

**Librarians:** Christine Brown, Carolyn Carpan, Katie Cuyler, Debbie Feisst, Lucinda Johnston, Denis Lacroix  
**Social Workers:** Brianna Bucolo, Heather Ritz, Tiffany Sampson  
**Design and Production:** Kirsten Bauer, Jenna Clarahan, Elisabet Ingbergsson, Alysha Ross

## Engaging

Pandemic and online learning experiences were taking a toll on student mental health; we developed a community arts initiative to engage students

- Connect with each other in a safe, supportive, online environment
- Creatively explore and express their experiences of student life during COVID

Collaboration with social workers from the University's Wellness Supports Unit

- Co-wrote a grant application
- Co-designed workshops, promotional, and informational materials
- Provided expert advice on mental health supports

Grant funded

- University Heroes for Health Grant: \$2,000
- Dean of Students funding: \$200

Promotion (French and English) of initiative and publication

- Blog post
- Library and University social media



Promotional material, Elisabet Ingbergsson

## Enabling

Students

- Reflected on and managed challenges through creative expression
- Aimed to decrease feelings of isolation and anxiety
- Strengthened relationships with the Library and Wellness Support Services
- Showcased their creative expressions

Program intentionally designed to support students

- Based on the Dimensions of Wellness
- Removed barriers to participation with multiple opportunities for participation
- Provided inspirational prompts and information about similar projects

Four Online workshops

- Encouraged and supported student creativity in any artistic medium
- Social worker present at each session



## Publishing

Student-focused in content and design

Student Graphic Designer

- Created book design
- Coordinated printing of print edition

Contributors and student graphic designer retained copyright for their creative works

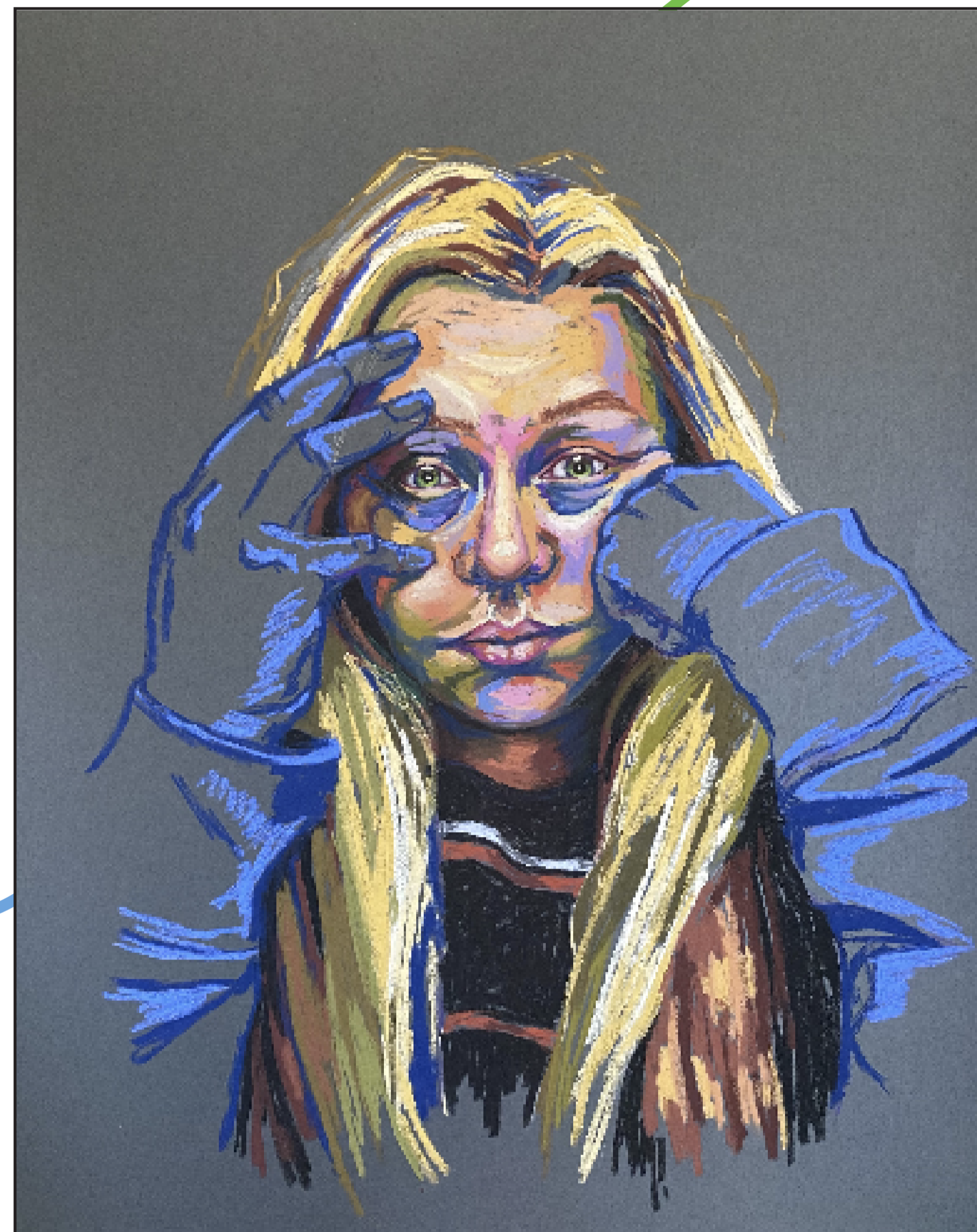
- Assigned a creative commons CC-BY 4.0 licence

