



School of Music
University of Missouri

2020-2021 Series | Special Event

2021 Creating Original Music Project:

Senior Division Virtual Concert

April 24, 2021 | 5:00pm
Sinquefield Music Center

Program

'96 DiCaprioJo MacKenzie

Jo MacKenzie, voice and production

Brass n' GasDavid McCaulley

*Iskander Akhmadullin, trumpet
Dakota Bartel, trumpet
Amanda Collins, horn
Timothy Howe, trombone
Theo Learnard, tuba*

Dear Molly Kaiden Doebelin

Kaiden Doebelin, voice and guitar

The Moon Stone Gill

Stone Gill, voice and production

2020 Brandon Kim

*Johanny Veiga Barbosa, violin
Alexandre Negrão, violin
Preston Roberts, viola
Andrew Lewis, violoncello*

The Color of YouRylee Spencer

Rylee Spencer, guitar, drums, and vibraphone

Moon WaterThomas Libbert

Thomas Libbert, voice

Dance in G Brady Perkins

*Tâmila Freitas, flute
Kara Donnelly, oboe
Andrew Weile, clarinet
Meghan Brown, clarinet
Jack Snelling, bassoon
Andrea Lee, alto saxophone
Daniel Vega, tenor saxophone
Logan King, baritone saxophone
Yoshiaki Onishi, conductor*

Cards are Dealt Ouya Diwakaran

Ouya Diwakaran, voice
Jack Snelling, piano
Jeremiah Ingrahm, drums
John Lane-Watson, electric bass
Zachary Scamurra, alto saxophone

Composer Biographies and Program Notes

Jo MacKenzie

Jordin “Jo” MacKenzie is a 17-year-old producer, songwriter, and singer from Kansas. She has been writing since she was 7 years old and producing with Ableton Live since she was 15 years old. She has two EPs under her belt, *Proud* and *Let Me Give You What I Wish I Had*, which were released in 2018 and 2020, respectively. She is a 2021 finalist in the International Songwriting Competition for her song “Lost Myself” and is honored to be included in the winners for this year’s COMP for her song “‘96 DiCaprio.” Follow her on social media @thejomackenzie!

Brass 'n' Gas

Brass 'n' Gas, like most other things I’ve written, was composed to hopefully be an enjoyable experience for both the performers and the listener. In the piece, you’ll find exciting double-tonguing passages, interesting 3-against-2 rhythms, and constantly changing meters to keep you on your toes. Also be on the lookout for a recurring theme, as that is also a fairly common element in my compositions; perhaps you’ll find yourself humming it or singing it in your head.

-- David McCaulley

David McCaulley

Ever since beginning piano in the 2nd grade, David McCaulley has always wanted to compose music, especially for film. Ever since then, he has been studying orchestral scores (or whatever he could get his hands on), and he has been looking for ways to develop his skills. When his dad, Matt McCaulley, started Life of Life Films, David was ecstatic to be able to compose for the numerous short films and upcoming feature length films that Light of Life Films created. More recently, David has studied film scores and honed his skill as a composer by creating a YouTube channel dedicated to breaking down and analyzing select pieces of music from various films. These films range from *Star Wars* to *Batman* and everything in between. The analyses of the selected cues from each film contain a score reduction, the movie scene below that, and annotations around the reduction explaining the thematic and harmonic concepts that the composer used in the cue. What better way to study the craft of film composition than to learn from the masters?

Stone Gill

Hello! My name is Stone Gill, otherwise known as Endurance. I attend Arcadia Valley High School in Ironton, MO. Musically, I primarily work in the hip hop/rap genre, although sometimes I branch into a pop/r&b sound. I take most of my inspiration/topics from my struggles with the sport of running. In the recent year or so, I’ve had issues with injury and health and I’ve turned more than ever to music to channel that emotion and work through it, as it means a lot to me. I tend to take a more cinematic and orchestral approach to music, taking huge inspiration from the likes of Hanz Zimmer and Steve Jablonsky. I then try to incorporate those “movie score”-like sounds and convert them into something I am able to rap over. Thank you to everyone involved!

2020

I wrote this quartet to show the progression of the feelings and experiences I had in the tumultuous year of 2020. I started all the way back to New Year’s Day when we were hopeful about the new decade, unaware of the events that would change our lives forever. The first section exemplifies our oblivious happiness until it all crashes down, devolving into the chaos of the first few months. The nation starts to shut down and the piece transitions to reluctant acceptance and the monotony of quarantine. After a while, we get used to our situation and the rhythmic motifs change, but the monotony still remains. The final few sections are about our intense

election season, and finally, the uncertain start to a new year.

