

Composition Recital – Caleb Miller

November 15, 2024

7:30pm

All Faiths Chapel, Kansas State University

PROGRAM

Thoughts on Nature: Sky..... Caleb Miller

Laura Bogner, flute
Nicholas Dvorske, cello
Hera Hessenius, piano

Spark and Celebration..... Caleb Miller

Mason Ringer, alto saxophone
Craig Brinkman, tenor saxophone

Quartet in E Minor..... Caleb Miller

Mara Gee, violin
Hollis Hagenbuch, violin
Suzie Johnston, viola
Kat Sterbenz, cello

On a Cat..... Jean Berger

Come Away, Death..... R. Quilter

Voi che sapete from *Le Nozze di Figaro*..... W. A. Mozart

Caleb Miller, baritone
Norma Roozeboom, piano

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

School of Music,
Theatre, and Dance

PROGRAM NOTES

Thoughts on Nature: Sky was one of the first pieces I composed when I moved from music education to composition. The objective of this piece was to establish a sense of space, heavily influenced by the cloudless skies often seen when walking the local Konza trail in the mornings. Note the flute throughout the piece; it's generally lower in its range, producing a gentler, softer sound overall.

Spark and Celebration was another composition that began quite early in my compositional journey. The main themes throughout the piece are quite literally described in the title: the spark and beginning of a great fire and the celebration that surrounds it. Listening to both performers climb up and down within their range and "around" each other creates a very energetic piece.

Quartet in E Minor is intended to be as unintrusive as the name. Much rather than a grand work that completely enraptures the audience, this quartet is meant to create a gentle, pleasant, and enjoyable experience for the audience. This is furthered by the inclusion of many soloistic sections for the viola, as it generally has a more understated tone compared to the other strings.

On a Cat, *Come Away*, *Death*, and *Voi che sapete* are three solo voice pieces I've worked on as a voice student throughout the 3 previous years of college. All three, besides being generally fun to perform and functioning as a great display of my voice, are notable for their fun melodies which have affected my personal compositions.

On a Cat reminds me of the importance of repetition. Repetition of melody and themes, when done in the correct moderation, will greatly improve the memorability of a work. The lyrics of this work are a poem by Percy Bysshe Shelley.

Come Away, Death is a very strong example of dynamic variety as well as the effectiveness of covering a wide section of an instrument's range. The words of this work are originally from Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*.

Voi che sapete is an aria from Mozart's opera *Le Nozze di Figaro*, or *The Marriage of Figaro*. Mozart is a great role model for melody in general, as his melodies are often catchy and singable.

The character that originally sings this aria in the opera is Cherubino, a young teenage boy inexperienced in love, who has fallen in love with the older women present in the opera. The role in the opera is usually a "pants" role, meaning that it is a male role played by a woman. I originally sang this as a part of Dr. Rosine's 2023 studio recital "Breaking the Roles".

Lyrics

Italian Lyrics

Voi che sapete, che cosa e amor,
Donne, vedete s'io l'ho nel cor!
Quello ch'io provo vi ridiro;
e per me nuovo, capir nol' so.
Sento un affetto pien di desir,
ch'ora e diletto, ch'ora e martir.

Gelo, e poi sento l'alma avvampar,
e in un momento torno a gelar.
Ricerco un bene fuori di me,
Non so chi il tiene, non so cos'è.

Sospiro e gemo, senza voler,
Palpito e tremo, senza saper.
Non trovo pace, notte, ne di,
Ma pur mi piace languir così.

English Translation

You ladies who know what love is,
See if it is what I have in my heart.
All that I feel I will explain;
Since it is new to me, I don't understand it.
I feel a longing full of desire,
that now is pleasure, that now is torment.

I freeze, then I feel my spirit all ablaze,
And the next moment turn again to ice.
I seek for a treasure outside of myself;
I know not who holds it nor what it is.

I sigh and I groan without wishing to,
I flutter and tremble without knowing why.
I find no peace by night or day,
But yet to languish thus is sheer delight.