Brian Penkrot
Composition

Masters Recital

Tuesday, March 9, 2010
7:30pm
Doc Rando Recital Hall
Beam Music Center
~ Program ~

1) Departicion Fær

Solo Violin

Crystal Yuan – Violin

2) Rites of the Little Hours

Percussion Trio and Prerecorded Sounds

Deborah Carpi – Drums and Twirling Pipe
Melody Loveless – Cowbells
Corene Pelletier – Tubular Bells

3) Chaparral Bridge

Sextet

Daniel Alameda – Percussion
Carmella Cao – Flute
El Delgado – Electric Guitar
Austin Perry – Percussion
Kanako Yamazaki – Piano
Crystal Yuan – Violin
*Phillip Lenberg – Conductor

4) Dream Suite:

I. Passacaglia
II. Nocturne
III. Fantasia

Kanako Yamazaki – Piano

Departicion Fær (2010)

Written specifically for this Master's recital, Departicion Fær is a combination of Old English words, roughly translating to a “departing farewell.” It uses double stops and open strings extensively, giving it the feel of a fiddler playing a folk song.

Rites of the Little Hours (2009-10)

Rites was inspired by a hike in the Alps. As I walked from town to town, I passed a number of grazing cows, all with different sized bells around their necks. The valley surrounding and below was also riddled with churches, which had their own bells. The melodies of the tubular bells in this piece are the traditional antiphons and responsories of the “little hours” of the church office: Prime, Terce, Sext, and None. I chose to juxtapose this spatial music with a eulogy for the late Bill Hicks. Though promoted as a comedian, he was closer to a preacher (though incredibly foul-mouthed) and said very little in his act that I ever disagreed with. His voice begins the Rites and is followed by a number of speeches, the majority of which were given by those who wished the best for this world and died in their pursuit. Rites premiered as a percussion trio on November 3, 2009 at UNLV.

Chaparral Bridge (2009)

Originally written for the soundSCAPE festival in Pavia, Italy, Chaparral initially premiered at the Vittadini School of Music on July 25, 2009, Aiyun Huang conducting. Though based on a story by Carlos Castaneda, this is not a programmatic piece. Several events while he was an apprentice to Don Juan Matus inspire the moods of the episodes. The name “Chaparral Bridge” references the experience of fog clearing to reveal a bridge whose destination is still shrouded.

Dream Suite (2007-10)

I. Passacaglia (2009)
II. Nocturne (2010)
III. Fantasia (2007-8)

I have always had a fascination with dreams: an alternate reality in which anything is possible, but control of the self and environment are almost nonexistent. The three movements of Dream Suite represent different aspects of dreaming: repetition, terror, and nostalgia. Sallie Pollack premiered the Passacaglia in the Paul Harris Theater on April 22, 2009. Carolyn Grossmamn premiered the Fantasia in Doc Rando Hall on October 9, 2008. This is the premier of both the Nocturne and the suite in its entirety.

Brian Penkrot is a student of Virko Baley. This concert is offered in partial fulfillment for the requirements of the Masters of Music Degree in Composition.