

Cole Pendergrass Honors Composition Recital

UC San Diego Conrad Prebys Music Center
Experimental Theatre

5.31.15
5.00pm

Imagined Scenery No. 2
solo percussion

Respite
harpsichord, flute, clarinet, cello

Quoth the Raven
voice and violin

Imagined Scenery No. 2

solo percussion

Steve Solook

The primary focus of the work is to capture the energy and intensity within calm, peaceful moments of imagination and contemplation. Through juxtapositions of color from instruments such as a steel bottle, wooden and metal wind chimes, keys rings, books, and wine glasses, specific textures and shapes can be presented that musically portray this energy. The name of the work comes from the conversations I have had with fellow artists about the landscapes that arise in my mind's eye when exploring these auditory textures and shapes.

Respite

cello, flute, clarinet, harpsichord

Peter Ko, cello

Casey Lavarias, flute

Jenimarie Dahl, clarinet

Jinyoung Choi, harpsichord

Memories, emotions, thoughts, and imagination play together on the canvas of dreams. This piece focuses on the nature of dreams and how we experience them: out of focus, yet sharp; fictional, yet believably tangible; broken and unrelated, yet continuous; fleeting, yet endless. The goal is to capture the feeling of infinite time within a dream during finite real moments, through chords of complex timbral color that slowly shift and transform. The hazy medium of dreams with borders that flicker on the edge of our memory was the inspiration for this work. In the future it is going to be part of a larger spoken-word quasi-theatrical work.

Quoth the Raven

voice and violin

Leslie Leytham, mezzo-soprano

Alejandro Durán, violin

*Once upon a midnight dreary...
In an ebony December,
She
thinking of his sorrow:
a lattice of dreams
into the burning heart of silence...
fearing it as the
fantastic and ghastly horror that is
heaven.
My friends;
the peering eyes of a mortal devil
gloating o'er my countenance,
o'er my grave.
Wretch! Beguiling God!
Surely, divining nepenthe will leave me
with a window unto my nameless velvet dream
filled with violet light and an echo of Hope...
But is there only this?
My Nothing?
The silken darkness and the saintly days of
whispered despair and sublunary disaster
or the forgiveness of
Nothing?*

I arranged this poem from words directly out of the unabridged version of Edgar Allan Poe's *The Raven*. I've always loved Poe's work, and to be able to take his most famous poem and alter it was a good experience for me. My first real composition with voice and accompaniment, I feel it illustrates the melancholy, anger, despair, paranoia, and resignation of the subject.

I would like to sincerely thank:

My family. My mother and father, my twin, and my grandmother. Without their support and encouragement, in so many different ways, I would not be where I am today. They have all helped push me to be the person and musician I am now.

Lei Liang. All his guidance, instruction, and encouragement has pushed me forward. His passion has shown me where composition can take you in life, both spiritually and emotionally. It has been such an honor to be able to work so closely with him as my mentor.

Rand Steiger. His tutelage and advice has pushed me to be as motivated a composer as I am today. He played an essential part in the way I handle my time with music, and he was there for that push at a time when I needed it.

Bill Becker. If it weren't for him, I would not be at UCSD getting an education in music right now – my life probably wouldn't have included musical training at all. He has been the impetus for my musical future and a teacher in more ways than just for music. Thank you.

Kristi Hsiao. We have grown so much together during our training, and we have shared many experiences where we tackled our weaknesses head on to overcome them. Without her friendship my time here wouldn't have been complete. Always be yourself, Kristi.

Joanna Kuehn. Her support during this last year has proved invaluable. When I needed close support, she was always there cheering me on. Thank you for putting up with all of my abstract weirdness and listening to all my ramblings about music – you've helped so much.

Alejandro Durán and Peter Ko. Fine examples of musicians, they are artists who have demonstrated their passion for music and given me the sense that I belong among them. Their friendship has been necessary to my growth.

UCSD Music Faculty. Chinary Ung, Philip Larson, Aleck Karis, Anthony Burr, Jane Stevens, Katharina Rosenberger, John Fonville, Charles Curtis, Mark Dresser, and others: without your time and passion, this department and the music world as a whole wouldn't be the same. I am privileged to have been a part of this department.

UCSD Graduate Students. Steve Solook, Marcelo Lazcano, Steve Lewis, Tania Lanfer, Paul Hembree, Yvonne Wu, Wojtek Blecharz, and others: your energy and passion for music has been exemplary during my time here. Some of you have been more of an inspiration than you know, and I will be looking to the examples you've set for years to come.

Sensei Ophira Bergman and Shihan Alfonso Gomez. The time you put into teaching and preserving the art of Ryuei-Ryu is truly amazing. You've taught me much more than just technique – you've helped instill the spirit of our style within me and nourish my growth into a better karateka and human being.

UCSD Ryuei-Ryu Okinawan Karate-Do. Training with the members of our dojo and club has been one of my favorite activities for me during my time here. I have become a different person through my training and through the friendships with fellow students of all ages.

Jessica Flores and Daniel Ross. Your work here in the Music Department does not go unnoticed, and is not taken for granted. Without your help, I wouldn't have been able to make this concert a reality, as I am sure it has been the case for many other individuals.

My friends. Everyone who is here and who couldn't make it tonight, you have my thanks. For all the fun and weird memories we've shared, for all the times you've helped me improve, for every moment you've put up with me, I will forever be thankful.

And you. For attending this important moment in my life and showing that my time and passion can actually make others experience something – because experience is the fruit of life, and without it, we cannot grow. Thank you.