



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Presents

Ethan Hight, Percussionist

April 19, 2021

8:30 P.M.

Online Recital

Program

Dreamscapes

Patrick Long (b.1968)

- I. Black Stars, Bright Shadows*
- II. Voices*
- III. My House*
- IV. Two Birds*
- V. November Steps*
- VI. Reunion*

Spur

Ivan Treviño (b. 1983)

Keys and Cables

Ethan Hight (b. 1999)

- I. La Lluvia de Arraiján*
- II. I'm Scared to Leave...*
- III. Fractured Signals*

My Muse

Ethan Hight

Frequency

Sylvan Ezzo (Est. 2013)

This recital is given in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Bachelor of Arts in Music. Mr. Hight is a student of Dr. Brian West and Dr. Neil Anderson-Himmelspach. The use of recording equipment or taking photographs is prohibited.

Dreamscapes – Patrick Long

Dreamscapes is a six-movement composition written for solo marimba. The composer writes that “Each movement is inspired by a dream image, some of which are more abstract than others. As usual in dreams, the meaning of these images seems self-evident in the midst of the dream, but is then just beyond grasp upon waking. These too-specific-for-words experiences can be recalled and considered through music, and perhaps through music only.”

An active composer and percussionist, Patrick Long is a graduate of Syracuse University (B.M. Composition/Percussion 1991) and the Eastman School of Music (M.M. 1993, D.M.A. 1996), where his major teachers in composition, percussion and computer music included Andrew Waggoner, Samuel Adler, Warren Benson, Christopher Rouse, Alan Schindler, Joseph Schwantner, David Liptak, Michael Bull and John Beck. He has completed over 80 compositions to date for a wide variety of performing forces, including solo, chamber, orchestra, choir, band and fixed media. Over a dozen of his pieces have continued to receive regular performances around the U.S. and internationally since their premieres. Dr. Long is currently an associate professor of music at Susquehanna University, where he teaches composition, theory, music history and music technology. Since 2010 he has served as music department head. He resides in Selinsgrove, Pa., with his wife, Julie, daughter Renee, and son Brendan.

Spur – Ivan Treviño

Spur is a composition written for a solo snare drum with an audio track accompaniment. It was commissioned by a consortium led by Korry Friend, and was written in memory of percussionist / composer, Jacques Delécluse. Treviño writes that “Delécluse is well known for his etudes for percussion instruments, particularly his snare drum studies, which are standard repertoire for collegiate and orchestral musicians worldwide. These snare drum etudes are some of my favorite things written for the percussion idiom. While other music for snare drum can be flashy, loud and fast, Delécluse’s music is subtle, thoughtful and nuanced. It truly exposes a player’s touch and sensitivity on the instrument, utilizing shading and phrasing to create an artful, beautiful experience. I wanted to compose a piece through a similar lens while simultaneously blending my own compositional language.”

Ivan Trevino (b.1983) is a Mexican-American composer, percussionist, writer and arts advocate. Named a music ambassador by the U.S. State Department in 2014, Ivan has shared his music with audiences around the world, from Asia to Brazil to Madison Square Garden in New York City. As a composer, Ivan’s music has been performed on five continents in over 25 countries, including performances by famed soloists and ensembles like Michael Burritt, Nancy Zeltsman and Third Coast Percussion. He is a multi-award winning recipient of the Percussive Arts Society’s International Composition Contest and has over 70 compositions and songs to his name. Ivan received a BM and MM from Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. He currently lives in Austin, TX with his wife, Amanda, and their children, Henry and Oscar.

Keys and Cables – Ethan Hight

Keys and Cables is a collection of three short marimba solos that feature the marimba and its sound processed through a modular synthesizer. This piece was made possible by my acquisition of the TCU Undergraduates Research and Creative Activity Grant, which is a fund delegated to any undergraduate student who wishes to take up a research project or a creative endeavor in their field of study. This grant money was used to purchase the parts necessary to build a granular synthesis effects unit.

Granular synthesis is a form of sound synthesis that operates on the microsecond time scale. Granular synthesis is a form of sampling (recording sounds). However, instead of playing a recording back normally, granular synthesis splits audio into grains, or 1 to 50 millisecond-long fragments of audio. The machine I have built allows for grains of an amplified sound (in my case, the marimba) to be layered on top of each other, played at different speeds, shifted around the stereo field, re-pitched to new material, time stretched, and much more. All of this happens in real time.

