



Joseph Murray, composition

Coronation (2020) for brass quintet

1. Fanfare

This is the first movement of three in a brass quintet. The piece depicts a royal coronation, this first movement being a grand opening or presentation.

Cassini (2019) for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano

This piece is named after NASA's Cassini spacecraft, which orbited Saturn for 13 years. It was written for the 2019 FeNAM Student Composer Competition, and performed by the new music ensemble Citywater.

Lake Helen (2020) for viola and piano

Lake Helen is a small lake located at the base of Mt. Lassen in Lassen Volcanic National Park, in northern California. Ice and snow cover it through much of the year, and the mineral rich water reflects a brilliant turquoise. The piece moves through various scenes, as if one were taking a walk around the lake.

Stout Grove (2021) for trombone trio

The title of this piece refers to a trailhead in the redwood forest near Crescent City, California. The dense, rugged environment is one I associate with the homogenous sound of three trombones.

continued on reverse

*This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of Bachelor of Music in Theory & Composition.
Joseph Murray is a student of Professor Chris Castro.*

Inwood (2019) for viola and mandolin

Inspired by a country lane of the same name in my hometown of Shingletown, California, this piece provides a glimpse of the scenery one finds on a drive down the road.

Dulce et Decorum est (2020) for bass clarinet, trumpet, trombone, baritone voice

"Dulce et Decorum est" is a poem written by British author Wilfred Owen in 1918, during his service in World War I. This setting reflects the violent, brutal imagery of the text, attempting to paint the picture of soldiers marching through the hellish warzone on the Western front. This piece was composed for the 2020 FeNAM Student Composer Competition and performed by the ensemble Loadbang.

Vigils on the Ourcq River (2020) song cycle for alto, tenor, and piano

1. Love's Lantern
2. Atonement
3. As Winds That Blow Against a Star

Joyce Kilmer was an American poet during WWI, whose rather romantic style juxtaposes that of many of his fellow soldier-poets. Both of his poems in this song cycle depict a longing for something greater and more beautiful than the horrible circumstances brought on by this war. He was killed in combat in 1918, leaving his wife Aline alone to raise their children. Her poem is more reflective of the desolation brought about by the loss of her husband. The title "Vigils on the Ourcq River" comes from two places. "Vigils" is the name of a collection of poems written by Aline several years after her husband died. Joyce was killed in France near the village of Seringes-et-Nesles, beside the Ourcq River.

In Saecula Saeculorum (2020-21) for solo piano

This piece is the result of an idea I've had for some time: a work of visual art that is also the score to a musical work. I wanted it to be approachable to musicians with little experience with alternative scores, and for the artwork to not be simply associated with the music but fully integrated into it. I collaborated with my cousin Margaret Murray, the artist who designed the score, to create this project.

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto. Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum.