University of Alberta Department of Music Presents

New Music by Undergraduate Composers:

Contempo + XiMe

Music by undergraduate composers and improvisors

Tuesday, April 18. 7 pm, Convocation Hall

PROGRAM

Free Recall

Isael Huard

For soprano voice, flute, horn, piano, electronics, and conductor

The City of Anthea

Emily Casavant

For two saxophones, piano, and percussion

Haunted House Suite

Michelle Glen

For flute, tenor saxophone, euphonium, xylophone, bass drum

Podcast

Taran Plamondon

For flute, baritone sax, horn and euphonium

Free Improvisation

XImE

PERSONNEL

XiMe: Sean Borle, Michelle Glen, Treena Gould, Hossein Hosseiniparvar, Olivia Imbrogno, Greg Mulyk, Nathan Spasiuk, Nancy Xu, Nicolás Arnáez (assistant director), Scott Smallwood (director)

Contempo: Alexis Wood (flute), Danielle Yao (flute), Holly De Caigny (saxophone), Augustin Nguyen (saxophone), Olivia Imbrogno (horn), Travis Kutz (euphonium), Nancy Xu (piano), Ben Vanderkruk (percussion), Michelle Glen (voice), Andriy Talpash (director, conductor)

NOTES

Free Recall: Inspired by American minimalism and composers of the likes of Steve Reich and Philip Glass, *Free Recall* was created to facilitate a voyage in time — to make you contemplate your life and recall past memories as one might do when traveling on the train ride home

The City of Anthea is a process derived piece featuring internally accelerating polyrhythmic segments in the saxophones trading off with a melodic passage in the piano and vibraphone that slowly develops. The spectral middle section uses the saxophones to highlight the harmonics that ring out in the piano. The piece ends with similar material to the beginning of the piece, the saxophones gradually slowing and the melodic passage deconstructing.

* * *

The Haunted House Suite is a theatrical piece, telling the story of a person, portrayed by the euphonium player, who moves into a house already inhabited by ghosts. The ghosts -portrayed by the flute, tenor saxophone and xylophone players- are not happy with the arrival of their new roommate, especially during their band rehearsal. They then proceed to attempt to get rid of him by mocking his whistle tune as he moves in and eventually chasing him out of their house.

* * *

Podcast: Modeled in direct contrast to my work last semester ("Word Salad"), Podcast further explores the idea of miscommunication. The piece begins with a human speech pattern performed on a "wah-wah mute," an effect reminiscent of the Charlie Brown cartoon series. These speech patterns, stripped of their words and meaning, are passed around as a dialogue between members of the ensemble, as though they are having an unintelligible, off-kilter conversation.