

UPCOMING MUSIC TODAY FESTIVAL CONCERTS

Sunday, May 7, 8:00 p.m. (Aasen-Hull Hall)
Estelí Gomez

Wednesday, May 10, 8:00 p.m. (Aasen-Hull Hall)
James Shields and Friends

Saturday, May 13, 3:00 p.m. (Aasen-Hull Hall)
The Banshee, a chamber opera by Daniel Daly



SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND DANCE



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CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

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Season 116, Program 69

Aasen-Hull Hall
Saturday, May 6, 2017 | 8:00 p.m.



Tarot: Suite of the Major Arcana

Joseph Vranas (b.1992)
text by Daniel Erburu Reardon

- XXII. The Fool
- I. The Magician
- II. The High Priestess
- III. The Empress
- V. The Hierophant
- VI. The Lovers
- VIII. Strength

Noelle Goodenberger, soprano; Luis Rivera, tenor
Rebecca Larkin, flute; Alessandra Hollowell, clarinet
Kate Von Bernthal, saxophone; Michael Fleming, violin
Lauren Culver, viola; Kathryn Brunhaver, cello
Stephen Rawson, piano; Alistair Gardner, percussion

**Scenes from
the Poetry of Rainer Maria Rilke**

Ramsey Sadaka (b.1991)

- I. Spitefully chewed fruit
- II. Rhythmic fury
- III. Remembering like eyes
- IV. Now we wake up

Mary Evans, violin; Rebecca Larkin, flute
Alessandra Hollowell, clarinet; Kasey Calebaugh, viola
Kathryn Brunhaver, cello; Li Tao, piano
Alistair Gardner, percussion

Extinction

Stephen Medlar (b.1984)

- I. A Philanthropist
- II. Blind Eyes
- III. Death March
- IV. It's Not Our Fault
- V. The End of Life

Rebecca Larkin, flutes; Kate Von Bernthal, saxophones
Lauren Culver, viola; Kathryn Brunhaver, cello
Stephen Rawson, piano; Crystal Chu, percussion

III. Death March

The plan is initiated. The attackers sound as a distant force, and then a crushing march. The onslaught is utter chaos, violence of the highest level.

IV. It's Not Our Fault

A survivor sings. She reflects on the disaster of her life, which has now culminated in an attack that robbed her of the few people that she had. Her song is heard by other survivors. Her voice is hope.

V. The End of Life

Amidst the destruction, a new leader arises. He uses the woman's song as a rallying call and he unites the survivors in their need for vengeance. They will retaliate. They are drunk on violence. They will stop nothing short of one hundred percent extermination. "We will be the heroes!"

--Stephen Medlar

Extinction

Extinction is the musical tale of how humanity's time on earth comes to an end. Each movement represents a specific, significant event along the course to conclusion.

The story is set in a terrible version of earth. A world where education has fallen, economy has fallen, society has fallen. A world wretchedly overpopulated and violent, where ignorance has overpowered intelligence with sheer numbers. A world that becomes less futuristic every day.

This story is a warning of where the long path leads when the intellectual environment of humanity turns toxic.

I. A Philanthropist

A skilled veteran of life in the fallen world – a survivor, a killer – comes to an epiphanic realization: overpopulation is the head of the snake, the core reason why all societal function has failed. He will persuade the scattered and fearful leaders that remain to initiate history's grandest act of preservation and courage – an immediate ninety percent reduction in population. "I will be a hero!"

II. Blind Eyes

The man pleads his case to the leaders. They are affected by his genuine passion, his undeniable logic, his rage, his scars. They are convinced. A plan for large-scale population reduction is formed.

Tarot: Suite of the Major Arcana

Tarot: Suite of the Major Arcana is an in-progress song cycle composed for the Eugene Contemporary Chamber Ensemble and as part of the 2017 Music Today Festival, seven of twenty-two songs will be premiered. The songs and poetry are inspired by the conceptual meaning and imagery of the Major Arcana in the standard Tarot deck, a centuries old tool used for prophecy, divining, and fortune-telling.

Each card of the Major Arcana are represented by a mythological being or symbol, who's presence in a reading bring interpretative effigy for the concerning situation. The poet, Daniel Erburu Reardon, plays on this interpretation, writing as though the cards were speaking themselves, perhaps to the diviner or even the subject.

O/XXII - THE FOOL

The first and the last card in the Major Arcana, the Fool is often portrayed as a traveler, young and hopeful, with clear skies and a bright landscape. The card represents the unlimited potential of youth, purity, beginnings, and protection, but also gives fair warning on naivety and ignorance.

The dizzy cliff whose edge I stride
is sun-stroked, washed with fortune's fire–
more dreams than can be met with sight.

Yet I need but a faithful guide,
 a pack, a single bloodless briar—
 My eyes are given up to light.
 Unseeing, yet I walk beside.
 My powers of attorney
 are full: to cross the whole world's wide.
 Methinks it is no journey.

I - THE MAGICIAN

The second card of the series is the Magician, a figure of knowledge, skill, and research. The Magician is presented in his lab, discovering the secrets of the universe by using the power of the Elements as a resource. His appearance suggests organization and planning.

