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Bailey Ross Concert Program Notes

“Jackdaw”- Wayne Siegel

Jackdaw, originally written for bass clarinet and computer, was composed in 1995 by American Composer Wayne Siegel. A Jackdaw is a small European crow that is best known for their inquisitive behavior, and the character within the piece is representative of the bird’s audacious yet clever characteristics. Wayne Siegel, who owns a pet Jackdaw, recorded his pet bird, and used these recordings throughout the electronic accompaniment, filtering and stretching the sounds with a phase vocoder.

“I Will Not Be Sad in This World”- Eve Beglarian

“I Will Not Be Sad in This World” (2006) is based on the Armenian troubadour Sayat Nova's song “Ashkharumes Akh Chim Kashil” and originally composed for bass flute and electronic accompaniment. This piece is often played on the duduk, an ancient Armenian double reed woodwind instrument and traditional playing of the duduk consists of wide vibrato, large amounts of ornamentations, and pitch bends. The prerecorded vocal accompaniment was sung by the composer herself, Eve Beglarian. Eve Beglarian is a contemporary American composer, performer and audio producer of Armenian descent.

“Fragmented Spirit”- Stacy Garrop (1969- present)

Stacy Garrop, a freelance composer based in Chicago, is best known for her dramatic storytelling within her pieces. She has composed across several genres including chamber ensembles, opera, wind band, vocal, and several other areas of music. “Fragmented Spirit” by Stacy Garrop was composed in 1998 for alto saxophone and piano as a part of her doctoral degree requirements. At the beginning of Stacy Garrop’s Doctoral degree, she felt severe doubt and hopelessness for the future that lay ahead of her, questioning her abilities as a composer. This piece reflects her self-doubt and imposter syndrome, and after the composition was completed, Stacy Garrop wrote a poem to follow the story of the piece. “Fragmented Spirit” is divided into three sections- the first and last creating a lost and doubtful atmosphere, while the middle section consists of violent and aggressive melodies and angry screams.

fragmented
i feel
so
fragmented
i
am
small bits
scattered over cement
glittering specks, dark lines
i don't know
how
to reassemble myself

fragmented
i sound
listen
open my jaw
i gurgle, cough, gasp
a silent, violent scream

my throat cannot
recall
its primary function

a spirit in pieces
you see it
strewn everywhere as if on parade
you have power
you can stomp on it
smash it
or you can collect the bits
and teach my hands
how
to reshape my tattered spirit
into vibrance.

-S.G.

“Pequeña Czarda” - Pedro Iturralde

Pequeña Czarda (Little Dance) was composed by Pedro Iturralde (1929-) when he was 20 years old. Iturralde is a Spanish saxophonist, saxophone teacher and composer, and a pioneer of Spanish jazz music. The “czarda” is a popular Hungarian dance often characterized by a variation in tempo -- it starts out slowly (*lassü*) and ends in a very fast tempo (*friss*, literally “fresh”). It is danced by a male and female, with the female wearing a traditional wide skirt which takes on a distinctive shape as it twirls.