the summer and fall of 2020. The pandemic had been raging for almost a year, and I found myself in an introspective mood. These pieces catalogue my inner state as I spelunk psychological caverns and examine my thoughts by their many angles. To me, they trace a path of discovery, then turmoil, and finally playful optimism.

“Winter” from *Four Mountain Songs*

Hannah Selin

Winter is one of *Four Mountain Songs*, a choral song cycle based on poems from each of the four seasons by Sōtō Zen Buddhist poet-priest Ryōkan Taigu (1758–1831). The lyrics are in English, following translations by Nobuyuki Yuasa. Winter is based on an untitled poem. Yuasa's translation preserves much of the rhythm and meter of the original, but adds an extra layer of sibilance and more closed vowel sounds.

As global warming causes increasingly drastic changes in weather patterns around the world, seasonal cycles are becoming more a nostalgic fantasy than a reality. How will seasons be experienced by future generations? What kinds of activities will be associated with them?

In soft spongy snow,
Wrapped entire in its fullness,
Stands the universe,
And within its boundless space,
Soft spongy snow keeps falling.

From *The Zen Poems of Ryokan* by Nobuyuki Yuasa.
Copyright © 1981 by Princeton University Press. Reprinted by permission.

Two Three Four

Alexander Glass

Two Three Four is a lively piano composition using odd meter groupings of two, three, and four eighth notes, and is the unofficial sequel to another one of my compositions, *3223*. This piece contains no other surprises, especially not those of the jazz variety.

Storks Piano Trio

Morgan Moss

Storks Piano Trio is a nostalgic work based on a series of paintings by Moss's grandmother. Moss has always enjoyed combining different types of art to create an overarching experience for the listener, both auditory and visual. *Storks Piano Trio* is based upon a theme and variation and travels through the warm, misty atmosphere of the paintings, touches upon themes such as flying and leaving the nest, and personifies the nest when it is no longer used. The piece is very personal to Moss, and she hopes the listeners will enjoy experiencing *Storks* as much as she enjoyed creating it.

About the Artists

JOHN KAIRIS is a multi-instrumentalist composer and producer with a knack for cross-stylistic blending into lush, rhythmically-driven soundscapes. He incorporates skills from classical composition training, independent electronic music production, and rock, concert, and jazz bands into a cohesive whole. Kairis is currently a graduate student at the Boyer College, studying Composition with Maurice Wright, and has previously studied with Matthew Greenbaum, Jan Krzywicki, Emiliano Pardo-Tristan, and Rene Orth.

Composer, violist and vocalist **HANNAH SELIN** juxtaposes acoustic instruments and voices with electronics and field recordings to create striking and vibrant sound-spaces. Her music delves into the inner lives of sounds: shimmering sound-masses interact in unexpectedly moving ways, and instruments merge and separate to create sounds beyond their own. Hannah's music has been commissioned and performed by ensembles and soloists including Brooklyn Metro Chamber Orchestra, S.E.M. Ensemble, Chromic Duo, One Quiet Plunge, inEnsemble, Collide-O-Scope Music, Frame Dance Productions, Xanthoria Quartet, soprano Stephanie Lamprea, percussionist Lucas Conant, and violists Kallie Ciechowski and Karen Ritscher. Her score for short film 222, directed by Delfine Paolini, was nominated for the 2018 Peer Raben Music Award at the Soundtrack Cologne Festival.

ALEXANDER GLASS is a composer and pianist from Cherry Hill, NJ. He started composing at the age of seven and was encouraged to pursue composition by his piano teacher and mentor Michael Nikolidakis. Over the years, Alex has written for solo piano, solo guitar, small chamber groups, and jazz big band, performed in both classical and jazz ensembles, and accompanied numerous performances and musicals. He can also be seen playing keyboard in the Sonorants, a Bollywood/jazz fusion group based in South Jersey. Alex is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Composition at the Boyer College, and has studied with Matthew Greenbaum, Cynthia Folio, Maurice Wright, and Emiliano Pardo-Tristan.

MORGAN KELLY MOSS has been playing piano and studying music since she was three and is currently a Composition and Piano Performance double major at the Boyer College. Recently, Moss's *The Brook* for flute, clarinet, piano, and voice was selected in a call for scores by the Allentown Symphony Orchestra. She also recently won the Chester County Community Band Composition Contest and, at 19, was the youngest person and first woman to win this competition. Moss studies composition with the highly respected composers Maurice Wright and Jan Krzywicki, and additionally studies piano under world-renowned pianist Sara Davis Buechner. She has worked with many other pianists, such as Charles Abramovic, Timur Mustakimov, Emiko Edwards, and Dennis Varley. She was most recently featured in a solo piano recital at the Tenri Cultural Institute in New York City. Moss is also very active in scoring music for film, having composed for 5 award-winning short films in her career so far at Temple University, the most recent nomination being for best music in a short film. She is also very proud to be a teacher of piano, composition, theory, and voice at the Music Studio of Patricia Keith in Boyertown, PA. Moss is very passionate about her music and would like to share this joy with as many people as she can, whether it is through listening, teaching, or collaborating. Moss plans to graduate from Temple University in 2022 and continue her studies as a composer and pianist at the graduate level.