Production support from

- University of Alberta Press
- University of Alberta Library Publishing and Digital Production Services

Project team learned about publishing

- ISBN application and acquisition
- Library & Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication Program
- Working with a graphic designer
- Format and design of books
- Developing content, i.e. "final copy"
- In print and digital formats



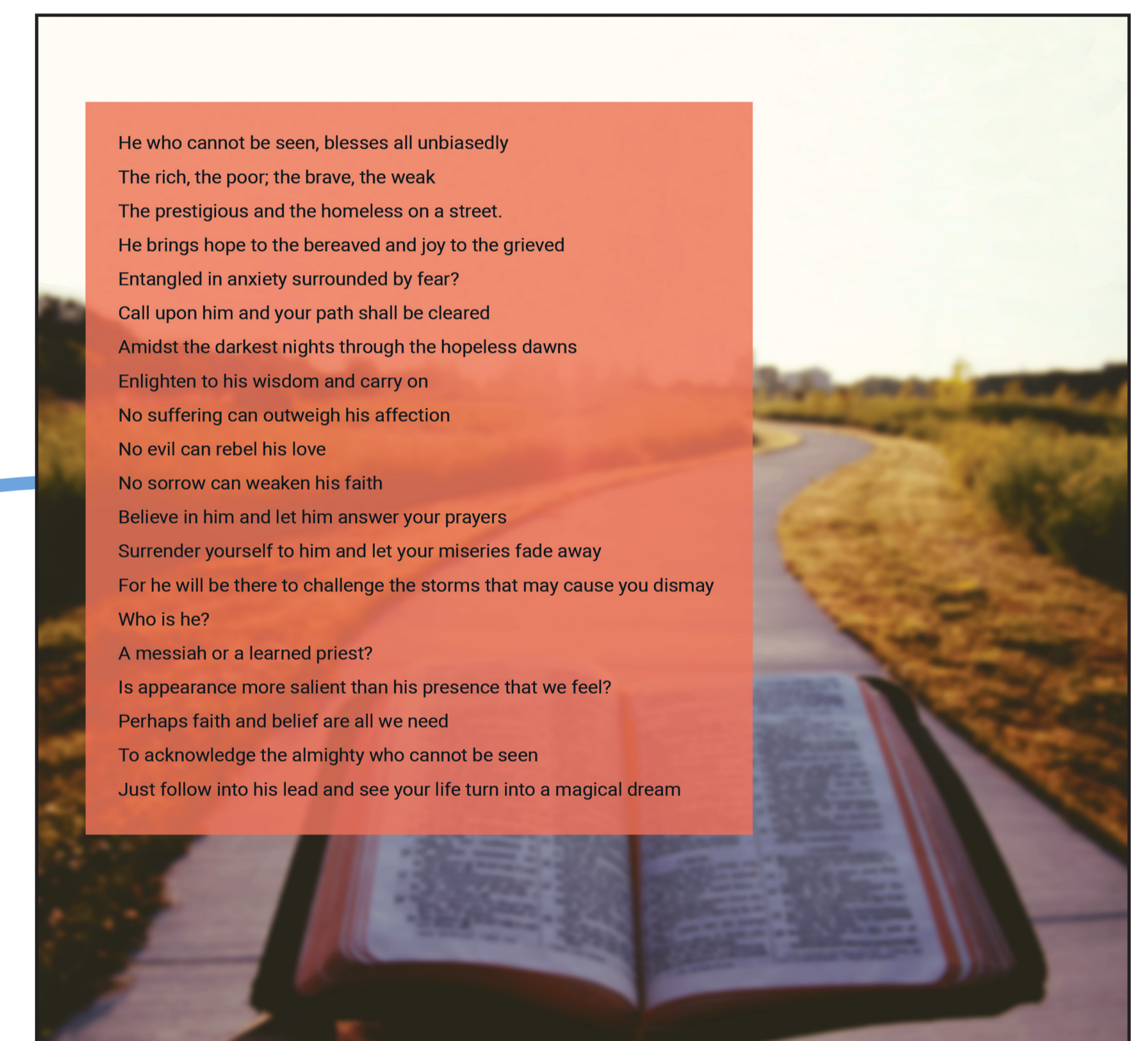
Overwhelmed, Andrea Larsen

Invited submissions from students for publication

- Permanent artifact of the experience of student life during COVID
- To reflect and inspire all students

25 Art kits

- Distributed via mail or curbside
- Provided tools for student creativity



The Almighty, Ishan.A

## Connecting

A University-wide collaboration

Wellness Supports Unit

- Home base of Social Worker partners
- Administers Heroes for Health grant program
- Provides support for management of funds and facilitation of project

Dean of Students communications experts assisted with

- Recruiting a student graphic designer
- Supervising and collaborating with the designer and team members
- Ensuring the publication followed University style guidelines
- Providing additional unsolicited funding applied to printing budget
- Facilitating marketing plan to promote to the University community

Library colleagues from various units/divisions provided support for multiple issues as they arose

Wait  
by Jordyn Frederick

Sit at my desk  
Power up my laptop  
Log in to my computer

Okay, good, Zoom is up and running  
Now I just have to wait  
Here  
In this so-called waiting room

I wait  
And wait  
And wait some more

Finally, the teacher lets us in and--  
But no, there's a technical issue  
The professor keeps pausing on my screen  
As their internet cuts in and out

I stare at my computer in frustration

Now the issues are dealt with  
Class starts  
...And almost immediately, I'm bored

I try to pay attention  
I take notes  
Engage in discussion  
But still, my mind drifts to everything and anything  
That's not related to this class

If only I were in a classroom  
Able to look over at my classmates  
And have a proper discussion with them

But I'm stuck here, in front of my computer  
Staring at the same person for over an hour

