



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Presents

## Composition Studio Recital

**Felicity C. Mazur-Park, Deanna Smith, Aaron Daniel Kline, Composers**

4/30/2021

7:00 PM

Youtube Livestream

### Program

Darkfire Fanfare (2020)

Aaron Kline  
(b. 1990)

Nathan Brown, Trombone  
Jared Gilbert, Trombone & Bass Trombone

Chekhov's Uncle Vanya: A Musical Reflection (2021)

Felicity C. Mazur-Park  
(b.1988)

Nicolas Mirabile, Uncle Vanya;  
Felicity Mazur-Park, Professor Serebryakov and piano

La Vérité (2020)

Felicity C. Mazur-Park  
(b.1988)

Nicolas Mirabile, viola;  
Phebe Cox, soprano; Charleen Andújar Ortiz, alto; Patrick Vu, tenor; Elijah Ong, bass;  
Felicity Mazur-Park, piano

Minor Musings (2021)

Felicity C. Mazur-Park  
(b. 1988)

Felicity Mazur-Park, producer

Dummy Corporation Soundtrack  
*I. Topside Theme*

Aaron Kline  
(b. 1990)

Mastering artist, Daniel Gonko

Welcome Home

Deanna Smith  
(b. 1999)

Alleluia, Song of Gladness

Felicity C. Mazur-Park  
(b. 1988)

Les flûtistes de Montréal:  
Catherine Audet and Danielle Barro, flute 1; Lise Germain and Susan Elliott, flute 2;  
Debra Olsthoorn, alto flute; Judy Diez d'Aux, piccolo and bass flute;  
Nancy Newman, contrabass flute;  
Judy Diez d'Aux, director

Felicity Mazur-Park is a student of Dr. Martin Blessinger  
Aaron Kline is a student of Dr. Blaise Ferrandino and Dr. Neil Anderson Himmelspach

## Program Notes

### **Darkfire Fanfare**

I used a dissonant trichord (0, 5, 6) as the basis of this composition. As I experimented with the melodies and harmonies that could be created out of this material, I began picturing the image of a fire that emitted darkness rather than light. The piece consists of an aggressive fanfare, a lyrical theme, a fugato section, and a return of the fanfare.

The fire image in the video was designed by upklyak / Freepik.

### **Chekhov's Uncle Vanya: A Musical Reflection**

*Uncle Vanya* is a play which explores many social and political issues. The play is set in the early 1900s in Russia before the Russian Revolution. It is a time of great social inequality and resultant growing tensions within society. The main theme is a waltz. Traditionally, the waltz has been used by composers to represent the world of the upper class. I twist the waltz form by adding dissonance and loosening the phrase structure. This reflects the uneasy tone of the play. Most of the tension, as seen in this performance, is caused by the relationship between Uncle Vanya and his sophisticated brother-in-law, Serebryakov, who is a retired professor and established academic. Uncle Vanya has always been in charge of the daily running of the family's estate and throughout his life has sent most of the money earned from the estate to his brother-in-law. To Uncle Vanya's dismay, Serebryakov now wants to sell the family's estate which he believes belongs to him. The video documents the most explosive episode of this conflict.

## **La Vérité**

La Vérité speaks of the happiness and power of learning the truth many years after an event. It is more validating and worth more to discover the truth after years of research and investigation. From most people's perspectives, the validity of truth is unimportant. Humans view the world through emotion and external validation. Often justification for the truth is more important to people than the truth itself. Once the truth is made visible the atmosphere becomes uncomfortable. This music presents this uncomfortable moment of truth. This piece may speak to you on a personal or academic level. Alternatively, you may choose to ignore the programmatic elements and enjoy the Medieval inspired sound world.

The piece is based on a chant by Hildegard von Bingen, who was both a female composer and a scientist. She was a true Renaissance woman even though she lived before the Renaissance period. She is the first recognized female composer in the Western musical tradition. As a female composer, I am honored to carry on her legacy through my own style. I present her original chant in my own modal 21<sup>st</sup> century harmonic language. I chose to set the chant to French text by the philosopher, Jules Renard. The text talks about how truth is more satisfying and meaningful if it takes a long time to find. This quote was particularly meaningful to me during my mid to late twenties, when I was searching for a path in life and reevaluating the relationships, I formed during my college years. Throughout our childhood and adolescence, we build up expectations for our adult lives. The truth is life is never straight forward, especially for those of us who are different in certain ways and cannot fully conform to our designated stereotypes in society.

Text:

La vérité vaut bien qu'on passe quelques années sans la trouver. - Pierre-Jules Renard

Translation:

Truth is more valuable if it takes you a few years to find it. This amounts to the notion that if something comes too easily it is not meaningful.

## **Minor Musings**

Originally intended for dance, *Minor Musings* is a dramatic beat in A minor. It has a contemplative yet frantic mood. This mood is reflected in the video. The background art is a painting I completed during my GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education) art studies in England. When I was in my mid-teens, I was fascinated with abstract representations of civilization and how they could be realized with acrylic paint on canvas. Dramatic, solid shapes and grey backgrounds were features of my style during this time. Grey backgrounds are unusual in art even though they can be extremely effective. I hope you find this interplay between themes of civilization and dance fascinating.

## **Dummy Corporation Soundtrack: I. Topside Theme**

*Dummy Corporation* is an upcoming mobile video game by Human Action Studios. Players run a fast food restaurant that serves as a front for ethically questionable clandestine operations. The Topside theme corresponds with the restaurant part of the game. This music is influenced by jazz, but has an artificial level of optimism to illustrate the nature of the restaurant as a front business. <https://dummycorporationgame.com/>.

### **Welcome Home**

As you will read in the provided video, *Welcome Home* is a song I wrote based on the life of my great grandfather Henry Smujzock. It was due to his incredible intellect and persuasive character that my family was able to make America our home. I wrote this piece loosely based upon that journey, from the theme based upon his home in Russia to the time spent on the ship, as well as his final arrival to the states. I never got to meet my great grandfather, but I certainly owe everything to him.

### **Alleluia, Song of Gladness**

*Alleluia, Song of Gladness* is a traditional Lutheran hymn set to the tune of *Lauda anima* by John Goss. I specifically arranged it for flute choir to be used during Transfiguration Sunday, the last Sunday when Alleluia is sung before Lent. In this performance by Les flûtistes de Montréal, a flute choir founded by Judy Diez d'Aux, the hymn is given new life. The ensemble is comprised of piccolo, four concert flutes, alto flute, bass flute, and contrabass flute. The video also features scenes from Bethany Lutheran Church in Dallas, Texas. In this current Easter Season, "Alleluia" is once again relevant and embraced. I hope this array of flutes brings joy.