This work began as a sound experiment, serving only to help me understand the functions, modes, and parameters of my machine and how the marimba reacts with the effect. However, these improvisational sessions soon turned into concrete ideas that I transcribed after I felt a knob setting on the machine helped convey the emotions I felt when playing a melodic idea on the marimba. The titles of each movement stem from feelings I have experienced in my last excursion to Panama, my mother's home country. I find it so surprising how two contrasted sound worlds can portray the peace I felt in the rain of a home away from home, the dread of leaving a loved one in a pandemic, and the determination to stay connected to family spread out over North and Central America.

My Muse – Ethan Hight

My Muse is a piece written, produced, recorded, mixed, and mastered by yours truly. The piece features a standard four-man rock band, but due to COVID and the fact that I am five hundred miles away from Fort Worth, I recorded every part of the song myself (bass, drums, guitars, and vocals). This song was an exercise in my skills as a music producer, arranger, and lyricist. Lyrically, the piece tackles the lack of inspiration, confusion, and sadness felt after splitting with a significant other because of unavoidable circumstances.

Frequency – Sylvan Esso

Frequency is the seventh song from Sylvan Esso's third studio album "Free Love." The song is vulnerable, honest, and magnetic. Lead singer Amelia Meath's lyrics tell the story of a child falling in love with a voice heard through the radio – a theme that particularly resonates in our socially distanced times. Meath writes, "I wanted to write a song that was beyond the idea of possession; that was about getting to just revel in loving someone and having that be the fulfillment. The fulfillment is through the longing."

Sylvan Esso, consisting of singer Amelia Meath and producer Nick Sanborn, are an electronic pop duo based in North Carolina. Established in 2013, Sylvan Esso crafts

evocative yet elusive electro-folk-pop confections that encompass the best parts of both artists. The duo issued their eponymous Billboard-charting debut in 2014 and landed a Best Dance/Electronic Album Grammy nomination in 2017 for their sophomore long-player, *What Now*. Sylvan Esso's most recent music endeavor included the premier of their *Free Love* album and an expansive, three-show live-streamed concert entitled [From The Satellite](#). "WITH LOVE," the final installment of their concert streams, reimaged their third album with an expanded ten-piece band. Sylvan Esso is currently residing in their hometown of Durham, North Carolina. Like many performing artists in the pandemic, they are patiently waiting for the opportunity to tour and showcase their fantastic music.

While Sanborn's original production of *Frequency* is sparse and sporadic, I decided to produce an arrangement that was a blend of acoustic marimba and vocal layers with electronic drums and granular-sampled marimba. I wanted to bring more energy and fun to the song while still capturing the intense longing, admiration, and honesty that Meath and Sanborn depict in the original.

Lyrics

My Muse

Ethan Hight

We've had our fair share of pain
But I know this feeling won't stay
Clearing my mind of you
Turns out to be hard to do.

I've turned to working to numb me.
Stay up 'till sleep comes to set me free
Silence the memories
Why can't I just go to sleep?

I'm so confused
You were my muse
What did I do
To lose my muse?

I still see you in my dreams
I can't tell whether that's a good thing
Clearing my mind of you
It just seems to hard to do

I'm so confused
You were my muse
What did I do
To lose my muse?

(Say goodbye, say goodbye)
Say goodbye to all the promises we made
Say goodbye to all of the things we had

I'm so confused
You were my muse
What did I do
To lose my muse?

Frequency

Sylvan Esso

Only get it when I get up high
I can hear her from a thousand miles
That frequency, she's on a frequency
And I caught it

Never talks about the same thing twice
Trucks and records and paradise
That frequency, she's got a frequency
And I caught it
Flyin' over me

Oh now, feel that sound
Rushin' through the fields and flowers
Her voice comin' through my dial
She's the one, I swear to God
Her frequency, she's got a frequency
And I caught it
All over me

Can't hop a train or bicycle that far
But climb the oak tree in my backyard
And I can hear her for a while
Hear how her voice bends as she smiles

Oh now, feel that sound
Rushin' through the fields and flowers
Her voice comin' through my dial
She's the one, I swear to God
Her frequency, she's got a frequency
And I want it
All over me

But a wave is all I got
Oh, I'll never need to touch
Just wait 'til six o'clock
And bathe in my new love

Oh now, hear that sound
Rushin' through the fields and flowers
Her voice comin' through my dial
She's the one, I swear to God
Her frequency, she's got a frequency
And I caught it
All over me