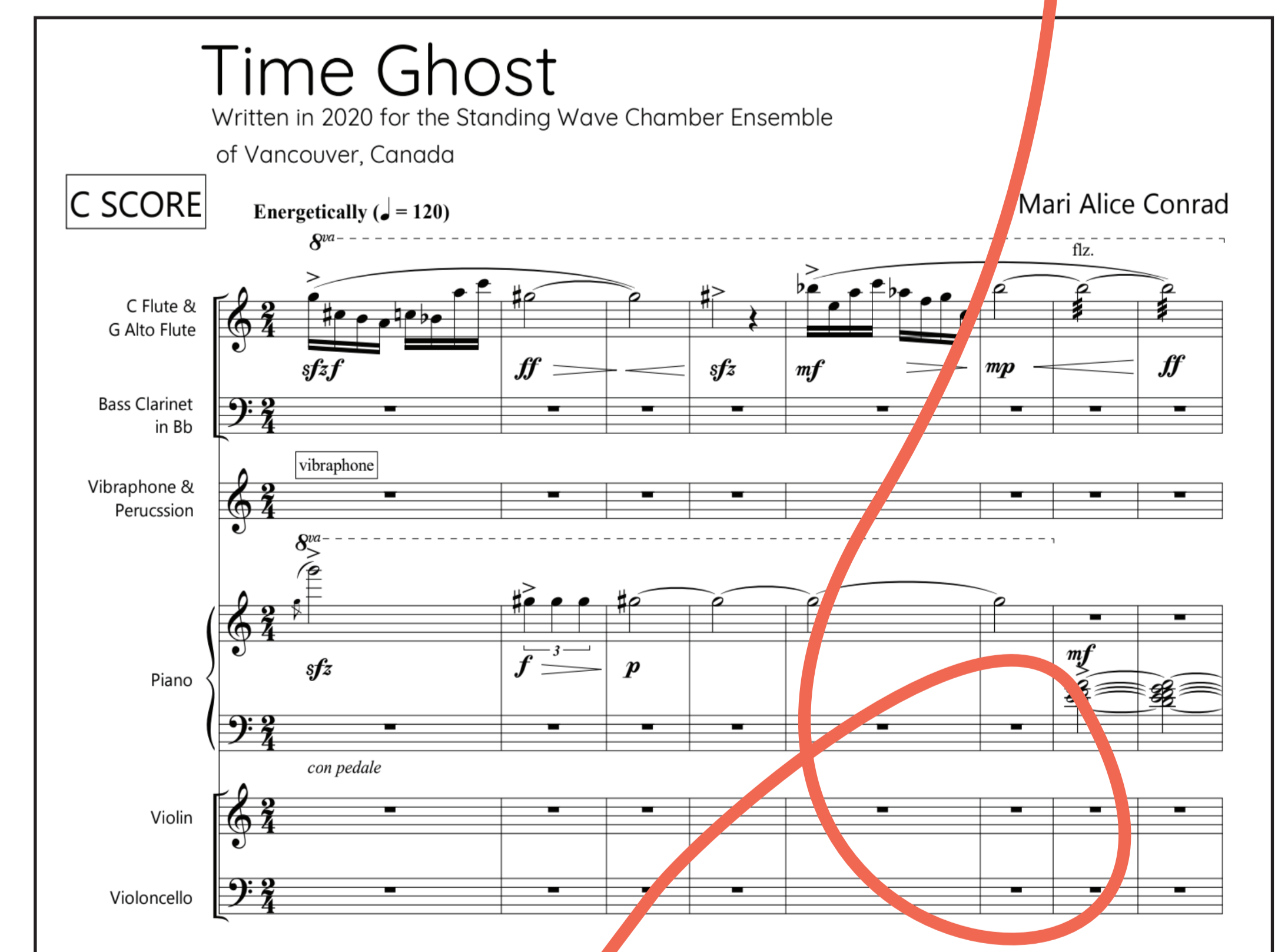
The class ends  
I don't feel as though I'd just attended one  
Not really

