The EWU Department of Music presents

Jake Cunningham
Senior Composition Recital

Friday, May 13, 2016
6:00 p.m.
Music Building Recital Hall

Presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for
Bachelor of Music in Composition

From the Studio of Dr. Jonathan Middleton
Dark Blue
Jake Cunningham, guitar

Stardust
Jake Cunningham, guitar

Aspiration
William Boule, guitar
Jacob Johnson, guitar
Jake Cunningham, guitar
Aaron McCullough, guitar
Tim Gales, cello

Absolution
William Boule, guitar
Jacob Johnson, guitar
Jake Cunningham, guitar
Douglas Gade, guitar
Tim Zilar, guitar
Tim Gales, cello

Automation
William Boule, guitar
Jacob Johnson, guitar
Jake Cunningham, guitar
Aaron McCullough, guitar
Tim Zilar, guitar
Tim Gales, cello

Glacia
(Pictures provided by Jake Cunningham)

Memento
Jake Cunningham, piano

Coalesce
Jake Cunningham, piano

Crestfallen
Jake Cunningham, piano

Atomic Clock
Robyn Bowles, flute
Jake Cunningham, piano
Lauren McKinley, marimba
Tim Gales, cello
**Dark Blue**

*Dark Blue* is different than my other guitar pieces due to the fact that it is very dynamically and rhythmically varied, and the importance of the piece seems to shift away from the notes, to how notes are being played. I also put focus on a rhythmic, repeated pattern of the same notes and how the notes are being played throughout nearly the entire piece. When the pattern finally gives way, it creates a powerful effect.

**Stardust**

I remember writing this song while sitting with a friend. I had challenged him to write a song with me, and he told me I should write a 'sad' song, since it's something I rarely did. This piece was the result. In my opinion, this song portrays the feeling of getting over sadness, rather than just sadness.

**Aspiration**

This is the second of my guitar ensemble compositions, I wrote *Aspiration* after I had more refined my writing for ensemble. Like the other ensemble pieces, *Aspiration* is inspired by music for video games, as one can hear from the driving rhythms and melodies.

**Absolution**

This piece was also very much inspired by video game music, and being my third ensemble piece, I wanted to try to focus on making the melody memorable. The piece starts out rather bumpy and rocky, and represents having to live through the consequences of one's own actions.

**Automation**

The fourth piece I've written for guitar ensemble, *Automation* is very different from the rest. It feels very robotic in nature, and perhaps represents the effects that the advancement of technology will have on society. In my opinion, there seems to be a creeping sense of dread throughout most of the piece.

**Glacia**

This piece is a glimpse into the other side of my compositional style. It was composed in a program called *Mixcraft*, entirely on the computer and performed entirely by virtual instruments. The piece is inspired heavily by video games, and represents a setting or a 'level' in a video game with water or ice as the visual backdrop.
Memento
*Memento* is simply the result of my tinkering around on my grandmother's piano over a number of months. It was written back when I was still practically a beginner at the piano, so the piece is rather simple. The piece represents a reflection of the better days in the past.

Coalesce
This piece was composed after my introduction to the Lydian mode. I tried to pull out everything the mode had to offer, from a sense of adventure, to a more melancholy, satisfied feeling.

Crestfallen
Crestfallen was written during a sadder moment of my life. It was my attempt at burying my feelings by writing it into music, which may not be the healthiest way to deal with emotion, but it is something many other composers have done to deal with the harder events in their life.

Atomic Clock
This piece is referencing the name of a Spokane-based Progressive Metal band that one of my brother's friends was a part of. *Atomic Clock* is extremely rhythmically intricate, containing polyrhythms all over, and is very similar to the music Atomic Clock played. It is also one of my first attempts to write for instruments such as flute and marimba.

Special Thanks To:
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