



WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
College of Fine Arts and Communication  
& School of Music

present

NEW MUSIC FESTIVAL 2021  
CONCERT II

Music by WIU Student Composers

Tuesday, March 9, 2021  
2:00 PM

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THE COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATION PROUDLY  
CELEBRATES OVER 50 YEARS AT WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

College of Fine Arts  
and Communication Recital Hall

**W** | Western Illinois  
University

# NEW MUSIC FESTIVAL 2021

## CONCERT II

Music by WIU Student Composers

Dreaming In Space (2020)

Matthew Sulla

Curtis Baum, piano

Gazing Upon Dissonance, Dissonance Gazing Back (2020)

Jerry Hendricks

MIDI realization

Collision (2020)

Mary Bausman

Conner Wittman, piano

Emerge (2020)

Robin Butler

two-channel fixed media

In Search of Self (2020)

Ryan Simester

MIDI piano with video

## PROGRAM NOTES & COMPOSER BIOGRAPHIES

***Dreaming In Space*** started as a way for me to test out different harmonic and intervallic relationships found within the prime row of a 12-tone matrix I created. Instead of employing multiple transformations of the prime row, I made use of the prime row and progressed very slowly. I used the pitches in small collections, up to 4 pitches in a collection. I allowed myself to repeat pitches as many times as was necessary to convey the musical ideas I had. The dreamy character stems from the use of the sustain pedal which reinforces the overtones that ring out from the piano. It also acts as a reflection of what isolation has felt like during the year this was written, 2020.

**Matthew Sulla** is a senior Music Composition major with an English minor. As a bass player he has participated in various ensembles in WIU's School of Music, from symphony orchestra to jazz combos. After completing his degree at WIU, Matthew plans to join a graduate program to study Musicology. His current research interests are Scandinavian art music and popular music studies.

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***Gazing Upon Dissonance, Dissonance Gazing Back*** is written for piano and utilizes an ostinato in the left hand that starts on a minor-quality chord, grows in dissonance, then returns to the original chord. This ostinato is played over several cycles as the right hand builds a melody that also grows in dissonance over the course of the composition. The goal of this piece is to show that dissonance can be beautiful, and that dissonance can be a reflection of one's self and emotions

Born on September 11, 1997, **Jeremiah "Jerry" Hendricks** hails from Mount Sterling, Illinois. Jerry started his musical journey at the age of 8 when he began guitar lessons. At 14, Jerry switched his primary instrument to bass guitar and still maintains bass as his primary instrument. Jerry was raised on the classic rock music of the 1960's and 70's but later developed an interest in heavy metal music. Jerry is a full-time member and main composer of the American heavy metal band "Dereliction," based in Macomb, Illinois. He also participates in the Western Illinois University jazz program, steel band, and orchestra.

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Based on an existing collection of tone rows, ***Collision*** is an exercise in writing with 12-tone rows. While the piece does not follow functional harmony, it features many moments of "harmonic beauty." With the help of various mechanics of the piano, including dynamics, registers, and pedal usage, the notes in the tone rows are arranged in a way that strays away from negative preconceptions of 12 tone music.

**Mary Bausman** is a senior music composition student at WIU and is dual-enrolled at Bradley University, studying music business. Mary is from Peoria, IL, and is an active member of Sigma Alpha Iota and the National Society of Leadership and Success and is completing an internship with the Peoria Symphony Orchestra. Mary's studies include a vocal concentration and she has previously studied piano and percussion privately. Throughout her college career, Mary has been represented compositionally through various concert debuts of her original pieces and as the lead sound designer for the video game *We Who Linger*. Mary is also a recipient of the NAMM Presidential Innovation Award.

**Emerge** is a piece written as a musical soundscape, shaped to give form to an imaginative visual for the listener. The inspiration behind the piece is picturing a dream, a journey down into an ocean, the first peak in sound clustering is meant to paint the visual of going beneath the waves revealing a sight of colorful coral and larger than life majestically painted fish swimming around you, carrying you further down into their kingdom. The middle section is inspired by the visual of being suspended in the middle of water, a peaceful scene with nothing in sight except the dancing rays of sun from the waves above. The original section returns overlapped with the middle theme, building in intensity giving the effect of going past the watery depths into another dimension where the imagination has no limit. The music fades away, and with it, any idea of light or color, only darkness from which one can only perceive as the image of tranquility and peace.

**Robin Butler**, a composition major at WIU, currently sits as principal flute for the Wind Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra. As a composer, he is a three time finalist in the National Young Composers Challenge (2016-18), and in 2018 he won the University of Missouri–St. Louis Composers Competition in the high school division.

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**In Search of Self** is a piece written to be performed by a computer as a MIDI file. The idea for this instrumentation was taken from Conlon Nancarrow's player piano solos, a set of works composed using complex structures and mathematics that are played automatically by the player piano. The title comes from Virginia Axline's book: *Dibs in Search of Self*, where she records a series of play therapy sessions with an emotionally distraught young boy named Dibs. In these sessions, Dibs was allowed to talk about what he wanted without judgement so that he can effectively explore his own emotions in a controlled environment. I wrote this piece with the same concept, exploring the most absurd textures and sounds that can be made with a simple notation software.

**Ryan Simester** is a sophomore Music Composition and Music Performance major at Western Illinois University. He plays cello for the WIU symphony orchestra. He enjoys writing music that is overtly ridiculous and chaotic, while still maintaining some semblance of structure and form.

New Music Festival is made possible by support from  
the WIU Performing Arts Society and the WIU School of Music.