The Elements are mine, and all
 the world awaits, in servant's poise,
 the fruits of careful mastery.
 The arcane texts, the scholar's stall—
 yet now I almost taste the joys
 that their deep secrets win for me.
 The four Instruments heed my call
 as red and white enfold me.
 With golden dreams, I shall not fall.
 Come, watch my work. Behold me.

that didn't feel so surgingly, that spared itself. My heart: there:
 behold your glory. Can you almost always make do
 with lesser pulsings? –But the arches wait,
 the uppermost, to be filled with thundering onrush.
 Why do you long for the unknown loved one's withheld face?—
 Has your craving not breath to blast echoing storms
 from that angel's trumpet who announces the world's judgment:
 then she too does not exist, is nowhere, will not be born,
 she whose absence you parchingly endure...

III.

You don't know nights of love? Don't
 petals of soft words float upon your blood?
 Are there no places on your dear body
 that keep remembering like eyes?

IV.

Now we wake up with our memory
 and fix our gazes on that which was;
 whispering sweetness, which once coursed through us,
 sits silently beside us with loosened hair

The presentation of this piece is in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Music in composition.

The lion's force gleams from his jaw,
 and paw, and all his fierce array,
 but strikes not. He stands faithful guard.
 For mine lies not in bite or claw,
 but knowing every word I say
 will match a hunter's stern regard.
 No chains, no captors, yet I draw
 upon the proud and fearless.
 Together, we indeed are law:
 Ruled, and ruling. Peerless.

Scenes from the Poetry of Rainer Maria Rilke

This piece for violin and small ensemble takes as its inspiration the work of the great Bohemian-Austrian poet, Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926). In structuring my composition, I used the following poems, translated by Edward Snow:

I.

Long you must suffer, knowing not what,
 until suddenly out of spitefully chewed fruit
 your suffering's taste comes forth in you.
 Then you will love almost instantly what's tasted. No one
 will ever talk you out of it

II.

Assault me, music, with rhythmic fury!
 Lofty reproach, hurled up high before the heart

II - THE HIGH PRIESTESS

The High Priestess is the keeper of mystery and the third card of the the cycle. She sits before the entrance to Solomon's Temple, in which are the answers to every question and protects these secrets from the unworthy. The High Priestess symbolizes trust in intuition and destiny.

I stand before the rumored Gate,
 in azure finery. You seek
 to look beyond, yet sight misleads.
 A sky o'erfolded, Moebius-mate;
 a snake turned backward, tail in beak-
 Within these mysteries are seeds.
 In dreaming wonder, untamed state,
 they grow an inflorescence,
 then fruit. All deepest hungers sate
 with naught by my seeds' essence.

III - THE EMPRESS

Also known as Mother Nature, the Empress is the patron of femininity, fertility, and abundance. The Empress is often portrayed among nature, beautiful and soft, and her insight extends from the serenity of landscape. She plants the seeds of life and her harvest results in abundance.

To make, at last, what she intends;
 to watch as life's lone candle glows—

a woman's work is never done.
 Yet senseless toil she transcends;
 with nature's gifts, her garden grows
 at my behest beneath the sun.
 We share our produce now, as friends;
 be summoned to our table!
 With wheat and woodland's dividends
 I stand, willing and able.

V - THE HIEROPHANT

The sixth card of the Arcana is the Hierophant, also referred to as the High Priest, and is the male counterpart to the High Priestess. The Hierophant is represented as a significant religious leader, one bound by tradition and leadership. Erburu's poetic rendition of the Hierophant is that of the sea captain, a guide through the sea of life.

Amid the waves and wind-tossed spray
 I captain souls across life's sea
 and traverse all this threefold world.
 Let neither fear nor want dismay;
 each soul in happy industry
 heaves to; the sails blow, all unfurled.
 To ship across the dawn-lit bay,
 all hands shall move in concert.
 As morning turns the night away,
 so steadfast is my convert.

VI - THE LOVERS

Associated with Adam and Eve or the zodiac sign of Gemini, the Lovers represent union and, of course, love. Each of the figures are presented with an affliction: the female is being stalked by a serpent and the male is touched by flames of passion, however the couple are turned from their suffering, toward each other, guided by angels. In a greater sense, the Lovers represent choices and values by way of the sacrifices one makes for a loved-one.

Though passion's fire laps my soul,
 soft birdsong cools my grasping heart
 and guide my eyes to its true mark.
 And though the beast would take control,
 the angel's voice, with gentle art,
 sings "forward!" from within each lark.
 The music swells, and we extol
 our savior's vital dawn-chord.
 My choice is made. I know my goal.
 Our gaze is ever onward.

VIII - STRENGTH

The ninth card of the series and the last of the current cycle is Strength. She stands silently, stroking a lion who has succumbed to her will, which alludes to an impressive sense of quiet, inner power. She is a beautiful interpretation of the multifaceted definition of strength, exemplifying it through the action of patience, self-control, and courage.