



Western  
Music

Don Wright Faculty of Music

**ANNUAL STUDENT COMPOSER  
AND CHAMBER MUSIC GALA**

Tuesday, April 7, 2026  
7:30 p.m., von Kuster Hall

*Winter's Edge* Olivia Allen  
Yong-Wen (Frank) Su, *violin 1*, Yongxuan Wu, *violin 2*, Yining Yang, *viola*, Thomas Gadd, *cello*

*Dimensionate* Jerill Morales  
Justin Woong, *clarinet*, Haiyue Yang, *violin*, Justin Dulat, *piano*

Runaway Astronomer Mercedes Nebesnuik  
Yanet Campbell Secades, *violin*, Nicholas Lago, *cello*, Anna Maria Tjamolova, *piano*

Dithering Owen Gariepy  
Cordelia Poon, *violin*, Carina Zu, *clarinet*, Gaoqi Wu, *piano*

"Two Stones, One Bird" Audrey Kagan  
Rex Mulder, *trumpet*, Alex Allsopp, *trombone*, Feiyang (Snow) Xue, *piano*

*Chasing the Forest's Shadows* Gemiao Cheng  
Yiran(Grace) Zhu, *flute*, Hijun Lee, *violin*, Kevin Tran, *piano*

*Time Traveller* Melody Ho  
Finn Inglis, *clarinet*, Tasman Tantasawat, *viola*, Theo Chow, *piano*

INTERMISSION

*Stadium Trio* Michael Grandy  
Justine Dennis, *clarinet*, Ji Heon (Isaac) Lee, *cello*, Andrea He, *piano*

Trio Maddox Terrell  
Yiping Zhang, *flute*, Yuying Chen, *violin*, Seohyang Oh, *piano*

Disco Cora Robison  
Toshi Kawabe, *trumpet 2*, Nayli Deleon Kantule, *trumpet 1*, Matthew Usher, *flugelhorn*,  
Will Cavanagh, *trombone*, Daniel Montaseri, *tuba*

Moonlit Night Yilin Wang  
Yan Lam (John) Lau, *trombone 2*, Max Zhang, *trombone 1*,  
Ryan Minten, *trombone 3*, Amy Jordaan, *bass trombone 4*

*Three Lyric Pieces for String Quartet* Jack Garside  
Helen Faucher, *violin 2*, Julian Trippell, *violin 1*, Cian Diamond, *viola*, Abigail Greenland, *cello*

Special thanks to Teaching Assistant Yu Zhang for organizing this concert.

## PROGRAM NOTES

### ***Winter's Edge* by Olivia Allen**

*Winter's Edge* is a string quartet inspired by various winter settings, with focus on the harshest parts of the season. This piece is divided into sections reflecting the weight of winter's heavy snowfalls, icy scenes and dripping icicles, blowing winter winds, and the renewal of spring.

### ***Dimensionate* by Jerill Morales**

Composed in three sections, *Dimensionate* opens on a five-note motive and builds upon it, quickly expanding and fragmenting while being passed and repeated around the ensemble. The first section plays with this idea, all while sudden dynamic changes and shifting metric accents destabilize the through-line melody. The second section brings the sonority to another dimension, still playing around that opening figure with a different, darker, broader mood. A "spinning out" occurs by way of chromatic figures, before a transition full of somewhat familiar, yet uncannily altered material, back into the rapid, active third section that concludes the piece.

### ***Runaway Astronomer* by Mercedes Nebesnuik**

*Runaway Astronomer* is about being unsatisfied with the path you are on and learning to begin again. The piece is split into three sections: the realization of unhappiness, the drive to change who you are, and a new beginning as you start again.

### ***Dithering* by Owen Gariepy**

*Dithering* is a dramatic piece inspired by the turmoil of indecision. Each section represents the development of a lingering anxiety; The initial thought that plants the seed of doubt, an attempt to ignore the inevitable, the solemn realization of the truth, a growing climactic moment of action, and the resolution. The frequent use of arpeggios and repetitive textures simulate the feeling of an ever present anxiety, building in complexity until an outcome is reached and the pressure is resolved.

### **"Two Stones, One Bird" by Audrey Kagan**

"Two Stones, One Bird" is a chamber piece written for Bb Trumpet, Bass Trombone, and Piano. The title reflects the piece's playful and occasionally aggressive back and forth quarrel between the trumpet and the trombone, which the piano attempts and eventually succeeds in mediating and de-escalating.

### ***Chasing the Forest's Shadows* by Gemiao Cheng**

*Chasing the Forest's Shadows* is a chamber work inspired by a forest and the search for light. It opens with calm morning sunlight, then rushes into a restless chase through deeper shadows. As the music fades into dusk, it reflects our longing to find and hold onto our own light. This piece is dedicated to anyone who keeps walking toward the light, even in uncertainty.

### ***Time Traveller* by Melody Ho**

*Time Traveller* in three continuous sections: Prelude, Scherzo, and Waltz, forming a seamless musical journey. As the piece progresses, echoes of different historical styles gradually emerge. The music moves through Baroque clarity and Romantic expressiveness before settling into a late twentieth century sound world.

### ***Stadium Trio* by Michael Grandy**

*Stadium Trio* is split into two distinct halves. The first half being dreamy and soothing, the other half being the opposite, much more intense. The main goal of this piece was to begin with several rhythmic and melodic motives, and vary them, to the point of them being unrecognizable. The harmony in this piece mostly uses the Japanese Mode, a pentatonic scale. There are many cadenza and solo sections throughout this piece, which are meant to have all eyes on the performer, much like watching a sports game at a stadium.

### **Trio by Maddox Terrell**

This episodic trio aims to capture the cold grey landscape that follows a winter's final melt, and ultimately the return of greenery through spring.

### **Disco by Cora Robison**

*No notes provided*

### **Moonlit Night by Yilin Wang**

Moonlit Night is a short work for trombone quartet inspired by the sounding mechanism and expressive potential of the instrument. The musical material grows from breath, vibration, and resonance, forming shifting layers of timbre and harmony. The piece evokes the atmosphere of a magical full-moon night, where distant echoes and shadowy calls emerge. The ensemble moves between blended resonance and more raw, expressive gestures.

### ***Three Lyric Pieces for String Quartet* by Jack Garside**

*Three Lyric Pieces for String Quartet* is an homage to the Lieder ohne Worte (Songs without Words) musical tradition where poetic, lyrical melodies which are well-suited for singing are instead realized instrumentally. Listeners are invited to imagine their own prose or text using the melodies in "Poems," or their own dialogue to suit the emotional, reciprocating voices in "Letters." One may imagine a group of old friends reuniting in the third movement to share their unique "Short Stories" with each other. Thank you and please enjoy.

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