



Chase Anderson, composition

A New Beginning (2024)

(audio playback)

Chase Anderson

Against the Wind (2022)

Stella Moschovas & Kelly Melnik, violins
Emily Nikitchuk, viola | Kailer Bibbins, cello
Teresa Lee, piano

Stygiomedusa (2023)

(audio playback)

This Dream of Yours (2023)

Kevin Le, clarinet | Kailer Bibbins, cello

Petal Music (2023-2024)

1. Chapter One
2. Chapter Two

(audio playback)

A Night at the Circus (2024)

Evan Wright, flute | Kevin Le, clarinet
Stella Moschovas, violin | Kailer Bibbins, cello

From this Cardboard Box (2024)

(audio playback)

Above the Scattered Light (2024)

(audio playback)

Signals of the Forest (2024)

(audio playback)

*This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Music in Theory/Composition.
Chase Anderson is a student of Dr. Josiah Catalan.*

PROGRAM NOTES

Against the Wind is a piece dedicated to exploring unprocessed feelings, overcoming adversity, and the acceptance of a desolated mind. Written as a mechanism through which healing and forgiveness are restored, this work is representative of life's dualities: love and fear, joy and misery, birth and death.

Stygiomedusa - In 2021, the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) captured footage from its remotely operated vehicle, Doc Ricketts, of the elusive giant phantom jellyfish. The only species in its genus, the *stygiomedusa gigantea* can be found living in all but one of the world's oceans and typically inhabits the midnight zone, 1,000-4,000 meters below the surface. To this day, not much is known about the giant phantom jellyfish as it has only been observed roughly 100 times since its earliest remains were recovered in the late-nineteenth century.

After seeing this footage through MBARI's YouTube channel, I was immediately inspired to write a piece for concert band illustrating the sense of wonder and mystery I felt from seeing this animal. The opening measures submerge the listener into the depths of the ocean, in search of the giant jellyfish. As brass and percussion enter, we are pulled deeper into the midnight zone. The material following the first cymbal crash captures the wondrous moment of discovery, but only for a moment. The phantom then slowly reveals its true identity, shifting the course of events.

This Dream of Yours actually started out as an accompanied solo for saxophone using fixed electronics but was later reimagined for clarinet and cello as part of 2023's Festival of New American Music. My primary goal for this work was to represent the gradual changing of experience found through meditation. Presenting two contrasting ideas colored by parallel key centers and mediant relationships, this work is meant to push and pull in on itself, utilizing as much of the dynamic range as possible.

A Night at the Circus was written for the Michigan-based group Hub New Music as part of this year's Festival of New American Music, "A Night at the Circus" is a character piece for quartet that reimagines the sounds of a circus experience. From carnival games and carousels to the house of mirrors and aerial arts, this piece is founded on thematic unity, novelty, and subtle humor.

Perhaps my most ambitious work to date, *Petal Music* is a long-term and ongoing series of ambient-classical chapters written for modified orchestra. Ensembles are drawn from the standard orchestra but vary by certain additions and subtractions across each group. My purpose in writing this series was to reimagine the styles and genres of music that have had the greatest influence on me. The inspiration for *Petal Music* isn't so much programmatic as it is an attempt to write music that is inviting, gratifying, and reminiscent of a well-lived life. In writing this series, I felt it was integral to illustrate a sort of neutral contentment, using structures that are in no rush to be somewhere, nor need to appear from anything before.

The last three works on my program - *From this Cardboard Box*, *Above the Scattered Light*, and *Signals of the Forest* - are all inspired by Mary Oliver's poem, "When I Am Among the Trees", published in her seventeenth book *Thirst* and later in her final release, *Devotions: The Selected Poems of Mary Oliver*. These works will be played without pause.

Mary Oliver's "When I Am Among the Trees"

When I am among the trees,
especially the willows and the honey locust,

equally the beech, the oaks and the pines,
they give off such hints of gladness.
I would almost say that they save me, and daily.

I am so distant from the hope of myself,
in which I have goodness, and discernment,
and never hurry through the world
but walk slowly, and bow often.

Around me the trees stir in their leaves
and call out, "Stay awhile."
The light flows from their branches.

And they call again, "It's simple," they say,
"and you too have come
into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled
with light, and to shine."

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"When I Am Among the Trees" by Mary Oliver

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