UNLV

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS
College of Fine Arts - Department of Music

Presents

Brian Penkrot,
Composition
Masters Recital

Tuesday, March 9, 2010
7:30 pm
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
   Corine 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:
   Solo Piano
   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 Nones. 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 Grossmann 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 Balyi. This concert is offered in partial fulfillment for the requirements of the Masters of Music Degree in Composition.