



School of

Music

College of Arts and Sciences

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

presents

Senior Composition Recital

Hudson Somerlott

March 10th, 2023

3:10 p.m.

Kimbrough Concert Hall

A very special thank you to the performers who were willing to dedicate their time and knowledge for the betterment of new musics. I would also like to extend a heart-felt thank you Dr. Scott Blasco, Dr. Fabio Menchetti, the brothers of Kappa Kappa Psi, as well as friends and family for their involvement and support in my musical career.

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Program

Hudson Somerlott
(b. 2002)

Memories From a Past Life [3:00] Hudson Somerlott, *Piano*

Take a sigh of relief. The hardships of the day will fade, and the recollection of these memories will leave you satisfied and at peace. Life can be challenging, strange, and scary, but making sure that you are living in the present moment and grounding yourself could be the one thing that you have needed for a long time. The echo of one's memories comes and goes with time, like the way ocean tides flow. Enjoy these moments while they last but be sure to live in the present now. The struggles of today only empowers you to be the best version of yourself.

Rolling Hills [3:40] Karmen Johnson, *Trumpet* Nicholas Yoon, *French Horn* Daniel Mielke, *Trombone* Scott Stevison, *Tuba*

What is more satisfactory than the sunlight glistening over green rolling hills in the countryside? The hilly terrain rises and falls like breath, as reflections of the day pass by. The ticking of time presents itself as the sun rays casting over the landscape. While the fleeting light may be inevitable, the faded luminosity from the sun gives rise to the birth of a beautiful night sky. Reminiscing on the end of a chapter, you cannot help but to hope for the return of this blissful moment.

Spring [7:15] Short Film Animation

*Spring is a short film animation created by an open-source film company called Blender Studios in 2019. I was drawn to score this piece because, during my time at WSU, I have only scored live-action short films such as *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves* and *The Great Outdoors*. I was drawn to the contrasting moods created in both the mountainous overworld, and the eerie, mythic forest.*

The Hero's Journey [11:00]

Daria Manzer, *Glockenspiel*
Erik Hawkins, *Vibraphone*
Kendal Clifton, *Marimba*
Dustyn Geigle, *Timpani*
Caleb Graves, *Percussion 1*
Ethan Bamford, *Percussion 2*
I. *A Great Big World*
II. *Breaking the Cycle*
III. *Venture Through a Mighty Storm*
IV. *The Aftermath*
V. *A Triumphant Return*

Based on the narratives of mythological stories, the hero's journey describes the key plot points through twelve distinct stages: 1. The Ordinary World 2. The Call to Adventure 3. Refusal of the Call 4. Meeting the Mentor 5. Crossing the Threshold 6. Tests, Allies, Enemies 7. Approach to the Innermost Cave 8. The supreme ordeal 9. Reward or seizing the sword 10. The road back 11. Resurrection 12. Return with the elixir. This piece has a shortened version of this concept by taking, what I think are the most important features of storytelling: 1. Introduction and character development 2. Change or breaking the norm 3. Action 4. Conflict 5. Resolution. Prepare yourself for an immersive experience into the world of a solo adventurer, trekking their way through the hero's journey cycle.

Elements of Nature [11:15] Short Film

I. *Earth*
II. *Air*
III. *Water*
IV. *Fire*

Earth, Air, Water, and Fire. These four elements construct the very foundations in which life itself is able to exist. Each individual form of matter is required at a precise balance to create homeostasis, the steady state of being for an environment in which life can flourish. In the modern era, humans have invented products to allow some ease of access into their lives, but these technological advancements have clouded our vision on what value most. We now live inside fabricated concrete jungles, while polluting our air and waterways with garbage and unnatural chemicals. Humans actively seek comfort through manufactured junk and will sacrifice so much just to avoid any form of inconvenience. And still, so many people are unhappy with their lives! We are so far removed from our ties to this earth and how much it can provide for us. The Elements of Nature provides a unique perspective on how the simple things in life can greatly influence the human experience: feel the sensations of grass between your toes. Listen to the wind as it whistles through your hair, watch the ripples of a puddle during a rainstorm, and smell the smoke off of a burning campfire.