



## Daniel Ponce, composition

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La Nueva Noche (2019 – world premiere)

Daniel Ponce

Raphael Carpenter, guitar 1; Philip Reddin, guitar 2

Reflections of the Oscine (2019)

Tyler Kashow, bassoon; Owen Polkinghorn, contrabassoon

Mire of the Acedia (2018)

Brittany Thorne, violin; Emily Svendsen, viola  
Renato Sahagun, cello; Connor Green, bass  
Arianna Guntvedt, conductor

Soundscape (2019 – world premiere) (Audio-Only)

### INTERMISSION

On a Whim (2017)

Brittany Thorne, violin; Arend Aldama, piano

Dawn (2018)

Emily Svendsen, viola; Aaron Damigos, clarinet; Irina Banar, piano

The Self-Unseeing (2017 – world premiere)

Taylor Graham, soprano 1; Nicole Young and Katie Thorpe, soprano 2  
Aislyn Claus, alto 1; Layla Dean, alto 2  
Michael Carey and Matthew Miles, tenor 1  
Ford Paterson and Michael Schwab, tenor 2  
Aaron Damigos, bass 1; David Wagner, bass 2  
Irina Banar, piano  
Alex Grambow, conductor

Piano Improvisation

Daniel Ponce, piano

*This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the degree of Bachelor of Music in Theory & Composition.  
Daniel Ponce is a student of Dr. Stephen Blumberg and Dr. Scott Perkins.*

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## Daniel Ponce - Senior Composition Recital

# Harmony for the Soul

### PROGRAM NOTES

#### La Nueva Noche:

A person stands alone upon the hill staring out into the fading sunlight. The day's end draws near. Whatever burden held the mind through the day leaves with the sun as it sinks below the horizon. The darkening sky gives way to the light of the moon, rekindling the spirit within. Newly arisen, the soul begins its ascent.

#### Reflections of the Oscine:

Two birds in conversation. What they are talking about, no one really knows. Maybe they aren't actually talking about anything. What is music anyway?

#### Mire of the Acedia:

Mire (noun): a situation or state of difficulty, distress, or embarrassment from which it is hard to extricate oneself.

Acedia (noun): a state of listlessness or torpor, of not caring or not being concerned with one's position or condition in the world.

#### Soundscape:

A ritualistic dance for the tragic souls abandoned on the journey through the Abyss. What lies here is bereft of the shining light from above, yet there is faint light from the feeble flame deep in the chasm. Fading spirits dance around the fire of the pixie. When gazing directly at the flame a vision is created in the soul of the beholder.

#### On a Whim:

A timeline of emotions. Here the piano and violin are engaged in a romantic setting. Which begins with a very light opening, amusingly flowing through a sea of harmonic grace. In the middle section, all that was becomes lost behind a darkening cloud of doubt. The air is cooled to a chill as the sun is obscured. Yet, suddenly, there comes a series of thunderbolts scattering the clouds. Behind every dark cloud there is a sun. Behind every sense of doubt there is hope.

#### Dawn:

Consumed with the desire of creation, the youthful malignant spirit sets out to devise its own song in secrecy. Behind the watch of the Architects a new song is born. Dawn is the story of a blighted soul, transformed over time to something unlike what it was. After an attempt at holding back the discord from within, the walls crumble, and ultimately, lead to the inexplicable collapse of the psychic apparatus.

#### The Self-Unseeing:

A poem by English novelist and poet Thomas Hardy, The Self-Unseeing is a nostalgic return to a childhood home. One remembers the simpler times before the burdens of life take hold. This text is about realizing what one has and never to look away because, when it is taken for granted, it will be lost.

#### Piano Improvisation:

To me, improvisation is a way of teaching the mind new paths, of taking an idea and playing it a myriad of ways, of trying something totally new and unexpected and seeing where it goes. It doesn't always go how you think it will, but as in life, you just gotta roll with it and keep on moving forward.