ELECTROACOUSTIC STUDENT COMPOSITION CONCERT
Tuesday, December 6, 2022
8 p.m., Studio 242
Dr. Jason Stanford, instructor

Azure
A Dagger of the Mind
CRIMINAL
The Ballad of Regrets
PTB
Insomnia
The Intoxicating Snow
A Meaningful Title
Last December
Fallen Skies
A Digital Undertaking
Good Grief
Nightmare
Aurora
End of Journey
Escape
An Alpine SymphMIDI
PROGRAM NOTES

Azure
Meagan Foster
A fascinating aspect of music to me is its ability to evoke and portray emotions on a deep level. Sometimes when listening to music, I find myself ascribing colours to what I hear. Though I did not have a particular program in mind for my piece, I feel the colour Azure describes the sound world I’ve created. This piece uses synths recorded in Logic Pro and recordings of vibraphone and almglocken, collaged and edited in ProTools. I hope you enjoy my first piece in an electroacoustic medium. Special thanks to Sofia Pompe for help with the recording process.

A Dagger of the Mind
Jenna Lawrence
This composition is best described as a cacophony of sounds. The title is drawn from the soliloquy "is this a dagger" from Shakespeare’s Macbeth, which comprises the source material for one of the tracks. Throughout the piece the ticking of a clock moves time forward, pushing towards a climactic ending.

CRIMINAL
Jackson Million
This composition is inspired by the American revolutionaries who fought for equality and the opportunity for a better future. The title of the track, CRIMINAL reflects on White America’s depiction of the black community during the Civil Rights Movement and the Vietnam War. The track features dialogue from activists such as Malcolm X, Bobby Seale, and Muhammed Ali. While this track is composed of many optimistic motifs, its final moments transition towards melodies that symbolize frustration, conflict and grief. The piece ends with a quote from Dr. Huey P. Newton as he expresses his desire for equality, justice and peace. While this track deals with excerpts from the past, it is essential to recognize that many of these struggles result from systemic issues that continue to plague the Western World.

The Ballad of Regrets
Alexander Uvakov
This composition tells the story of a student who falls victim to an unfortunate circumstance while on his walk to Music 2695A class. While whistling around and jangling his keys, he accidentally drops said keys down a sewer grate. We take a trip into his inner psyche, as his mind plays back the events leading up to this tragedy, wrestling to the point of near-insanity with what he might have done differently. One important takeaway from this piece is the following life lesson; never fiddle with your keys over a grating!

PTB
Michael Field
This composition demonstrates the continuing of time through sound. When sometimes seem simpler and gentler, other times can feel faster and out of control and others can feel almost empty up until the continuous marching of time comes to its abrupt end.
**Insomnia**  
James Creaner  
The point of the composition was to capture the kind of restlessness someone can feel when they’re trying hard to fall asleep but can’t. I tried to use various sounds that rarely take the forefront for long to make it sound as if the person’s thoughts were disorganized and jumbled, making sleep uneasy for them.

**The Intoxicating Snow**  
Haozhen Lyu  
This pure music, which leans towards the R’n’B style, describes an improvisation on a lazy winter afternoon. The loose melodic lines affected our mood at the beginning. Along with the changes of the music, the sense of rhythm and the metallic feeling of trumpet and drum brought us intoxicant warmth and infinite reverie.

**A Meaningful Title**  
Swasti Bhalla  
This composition attempts to give sound to thoughts — the concept of being in deep thought. When someone is so deep in thought, it creates a separation of them from the world. This is the idea that this piece illustrates.

**Last December**  
Fraser Brown  
My term composition is titled “Last December”. It is a guitar and vocal piece in the key of C Major with mp3 files recorded previously in Logic before being manipulated in Pro Tools. It’s a true story about my life and a reason why I killed my chances with a romantic interest, as well embarrassing myself in the process. Intended to be listened to while walking down the street, having spare time to listen to something exciting on your own. It includes 3 layers of recorded guitar with added plugins recorded using my Fender Stratocaster, and its name is to explain the feeling I had when composing my piece. I used some vocal techniques as well as guitar and bass to complete my piece as well as a piano synth, I also had drums with breakdowns and fills to emphasize sections of my guitar solo. This is layered over a lopping guitar progression between two separate tracks of different recordings of guitar playing a higher above the melodic chord progression and another a softer lower bassline. I hope you enjoy it, thanks.

**Fallen Skies**  
Curtis Bihari  
This piece was created with heavy influence from the film, Apocalypse Now. It is meant to simulate the actions and emotions before, and after war. The piece begins bearing some tension, as sunset falls past the horizon. It ends with uncertainty, never feeling truly resolved in the texture.

**A Digital Undertaking**  
Austen Laprise  
This composition walks you through my progression through the Electro-Acoustic Composition course. It starts with simple Max8 patches involving audio mangling and random sound generation, transitioning towards more complex patches involving Filter Synthesis, Frequency Modulation Synthesis, and Granular synthesis. The sounds you hear were all composed using these methods. I gathered all I learned throughout the term and composed a piece that documents the wealth of knowledge I received and the anxieties I felt trying to learn something out of my comfort zone. The work goes through my introduction to the digital realm of music-making and
moves towards the sudden plunge into what felt like an impossible task of reshaping my musical language and understanding of sound design. By the end, I make my way through all the noise and end up feeling like I’ve grown as a composer.

**Good Grief**  
Luc Randmaa  
Good grief is a composition that encapsulates the grieving process, more notably the catharsis and freedom that can come with it. At the same time, the intense emotional outpour of the song can leave one feeling exhausted post-listen. In the famous words of Charlie Brown, “good grief”.

**Nightmare**  
Lester Wai  
The composition is about an unpleasant dream the protagonist had and wakes up from the dream as the unpleasant being approaches closer.

**Aurora**  
Junwen Wang  
This composition was inspired by the feeling that I don't want to write my essays, and just want to give up all my work and drive out to Yellowknife to see the aurora. Used a bright and happy melody, hope this composition can make the listener relax and no stress.

**End of the Journey**  
Leslie Wai  
In this piece, I am depicting the different stages of a person with conditions like Alzheimer's disease, where memory, sense of time, and the ability to self-care gradually fade away, facing the final moments of life.

**Escape**  
Terry Shui  
A light drum-and-bass composition inspired by older styles from the 90s. There are two main harmonic sections: one in F# minor, one in G minor. Both are built on looping chord progressions featuring extended harmony and chromaticism. Rhythmically, the piece is rather standard, with the classic kick + snare pattern in the first section and a chopped drum loop in the second section. Most imported sounds serve a background atmospheric function.

**An Alpine SymphMIDI**  
Ryan Duffy  
This piece was inspired by the lush mountain landscape featured on the desktop screens of the Mac computers in TC 200. Its title is a reference to Richard Strauss' "An Alpine Symphony". I used natural bird sounds, a river, and an alphorn call to depict this scenery, and the sounds return throughout the piece. They are first contrasted by the sounds of a thunderstorm, followed by the industrial sound of a chainsaw cutting down a tree, greeted with applause by those who are not concerned with the environment. A hunter later walks into the scene with their dog. The dog barks at a cuckoo bird, and the hunter proceeds to shoot the bird out of frustration. They exit the scene, and the piece concludes with the natural sounds and horn call, symbolizing the importance and tranquility of nature.