



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Student Composers Recital

When the Walls Break (2026)

Sebastian Ibanez-Garcia (b. 2003)

Sebastian Ibanez-Garcia, voice
Jay-Anthony Sagun, guitar and voice

Liebe in C-Sharp Minor (2025)

Christopher Castles (b. 2003)

Christopher Castles, piano

Ephemeral One – Morganine Mazurka (2026)

Dennis Lee Saenz (b. 1995)

Hyejun Lee Selfaison, piano

Garden's Gallows (2024)

Armando Muse (b. 2003)

Rachel Ashlin, alto
Colbe Hunter, piano

pastel pink (2026)

Leah Graalfs (b. 2005)

Auburn Villareal, trumpet | Leah Graalfs, piano
Catherine Barrett, upright bass | Tallula Van de Heetkamp, drums

My Reign (2026)

Hosna Alacozy (b. 2002)

Morgan Shadle, Sebastian Ibanez-Garcia, Jake Michael, Armando Muse, basses
Mayling Lopez, violin | Zachary Noakes, viola
Valeria Garcia Aguilera, cello | Zachary Milburn, Ryan Fong, percussion
Hosna Alacozy, conductor

Docile Creature (2026)

Abby Cole (b. 2000)

Abby Cole, Hailey Newman, Morgan Shadle, voice
A.C. Sullivan, fiddle | Anthony De Lise, guitar
Cecilia Contreras Vasquez, banjo | Salvatore Rivera Lopez, mandolin
Naomi Baraban, bass | Kristian D. Hanosh, drums



MONDAY, 6:00 P.M.
OCTOBER 19, 2026
CAPISTRANO CONCERT HALL

PROGRAM NOTES

Student Composers – October 19, 2026

When the Walls Break arose from the feeling of emptiness and having nothing to look forward to in life. It's a piece that carries double meaning throughout the song; one theme is the emptiness one feels and no longer wants to go through with life, and the other is the built-up emotion one is drowning in and is not ready to let go of their rage or tears.

Sebastian Ibanez-Garcia is a singer, songwriter, and musician whose artistry is rooted in emotional expression and storytelling. Through music, human experience is a major theme in his music, such as love and loss, social injustice and systemic abuse, identity, and mental health struggles and substance abuse. As a songwriter, Sebastian enjoys creating music that allows emotion to guide the melody, lyrics, and overall atmosphere of a piece. Sebastian uses music to bring conversation and connection to the human experience.

Christopher Castles is a pianist and music major at Sac State with an emphasis on composition/theory. He loves playing all kinds of music, especially classical and progressive rock. Christopher has written music for an original play and performed with rock and reggae bands locally. He was part of the Sacramento Youth Jazz Band (piano) and the Sac State Marching Band (clarinet). Christopher loves collaborating with other musicians either on stage or in the studio creating new songs, discovering new effects on my keyboard, or arranging pieces for different instruments. Learning about music history is something he loves to do in his spare time.

Ephemeral One - Morganine Mazurka is a study piece inspired by Fryderyk Franciszek Chopin's Mazurkas. The character, Morgan "Morganine" Mazurka, is an individual that has a central, positive relationship to their community. Morgan has elegant, graceful sensibilities and aesthetics as a Fashion Designer and Community Member. However, they have a penchant to get lost in thought and daydream, often leading the character to have an ephemeral quality. Flitting in and out of social presence, Morgan is a well-meaning individual with serendipitous timing and refined taste despite their propensity to wander lost in thought.

The motif of the piece was constructed by codifying the name "Morgan" into note names. The matrix was set up ABCDEFG, and looped back around for the following alphabet. So any H's would have been A's, any I's would have been B's and so on.

Dennis Lee Saenz is a student composer new to California State University, Sacramento. Born in Gilroy, California, Dennis is a theory and composition major and sings countertenor as part of Julie Miller's voice studio. Dennis, having been self-taught until the start of this semester, is currently studying composition with Dr. Addie Camsuzou. His focus has been writing character themes with inter-relational thematic connections. His main inspiration is taken from videogame music and solo voice repertoire.

Garden's Gallows was written in 2024 during the composer's semester in the "Introduction to Composition" course offered at Sacramento State. The piece, styled as an art song, is set to a poem titled "A Ballade of Suicide," written by 19th century poet Gilbert Keith Chesterton. The musical setting of this poem aims to evoke feelings of melancholy, sorrow, and inevitable triumph over depression, with the harmonic content progressing from dense, fog like textures into clear, resolved and hopeful cadences.

The gallows in my garden, people say,
Is new and neat and adequately tall;
I tie the noose on in a knowing way
As one that knots his necktie for a ball;
But just as all the neighbours—on the wall—
Are drawing a long breath to shout “Hurray!”
The strangest whim has seized me. . . . After all
I think I will not hang myself to-day.

To-morrow is the time I get my pay—
My uncle’s sword is hanging in the hall—
I see a little cloud all pink and grey—
Perhaps the rector’s mother will not call— I fancy that I heard from Mr. Gall
That mushrooms could be cooked another way—
I never read the works of Juvenal—
I think I will not hang myself to-day.