-- Brandon Kim

Brandon Kim

Brandon Kim is a junior at Rock Bridge High School in Columbia, Missouri. He started composing music when he was 10, and his first composition was *Knights of the Round Table* for piano, violin, and trumpet. Since then, he's loved to use interesting techniques and instrumentation in his compositions. Brandon has won awards seven times in the middle and high school fine art music division of the Creating Original Music Project (COMP) competition and was the 1st and 2nd place winner in 2019 and 2020 of the National Federation Junior Composers Contest respectively. As a violinist, he performed his improvised solo at the 2020 Missouri All-State Orchestra, and he was selected for the 2020 NAFME All National Symphony Orchestra. Brandon is also the founding member of the BNB piano trio, and the trio has performed at the Odyssey Chamber Music Series since 2019. Brandon is honored to be selected as a COMP winner again this year and is thankful for his family and the Sinquefeld Charitable Foundation.

The Color of You

Performed at Capital City High School by Rylee Spencer (Piano and Vocals), Kourtney Highfill (Vibraphone), and Kacy Highfill (Drums). Special thanks to Kourtney and Kacy for recording with me, Michael Brand and Ken Kehner, and all of those who gave feedback, your time was greatly appreciated.

-- Rylee Spencer

Rylee Spencer

Rylee Spencer is a multi-instrumentalist and self-recording artist. She plays guitar, vibraphone, and ukulele, but her primary instrument is the piano. Rylee records all of her music herself from her home studio. Her music is its own kind of Americana-meets-Pop. Her songs are woven with complex chords reminiscent of jazz combined with contemporary melodies that tell stories of life, loss, and love. Although her music cannot fit into one genre, she is inspired by Bluegrass, Jazz, Classic Rock, and Americana-pop. Her favorite artists are Billy Joel, Elton John, Sara Bareilles, Alison Krauss, and singer-songwriter Anna Johnson.

Thomas Libbert

Hi, I'm Thomas Libbert. I'm a junior at Fatima High School in Westphalia. My love of music started at a reasonably young age, and as early as about 10 years old I started coming up with my own songs while I learned piano and guitar. They were really bad, but that started me on the journey to where I am now. In my sophomore year, I purchased the software and recording equipment I would need to start making my own music, which had been a dream of mine for a while. It took me around eight months to finish my first song, "Selfish Crime," which I published to my channel, siKda Music, in December 2019. Since then, I have created ten more songs, one of which was "Moon Water." All my eleven songs are included on my first full album, *Happy Songs Are Boring*, which you can (and should) listen to everywhere you find music. One thing I've loved to do with my music is experiment with different genres; over my songs, I've made songs ranging from typical alternative anthems to piano ballads to rap songs to singer-songwriter to several EDM/dubstep songs. My next batch of songs will be wmore rock-focused. Overall, I just love music in general, whether I'm making it or not, and I hope this contest will help kick start my career just a touch. Thank you to COMP for this amazing opportunity, and don't forget to listen to siKda!

Dance in G

Dance in G was conceptualized in April of 2020, following a slowdown of school activities in the early days of the pandemic. On the heels of the 2020 Missouri Music Educator's Convention where I participated in the

All-State Band, inspiration came from one of the pieces we prepared and played: *Danse Diabolique* by Joseph Hellmesberger. Drawing on the excitement and energy of the piece, I found the contrast between the melodies and the way in which the instrumentation played off of one another as an aspect I wanted to achieve in this piece. *Dance in G* is in a loose-sonata form, pairing multiple themes and melodic ideas in keys common to G, but also branches into some other different keys along the way. In the style of *Danse Diabolique*, *Dance in G* strives for a driving energy with a goal of never having a dull moment in the piece. Performers are continually passing ideas back and forth, at times holding onto melodic elements and hiding them within the texture, while at other times displaying them in a soloistic manner above the rest of the ensemble. Because I found these ideas to work well for the woodwind octet, I am expanding *Dance in G* to include versions for brass ensemble, full orchestra and symphonic wind band. I am very appreciative of the musicians who help to bring this piece to life today.

-- Brady Perkins

Brady Perkins

Brady Perkins is a senior at Ozark High School, who coming from a musical family, has always valued music from an early age. He plays trombone in the Ozark High School Concert and Jazz Bands. Brady has been a member of the Missouri All-State Band twice, as well as a repeat member in the South Central District Honor Band, Concert Band, and Jazz Band throughout high school. He is also involved in the Springfield Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Springfield Youth Wind Ensemble. Brady has always had an interest in composing and transcribing in various styles and has had performances of his arrangements back home at Ozark, including works for jazz band and brass ensemble. Brady plans to pursue a degree in music education after graduating from high school in May. He would like to thank his family for their unconditional support, and his directors for their encouragement as well.

Mizzou New Music Initiative

The Mizzou New Music Initiative brings together an array of programs intended to position the University of Missouri School of Music as a leading center in the areas of composition and new music. The Initiative is the direct result of the generous support of Dr. Jeanne and Mr. Rex Sinquefield, and the Sinquefield Charitable Foundation. The Sinquefields' vision is to create an incubator for the composition and performance of new music, and to position Missouri as a major center for the music of tomorrow.

MU Composer Connection

The MU Composer Connection gives composers a chance to connect with and receive instruction from a graduate student in composition at MU *free of charge*. The School of Music recognizes that not all students throughout Missouri have the opportunity to study with a local composer. In an effort to give students further guidance while in the creative process the School of Music developed this distance-learning initiative.

