Eastern Washington University Presents

A Graduate Recital

Featuring the works of
Jacob A. Beal

Assisted by
Andres Jaramillo, Dr. Randel Wagner, Margaret Francik, Evan Wang, Evnika Trio, and EWU Symphonic Choir

Friday, May 8th 2015
7pm

Eastern Washington University
Music Recital Hall

Studio of Dr. Jonathan Middleton
and Don Goodwin

This recital is presented in partial fulfillment
of the Master of Music Degree in Composition
PROGRAM

All music is composed by Jacob A. Beal (1989)

Burning Bush
Jacob A. Beal, voice and guitar 2013

Empty Chair
Jacob A. Beal, voice and guitar 2013

Rising or Setting Sun
Andres Jaramillo, piano 2013

Jauna Dut Artzain
Dr. Randy Wagner, voice, Andres Jaramillo, piano 2014

No Secret
Jacob A. Beal, voice, Andres Jaramillo, piano 2015

Intermission

Were you there?
Evan Wang, piano
Margaret Francik, piano 2015

恋人 (Koibito)
Nicole Johnston, clarinet
Kate Slyusarev, violin
Evan Wang, piano
Evnika Trio 2014

Abide With Me 2013

Alleluia 2014

Heavens Cloths
EWU Symphonic Choir, directed by Kristina Ploeger 2014
Burning Bush

The rhythms in this song represent the traveling of the Israelites from Egypt to the promise land.

Empty Chair

Written in light of my grandfather’s death, this piece uses references to Psalm 23 to express trust in the Lord, while also trying to express immense pain. The use of parallel major 5ths and 7ths in the latter part of the song is referencing chants, but using whole tone scales and parallel 7ths representing the inability to feel stability.

Rising or Setting Sun

This is the first piece I wrote in my masters degree program. The thought behind the piece is the confusion of the future. Specifically, I thought I was going to move to Japan, but started this degree program instead. This piece is a prayer asking God for peace in the moments of question.

Jauna Dut Artzain

This is a piece that was originally written when I was doing his internship for my Bachelors in the Basque Country in Spain. The text is taken from Psalm 23:1-3 (The Lord is my Shepherd). The original structure was a folk tune aimed to sound like a modern Basque Folk melody.

No Secret

A song written for my wedding, the piano part uses the letters in his wife’s name to construct the line in a predetermined manner. The song is very simple and is supposed to express passion and love.

Were you there?

A theme and variation on the melody of the hymn ‘Were you there?’ at first staying away from the original melody, and slowly through the piece the melody becomes more apparent. This arrangement starts in minor in meditation on the irony of God coming in human form to suffer and die on a cross. It becomes more chaotic throughout the piece until the end where more traditional harmonic syntax is used to convey the resurrection.
恋人 (Koibito)

The inspiration for this piece was found when the I was traveling in Japan and realized that I was in love. So the piece is light and romantic in expression.

Abide With Me

I was moved when I learned that the author of these verses was a pastor of a church in England and was on his death bed when he wrote these words. I wanted to write something that was calming and that shows that we can be confident in death with Christ.

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

Where is death’s sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life’s little day;  
Earth’s joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see—  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;  
Heav’n’s morning breaks, and earth’s vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Alleluia

A meditation on the paradox of Job presented when he praises God after he loses everything from his riches to the deaths of his children and his health. The harmonies range from unison to layered bitonal polychords that express the emotion and pain behind the story of Job.

Heavens Cloths

This piece, using the W.B. Yeats text “He Wishes for the Cloths of Heaven,” was written for the EWU Symphonic Choir for their trip Ireland this summer

Had I the heavens’ embroidered cloths,  
Enwrought with golden and silver light,  
The blue and the dim and the dark cloths  
Of night and light and the half light,  
I would spread the cloths under your feet:  
But I, being poor, have only my dreams;  
I have spread my dreams under your feet;  
Tread softly because you tread on my dreams.