

From Within: Spring Composers Concert
May 14, 2024 | 5 pm
Schoenberg Hall

Woodland Song

Sydney Wang (b. 2002)

Drew Slipka, French horn
Ian Lee, viola
Sydney Wang, piano

On the Grid

Yoni Fogelman (b. 2002)

Cyrus Alva, trumpet
Remy Ohara, trumpet
Esther Myers, French horn
Jason Bernhard, trombone
Daler Babaev, tuba

Temerant Sketches

Matt Smith (b. 1987)

II. Wide As Autumn's Ending
VI. The Fire Itself
Matt Smith, piano

Look me in the stars

Robby Good (b. 2000)

Emma Breen, flugelhorn
Alaina Stark, harp

Winter Fantasia

Muye Yu (b. 1998)

Yijin Wang, clarinet
Jonathan Wu, piano

~ INTERMISSION ~

O Magnum Mysterium

Mia Ruhman (b. 2003)

Seraphour, voices

In Stillness

Celina Anna Kintscher (b. 1998)

Kaya Ralls, violoncello
Sydney Wang, piano

Vignettes

Morgan Kelly Moss (b. 2000)

- 1) Pale Green . . . Matcha
 - 2) Turquoise . . . Fountain
 - 3) Fuzzy Orange . . . Stevie the Cat
 - 4) Crimson . . . Cluster
 - 5) Violet . . . Epilogue
- Rachel Wolz, alto saxophone
Hanah Charbonneau, piano

Program Notes

On the Grid

When UCLA's Kodiak Brass Quintet asked me to compose a new show piece for their upcoming season, I waited a long time before writing the music, wondering what I would come up with. I knew from the beginning the music had to be rhythmic and virtuosic, but otherwise I had few ideas and a limited knowledge of existing brass quintet repertoire. In hindsight, my lack of familiarity with this genre may have worked in my favor, as I was forced to find inspiration from other sources, particularly from recordings of big bands and film scores. These styles offered the direction and excitement I needed to complete this work, which I am now very fond of because its influences are so personal.

Temerant Sketches, a new composition for solo piano, draws inspiration from the enchanting writing of Patrick Rothfuss in his novel *The Name of the Wind*. Rothfuss's prose is exquisitely beautiful, particularly in his unparalleled descriptions of music, which stand out as some of the most vivid and resonant I've encountered in literary fantasy. In his narrative, music is not merely an aesthetic backdrop but a pivotal element, as illustrated through the life of the main character—a gifted lutanist whose story is profoundly shaped by his musical experiences.

In this performance, I will present two of the six movements planned. The second movement, "Wide As Autumn's Ending," captures the melancholic atmosphere of the novel's overarching frame story, reflecting the subtle narrative shifts that occur between the book's opening and closing chapters, titled "A Silence of Three Parts." The final movement, "The Fire Itself," refers to a recurring motif within the novel that underscores the importance of fire and thermodynamics in the novel's magic system, symbolizing the protagonist's journey toward self-discovery and mastery.

Each movement not only pays homage to Rothfuss's masterful storytelling but also explores the deep interconnection between music and narrative, mirroring the protagonist's own musical and personal evolution.

Look me in the stars

"A Question" by Robert Frost:

"A voice said, Look me in the stars
And tell me truly, men of earth,
If all the soul-and-body scars
Were not too much to pay for birth."

Let us be thankful that when we look to each other, particularly in times that try us the most, we need not seek the stars for now.

O magnum mysterium

O magnum mysterium
Et admirabile sacramentum
Ut animalia viderent Dominum natum
Jacentem in praeseptio!
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera
Meruerunt portare
Dominum Christum
Alleluia

Commissioned by the vocal quartet Seraphour, Emma Grace Roche, Melissa Birch, Dana Rouse, Heidi Vass (2022) Global music awards winner, 2024

Vignettes

Taking inspiration from Debussy's first book of preludes, *Vignettes* paints the pictures of the performer, Rachel Wolz, and her time at the University of California, Los Angeles. Written for a wonderful player and equally amazing person, *Vignettes* also speaks to the characters involved in her time at school, including many matcha lattes, bouts of cluster headaches, and one dopey kitten named Stevie Wonder.

About the Artists



Sydney Wang is a Los-Angeles based composer and pianist. Her work draws inspiration from stories – real and imaginative – found in the world around her. She has composed for acclaimed artists including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Pasadena Symphony, pianist Stefano Greco, percussionist Lisa Pegher, and the Quatuor Diotima, among others. Sydney is the recipient of accolades including the 2017 BMI Student Composer Award and the 2020 Marvin Hamlisch International Music Award. Most recently, her work for orchestra, titled *Guard Me*

from the Night, was performed by Orchestra Senzaspine under the direction of Maestro Matteo Parmeggiani in Siena, Italy in June 2023.

As a solo and collaborative pianist, Sydney is devoted to performing and recording both classical and new music. She is the recipient of top prizes in local and regional competitions including the CAMPT Contemporary Music Competition and the Kathryn Gawartin Chopin Piano Competition. In July 2023, Sydney participated in the International Summer Academy at the Mozarteum University in Salzburg, Austria, studying with Professor Ya-Fei Chuang.

Sydney currently studies composition with Professor Ian Krouse and piano with Professor William Kinderman at UCLA's Herb Alpert School of Music. Since 2022, she has been a member of the Grammy-award-winning UCLA Chamber Singers.

Yoni Fogelman's upbringing as a choral singer developed a love for melodies that could not be fully satisfied until he crafted his own. What started as a passion for vocal writing gradually branched out to include instrumental music, and now Yoni actively composes for a wide variety of instruments and genres.

