103C Undergraduate Jury Concert

Saturday, June 1, 2019 – 10 a.m.
Conrad Prebys Music Center Concert Hall

Program:

*Sarco* (2019)  Matthew LeVeque

*V2:0000* (2019)  Eduardo Jimenez


Featuring:

Teresa Díaz de Cossio, flute
Alexandria Smith, trumpet
Ilana Waniuk, violin
Matthew Kline, contrabass
Program Notes

The Sarco is a machine currently in development by Exit International that would allow for individuals to ethically and voluntarily commit suicide. Patients step inside the machine and manually flip a switch that causes the air inside to gradually be depleted of oxygen, leading to euphoric hallucinations and a supposedly painless death. The concept of this machine fascinated me because it seems to both de-stigmatize the conversation around death and industrialize/commercialize the dying process simultaneously. The piece does not take a stance, but simply presents the issue in hopes that it might spur more open discussion about the legality of assisted suicide, the Hippocratic oath, and doctors’ obligation to keep hospice patients alive despite their suffering. In the piece, each of the four players enter their own corner of the space as if stepping into their own Sarco, and we share each of their final moments with them before they hallucinate and fade away.

~Matthew LeVeque

V2:0000 is influenced by the ending sections of Thomas Pynchon’s Gravity’s Rainbow which follows the trajectory of a V2 German rocket falling towards a singing public. The piece is divided into two parts; the first part includes the lift off and ascension of the rocket, while the second part includes the descension of the rocket into the singing public. The music for the ascension and descension of the rocket symbolizes the different reactions felt by different members of the singing public when viewing the rocket and not the rocket itself. Also given that V2 German rockets were the first rockets to travel faster than the speed of sound the only time it would be directly represented musically is at its lift off.

~Eduardo Jimenez

The Journey is a composition inspired by the common template in narratology known as the monomyth, more popularly known as The Hero’s Journey. This piece follows Hyun Joong Kim’s vision of his own Hero’s story utilizing the through-composed format to emulate how the story constantly changes throughout the narrative. Each section utilizes their own unique harmonic content and rhythms to represent different steps from the monomyth while having the main melodic motifs inserted sparsely in different sections to illustrate Hero’s state of mind in those specific situations and how the Hero’s mind is subtly changing throughout the piece. The main steps The Journey attempts to reproduce from the monomyth are call to adventure, challenges, revelation/rebirth, and the return.

~Hyun Joong Kim

Judgement by Sea was inspired by the art of Yoshitaka Amano, a Japanese artist and illustrator. Amano created a blue, monochromatic painting that displayed a battle between two figures, one of which was flowing with the waves of the ocean. The many hues of blue gave this painting a profound sense of the sea. Using this as inspiration, Joshua composed Judgement by Sea with the image of the Amano’s flowing ocean and battling figures in mind.

~Joshua Choi

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Jeremy Olson and David Espiritu Jr – Theatrical Production Specialists
Caroline Louise Miller – composer, chimes