2021 Creating Original Music Project: Winners by Category

High School Division (9-12): Fine Art Music

- 1st Brady Perkins, *Dance in G for Woodwind Octet*
Ozark High School, Ozark
Sponsor: Tom Meyer
- 2nd Brandon Kim, *2020*
Rock Bridge High School, Columbia
Sponsor: Alison Lankheit
- 3rd David McCaulley, *Brass 'n' Gas*
Carl Junction High School, Carl Junction
Sponsor: Trey Wadell

High School Division (9-12): Electronic Pop Music

- 1st Jordin MacKenzie, *'96 DiCaprio*
Blue Valley North High School, Overland Park
Sponsor: Daniel Freeman
- 2nd Stone Gill, *The Moon*
Arcadia Valley High School, Ironton
Sponsor: Charles Lee
- 3rd Thomas Libbert, *Moon Water*
Fatima High School, Westphalia
Sponsor: Zack Fincher

High School Division (9-12): Instrumental/Acoustic Pop Music

- 1st Ovy Diwakaran, *Cards Are Dealt*
Ladue Horton Watkins High School, St. Louis
Sponsor: Stephen Howard
- 2nd Rylee Spencer, *The Color of You*
Capital City High School, Jefferson City
Sponsor: Ken Kehner
- 3rd Kaiden Doebelin, *Dear Molly*
Mexico High School, Mexico
Sponsor: David Reetz

Missouri Summer Composition Institute
A Summer workshop for Missouri High School student composers
June 21 – 26, 2021

Apply to the [Missouri Summer Composition Institute](#) for an exciting opportunity to come together for one week of learning and interacting with other creative minds! Participants will receive composition lessons from MU faculty and compose a work to be premiered at the end of the week by the [Khemia Ensemble](#).

The Institute is open to students entering grades 9-12 and entering college freshman. COMP winners receive a full scholarship, which includes room and board.

For information about the Missouri Summer Composition Institute, visit: <https://mizzounewmusic.missouri.edu/comp/missouri-summer-composition-institute>

[Click here](#) to apply now. The application receipt deadline is **Friday, May 7, 2021**.

Creating Original Music Project 2021 Honorable Mentions

Rebecca Ninemire
Kamryn Henderson
Jacob Barnes
Nathan Crutchley
Katherine Swinney
Christian Cox
Eli Parks
Isaac Faust
Ethan King
Lily Lagergren
Mila Perez
James Boyd
Ben Carrender
Jackson Marlett
Henry Rusten
Kat Crawford
Eliot Blackmoore

Kaden Justus
Olivia Carpenter
Eli Minasian
Iris Gillam
Ellee Land
James Wolfe
Cecelia Schmitz-Hoepker
Anthony Fritz
Jacob Pittman Davis
Shawn Butler
Brooklyn Portell
Christopher Ramsey
Ian Hendrickson
Claire LI
Gage Brown
Ethan McFarland
Charlotte Bauer

Gus Lookingbill
Alex Sineff
Jayden Coe
Grant Satterlee
Allison Mott
Dylan Markey
Posey Bischoff
Malcolm Davis
Tucker Owens
Darcie Hingula
Kolby Bryant
Jack Vernon
Justin Hahm
Erin Lammers
Riley Braker

Creating Original Music Project Acknowledgements

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Jacob Gotlib – Director, Creating Original Music Project
Oswald Huynh – Manager, Creating Original Music Project
Stefan Freund – Professor, Composition and Music Theory
Carolina Heredia – Assistant Professor, Composition
Wendy Sims – Director of Music Education
Neil Minturn – Associate Professor of Music Theory
Sam Griffith – Assistant Teaching Professor of Jazz
Luis Hermano Bezerra – “Composer-on-call”
Daniel Fitzpatrick – Graduate Assistant
David Myers – Director of Audio/Visual Services

School of Music Staff

Nathan Martin – Fiscal Officer
Brooke Danielsen – Operations & Logistics Coordinator, Fiscal Support, Large Ensemble Coordinator
Ben Harting – Admissions Coordinator
Holly Tenute – Administrative Assistant to the Director; Faculty and Development Support
Susan Worstell – Administrative Assistant for Current and Prospective Student Support, Facilities
Lucy Urlacher – Piano Technician

2021 Creating Original Music Project Judges

Elementary Division Judges:

Daniel Fitzpatrick
Ethan Forte
Grace LaRose

Middle and High School Popular Music and Jazz Judges:

Sam Griffith
Assistant Teaching Professor of Jazz
University of Missouri

Neil Minturn
Associate Professor of Music Theory
University of Missouri

Middle and High School Fine Art Preliminary Judges:

Luis Hermano Bezerra
Kendra Franks
Oswald Huynh
Daniel Vega

Middle and High School Fine Art Final Judges:

Damien Geter
Instructor of Voice
Portland State University

Texu Kim
Assistant Professor of Music Composition and Theory
San Diego State University

Gilda Lyons
Assistant Professor of Music Composition
The Hartt School, University of Hartford