

New Music Series Concert

Sunday, October 27, 2024
Gamble Auditorium, Kulas Hall
7:00pm

October

Ilona Fiedorowicz

Gabriel Hill, tenor
Rachael Young, piano

Groove for Bass Clarinet

Michael Sejka

Michael Sejka, bass clarinet

If I Must Die

Marcus S. Morales

Jake Weyrick, tenor
Marcus Morales, piano

Sonata in G minor

Will Davidson

Faith Rawlins, organ

One by One

Hank Temple

Hank Temple, baritone and guitar

Ilona Fiedorowicz is a second-year cellist and composer studying under Dr. Khari Joyner and Dr. Carolyn Borcharding respectively. She primarily writes programmatic pieces for small chamber ensembles or orchestra, guided by specific images or stories. Her viola and cello duets have been performed at the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association's district and state solo and ensemble festivals. Her works have also been featured in South Haven High School's Tri-M Music Honors Society scholarship concert, and in Baldwin Wallace's New Music Series. As a cellist, she performs with the Baldwin Wallace Symphony Orchestra, as well as past performances in the Blue Lake Festival Orchestra.

Here I'm depicting a sailor, fighting through a difficult summer of currents and storms (perhaps even disgruntled beach-goers), wishing for the welcome direction of colder temperatures, but scared of facing the reality that he might have been forgotten. Eventually he resolves to return, confident that his partner has been thinking of him, and remembers their promise to meet again in October. As a person, I find October to be my favorite month. It's cold, it's rainy, the world wraps around me when I step outside with its crisp sensations. I find it difficult to accurately sort through nuances in reality, it can sometimes seem like guessing at every reaction. October is easy, you put on a coat and brace for impact after a long hot September, and when you're outside, all you hear is the rain and the rustling of leaves.

"I know you will
love me still
when October comes again".

Michael Sejka (b. 2004) is a third year double major in music composition and clarinet performance at the Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of the Performing Arts. He currently studies composition with Dr. Clint Needham and has studied with Dr. Carolyn Borcharding in previous semesters.

Michael enjoys writing chamber and solo works, with an emphasis on making it fun for the audience to listen to, and for it to be an enjoyable experience for his performers. However, he has been exploring large

ensemble writing for the past few months. His composition style for large ensemble writing focuses on starting with small motives and developing them to a point where they become a musical phrase that portray a specific idea. He also loves creating unique textures with various extended techniques on the instrument(s) that he writes for. In February 2025, Michael plans to debut his first orchestral composition with the Baldwin Wallace Symphony Orchestra in tribute to his late grandmother Nadia, who was a key component in bringing his family together for holiday gatherings.

Besides taking composition lessons at the conservatory with Dr. Needham and Dr. Borchering, Michael has had two opportunities to orchestrate different tracks for the Kaboom Collective Studio Orchestra to play for their collaborations with various artists in the music industry.

Over the summer of 2024, I was struggling to come up with something to compose because I developed a bad case of writer's block. When I was told that I could play a composition of mine at a Baldwin Wallace Conservatory student convocation during the 2024 fall semester, the first idea that I had in mind was writing a piece for bass clarinet. Bass clarinet is my favorite auxiliary instrument so far in my career as a musician because of how many octaves it can cover and the contrast of sound between the wide range of the instrument.

When composing this piece, I had two thoughts in the back of my mind. First, make sure that the piece is no more than five or six minutes long! And secondly, write a groovy piece for me to play. I figured that a shorter piece would also guarantee the audience staying engaged throughout the continuing groove. The groove constantly changes between different subdivisions, making it fun for the listener to try and clap along (please don't...). Some inspirations for the various grooves played throughout the piece include Omar Thomas (fast walking bassline), John Adams (sextuplet ostinato figure), and even the genre of funk!

Marcus Sebastian Morales (b. 2002) was born in New Jersey, grew up in South Florida, and is now a 3rd-year composition major at Baldwin Wallace University. The defining goal of his music is to utilize the inherent capacity of the art form to tell stories with a wide range of emotions; it is

his firm belief that storytelling is one of the most important parts of human society because stories are where people from all walks of life can find common ground. His past works include *The Colors* (2021-2022) and *The Masque of the Red Death* (2022-2023).

Dr. Refaat Alareer was a Palestinian professor, poet, and activist who, throughout his career, advocated for the use of storytelling as a form of resistance against oppression. With this piece, I sought to honor his philosophy by setting his most well-known poem to music, and in doing so helping to tell his story. He was murdered in his home by an Israeli airstrike on December 6, 2023, but Dr. Alareer's words live on, giving hope to his people and to all those who believe in the liberation of the people of Palestine.

Will Davidson is a junior music composition and performance major with a bass trombone primary. He studies trombone with Professor Richard Stout and Dr. Andrew Mitchell, and he studies composition with Dr. Carolyn Borcharding, as well as Dr. Clint Needham. Will has been pursuing music since 2012, and has since then decided to pursue it further. Will is currently playing in the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, and the Symphonic Orchestra.

Sonata in G Minor is in sonata form and uses different aspects of Western baroque music as an ode to the older baroque music tradition. Sonata in G minor is a work for pipe organ, and soon for both harpsichord and piano.

Hank Temple is a writer, musician, and junior music composition major at Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music. His first musical comedy, *You're the Worst*, debuted at Pittsburgh Musical Theater in May 2021. His second musical, *Star Machine*, had its premiere staged concert at Baldwin Wallace in April 2024. Hank spent this summer apprenticing at Theatre Aspen, where he worked as an assistant director, writer, actor, mandolin-player, and general problem solver. You can find his music on all streaming platforms under the name Temple Brothers.