For my next class, I log in  
Yet again

I wait



In my room, Gabriella Roth



## Inspiring

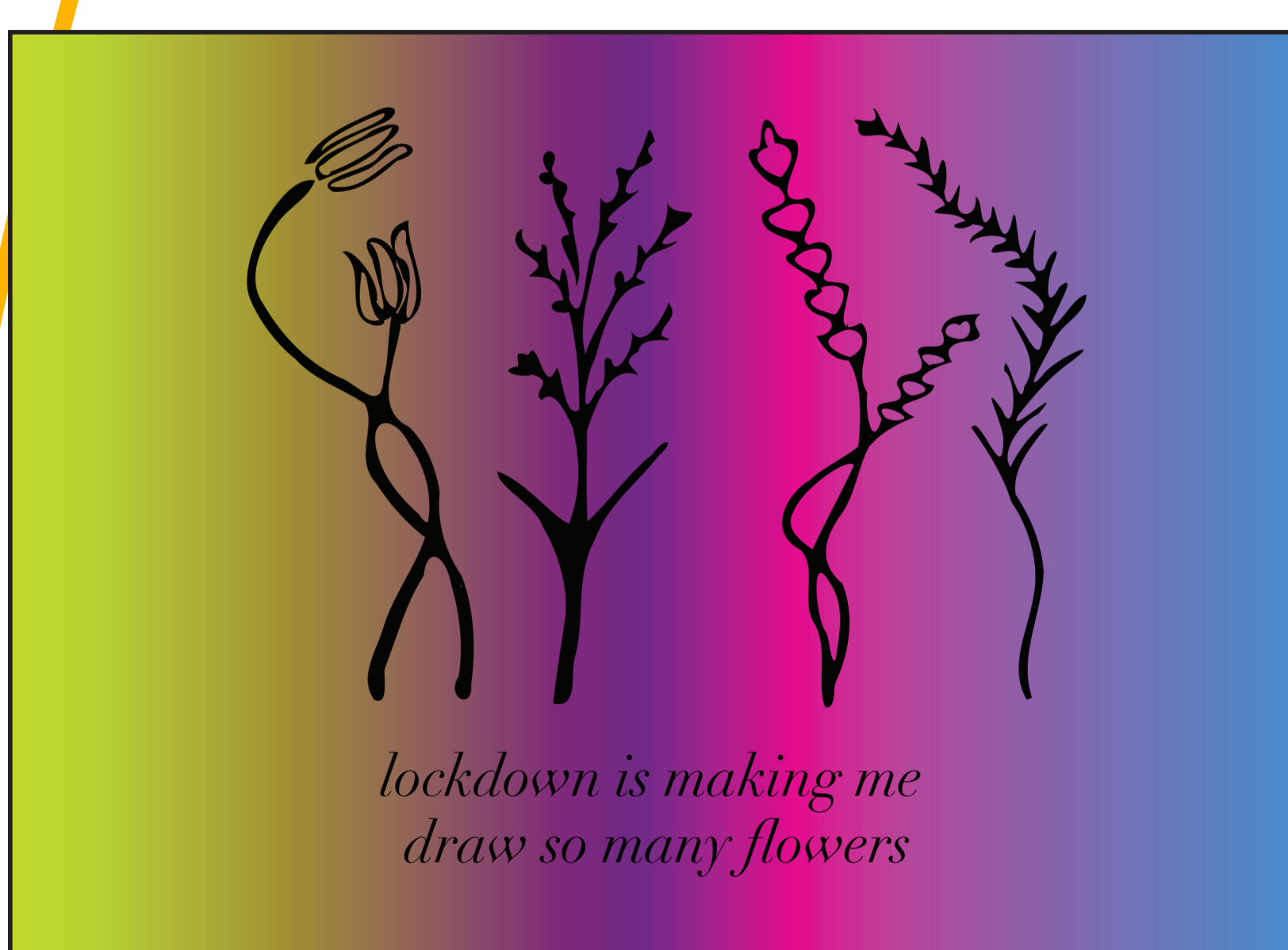
11 submissions of creative expressions

- Drawings, paintings, digital art, collage, poetry, and music
- Students from 5 Faculties

Digital version has ~300 online views and ~200 downloads (as of July)

Distributed 50 print copies

- University officers (President, Provost, Faculty Deans, etc)
- Library collection
- University of Alberta Archives
- Contributors and student graphic designer



lockdown is making me draw so many flowers, M-A Murphy

View eBook



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