The world will have another washing-day;
The decadents decay; the pedants pall;
And H.G. Wells has found that children play,
And Bernard Shaw discovered that they squall,
Rationalists are growing rational—
And through thick woods one finds a stream astray
So secret that the very sky seems so small—
I think I will not hang myself to-day.

ENVOI

Prince, I can hear the trumps of Germinal,
The tumbrils toiling up the terrible way;
Even to-day your royal head may fall,
I think I will not hang myself to-day.

Armando Muse, a Sacramento native trumpeter and composer, has spent the past decade writing music and building connections within the Sacramento music community. Through his connections with the Sacramento State film department, Armando has had the opportunity to premiere films live at the Crest Theater in downtown Sacramento. From film scores to symphonic wind ensemble works, Armando aims for versatility to further broaden his artistic range and expression. He has refined his compositional skills through the Bachelor of Music Theory and Composition program at Sacramento State and will be delivering his Senior Composition Recital on October 30th at 7PM at Capistrano Concert Hall before graduating in December 2026. Outside of school, Armando engages with a variety of creative mediums such as cooking, writing, digital art, and board game development.

pastel pink started as a small seed, the very start of a melody with a glimpse of harmony that might accompany it, inspired by a very special person and the desire to gift them music. A vivid, solemn soundscape slowly unfurled itself from the original idea, and it took many forms as I discovered it. Now, it exists as a jazz waltz in ABA form, dedicated to Auburn V.

Leah Graalfs is a composer and performer based in California. A curious, versatile musician, she has explored many different styles and influences, ranging from minimalism to impressionism to

spectralism. She is currently studying Music Theory and Composition at Sac State, where she is a member of multiple ensembles. Her work consists of chamber music for many different types of ensembles, from string quartet to symphony orchestra, but she is also partly inspired by video game soundtracks. Her biggest inspirations include composers Lena Raine, Koji Kondo, Lili Boulanger, Steve Reich, John Adams, Tōru Takemitsu, and György Ligeti, from whom Graalfs has drawn many aspects of style.

My Reign tells the story of an emperor whose pursuit of power is fueled by revenge and misconceptions. Convinced of his own understanding of the world around him, he becomes increasingly consumed by the desire to strengthen his reign and settle the wrongs he believes have been committed against him. His determination pushes him toward choices driven by anger, ambition, and a need for control, regardless of the consequences. Through its dramatic and commanding character, *My Reign* explores how revenge and misguided beliefs can shape a person's pursuit of power, drawing the audience into the mind of an emperor determined to achieve his vision at any cost.

Hosna Alacozy is a composer, sound designer, conductor, and music educator in her final semester at Sacramento State, where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Theory & Composition and Music Education. Her creative work includes concert music, film and video game scoring, and sound design for visual media. Her compositions have been performed at Sacramento State, where she has also conducted performances of her own works. With a strong interest in storytelling, Hosna explores how music can shape emotion, atmosphere, and narrative across different forms of media. Following graduation, she plans to further develop her career in composition and game audio while continuing her studies in film and game scoring. Her senior recital will take place at Sacramento State on November 12th at 7:00 PM.

The subjugation and abuse of women in this world runs parallel to the abuses we unleash on this earth daily. There is an intrinsic link between the treatment of women under a patriarchal society and the treatment of mother earth. To free ourselves from oppressive societal norms we must also free our collective mother. Docile Creatures will not scream, they do not fight, and they have no true autonomy. I am no Docile Creature, I have large teeth and a ferocious bark. ***Docile Creature*** is a representation of every time I wanted to scream and felt the sound die in my throat. I hope you find yourself listening to this song and feel empowered to take a chance and stand up for the women in your life, yourself, and fight like hell to protect our earth. We only have one planet; now is not the time to watch her die and feed on her remains.

Docile Creature Abby Cole

Winters not so long as it used to be round here
Maybe it's a byproduct of manufactured fear
Do you know mother nature's voice like I do?
She comes to me in dreams and always whispers true

I am never going to be a docile creature
And if you had seen what I had seen at thirteen
Trust me you wouldn't either

Know her, name her, seed her, and claim her.
But never forget that which was wild will be again

Antigone told me old stories anew

Sisterhood suffers under exploitative views
Say can you feel it, when the night stares back at you
The greatest danger is always there in view

I am never going to be a docile creature
And if you had seen what I had seen at thirteen
Trust me you wouldn't either

Know her, name her, seed her, and claim her.
But never forget that which was wild will be again

You can't keep killin' amazons, you can't keep killin' amazons,
you can't keep killin' amazons oh no!

I am never going to be a Docile Creature

Abby Cole is a nonbinary composer, multi-instrumentalist, and interdisciplinary performer. They are currently attending Sacramento State in pursuit of a Bachelor of Music in Theory and Composition. Originally from Washington state, Abby is inspired by the human condition and long-standing folk storytelling traditions. Humans are very complex beings with imperfect relationships, which is a major theme in their music. Abby's goal is to highlight and explore those relationships through music, using a secondary language to shed light on the full scope of human emotion and experience.