The great joy of Yoni's young adult life has been learning to write different styles of music so that he is prepared to express any emotion or tell any story. This journey has brought Yoni in contact with a wide variety of musical mentors from backgrounds in classical, jazz, pop, and film music, and each experience has influenced his musical tastes and adds another color to his personal musical palette.





Matt Smith, born in San Diego in 1987, is a composer, producer, and multi-instrumentalist now based in Los Angeles. He earned his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music in 2010 and 2012, respectively. Matt's compositions enjoy performances globally, premiering in prestigious venues from Severance Hall in Cleveland, Ohio to the Accademia Chigiana in Siena, Italy. Beyond composing, he is an experienced educator with over a decade of experience teaching music theory and history to students of all ages.

From 2014 to 2022, Matt immersed himself in music production and arrangement in Los Angeles, working with a wide variety of artists. He founded the electro-chamber ensemble Iridas, showcasing a diverse repertoire on a successful 20-city tour of China.

Currently pursuing a Ph.D. at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music, Matt studies under acclaimed composer Richard Danielpour.



Robby Good is a second-year master's student at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music for composition in visual media. He graduated from UCLA's undergraduate music program in 2022 with a double degree in composition and percussion performance, with a minor in film. In 2015, he was accepted into the Nancy and Barry Sanders Los Angeles Philharmonic Composer Fellowship Program, where he studied under composers Andrew Norman and Sarah Gibson. Robby has also studied privately with Professor Ian Krouse and Derrick Skye, and currently works for film and television composer Charles Fox.

Robby has scored over 45 films and animations from students at UCLA, CalArts, Chapman University, Pratt Institute, Sarah Lawrence College, and more. Robby has also provided the scores to a number of video games developed within game jams, and is currently working on the music for the visual novel Project: Eden's Garden. Robby was the primary composer and orchestrator for the musical theater production "Dis-topia," which premiered as a full production under his music direction and baton on February 17th and 18th, 2024, at the Hart High Auditorium in Newhall.

Robby's concert works have been premiered by ensembles such as the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the International Contemporary Ensemble, the National Children's Chorus, the Los Angeles Percussion Quartet, the Calder String Quartet, the Kaleidoscope Chamber Orchestra, and the CSUN Wind Ensemble.



Muye Yu is a film composer, she is pursuing a composition PhD at UCLA.



Mia Ruhman is a third-year undergraduate studying music composition at UCLA with an emphasis on classical voice. Ruhman is grateful to have had musicians and ensembles including Tony Arnold, the LA Phil, the National Children's Chorus, YOLA, Seraphour, and the Interlochen Concert Orchestra perform her music, as well as to have had conductors including Gustavo Dudamel, Grant Gershon, and Alan Mautner conduct her compositions. Ruhman was a composer fellow in the LA Phil's Composer Fellowship Program (2019-21) and the Sue Tsao composer fellow (2019-21). Ruhman studies classical voice with Vladimir Chernov, sings with the UCLA Chamber singers, and works as a studio musician- most recently having completed an album recording in Abbey Road Studios with the National Children's Chorus and the London Symphony Orchestra. Upcoming ventures include playing the lead role of Vera in the new musical "Dis-Topia," composed by Robby Good, as well as continuing to write her own musical, "Nannerl." Ruhman is honored to study with the esteemed composition faculty at UCLA and is eternally grateful to all of her peers for their endless support, inspiring talent, and resounding friendship.

Celina Anna Kintscher is a German-Austrian composer whose artistry is shaped by her life on three continents, having lived in Germany, South Africa, and the U.S. Her music merges African rhythms and figures with western classical harmony. Kintscher's time in the United States has inspired unrestrained freedom and integrated global references in her works. Her compositions have been performed by Orchestra Senzaspine, Salastina, Carpe Diem String Quartet, Quatuor Diotima, Aperture Duo, soprano singers Hila Plitmann and Tony Arnold, as well as percussionists Lisa Pegher and Christian Benning. She is a 2022 and 2023 ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Award Finalist and was a Division Winner at the World Championships of Performing Arts in 2015, representing South Africa.



Morgan Kelly Moss (M.A. UCLA in-progress, B.M. Magna Cum Laude Temple University) is a composer, teacher, and pianist from Philadelphia, PA, currently based in Los Angeles. Morgan's music has a sound world that is described as neo-American with inspiration from nature, and always spirited with a twinge of optimism. Morgan has worked with ensembles around the country, such as the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, the Allentown Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Brass Alliance, Los Angeles Chamber Music Company, the Bach Society of Dayton Ohio, the Argus Quartet, the Chester County Band, and the Temple University concert choir, concert band, and composers' orchestras. She currently studies composition with GRAMMY Award-winning composer Richard Danielpour, and also studied piano with world-renowned pianist Sara Davis Buechner for many years.

Recently, Morgan has been selected as one of 30 composers from over 300 submissions to participate in SOLI Chamber music's 30x30x30 cohort, who will perform her work, "Storks," for piano trio. Additionally, her "Dreams of Holy Places" was selected by pianist and maestro Jeffery Jacobs to be recorded on an internationally distributed album of new works. Her work for solo trumpet and piano, "To the Ones who Know my Heart," was also selected for performance from 90 international submissions by the International Trumpet Guild, and she has been accorded "Emerging Composer" by Tribeca New

Music Competition.

Moss is also very active in scoring music for film; she currently works in Los Angeles at Bear McCreary's composing studio, Sparks and Shadows. She has also scored over 30 short films to date, and in 2022 composed her first feature film score which was released in local theaters in July, 2022. She is very proud to be the founder of Everywhere Music Company, a TA at UCLA for Musicianship and Music Theory, as well as a teacher of piano, composition, theory, and voice at the Music Studio of Patricia Keith.

Morgan plans to continue onto her PhD at UCLA in 2024, and continue to grow her career as a composer and teacher.