

Percussion Suite No. 1 - Spring 2018

This piece was an exercise in familiarizing myself with percussion instruments. The first movement is a portrayal of a thunderstorm, with the audience playing the role of rain. The second movement is a light and meditative dance inspired by music from Asia. And the third movement is like an adventure into the plains of Asia to see all sorts of wildlife.

Ave Verum - Fall 2020

This piece is inspired by Charles Gounod's *Ave Maria*, a piece he wrote to be performed with Bach's Prelude in C major from the *Well-Tempered Clavier*. *Ave Verum* has as its foundation the Eb Major Prelude from Bach's Cello Suite No. 4 with a new melody to complement Bach's work.

Journey to the Wild - Spring 2019

I like to think of the first movement as a beautiful trek through mountainous terrain. The awe I experience when encountering such sheer beauty and grandeur, and how small I feel in comparison, is what I see in the first half of the piece. The second half might be a surprise encounter with wildlife or simply the exhilaration of the fresh air. All in all, it's a wilderness experience with all its facets.

After arriving at the destination movement one leaves us, the second movement portrays a serene alpine lake. Taking in such a beautiful lake in itself is a very moving, deeply spiritual experience, and that precisely is what I hear in this movement.

After a trek into the mountains, and a moving alpine lake experience, it's time to pack up and head back down the mountain. I see the third movement as an epic race down a wilderness trail, the sights experienced along the way, and the gratitude one feels for experiencing such beauty.

Andante Religioso - Fall 2020

Andante Religioso did not have a particular narrative inspiration. I simply was practicing cello one day and had the idea for the musical motif that you hear scattered throughout the piece. To me, it expresses a longing for a better world, a place of beauty and wholeness.

Wilderness Sojourn - Fall 2019

This piece was inspired by the *Abavah Rabbah* and *Mi Sheberach* Jewish prayer modes, types of musical scales

that exhibit a unique color and mood. I see the first section with all the solos as the morning sacrifice, a typical occurrence during the wanderings of Israel in the Exodus. The middle rhythmic section would be the day's travel or other activities. And the ending section, a repetition of the first, I see as the evening sacrifice. The piece communicates a holy awe in the bookends, and a wilderness journey in the middle.

When Beauty Suffers - Spring 2020

One of the most beautiful things someone can do is to suffer voluntarily on behalf of someone else. In this piece, I desired to depict the beauty of Jesus, and how His willingness to suffer makes Him even more beautiful. The first section is an attempt to capture His loveliness and majesty, while the middle section tries to convey the incomparable agony to which He willingly subjected Himself throughout His life on earth. After showing the suffering of Christ, there is a return to the first section, but with an increased reverence and awe for One who was willing to bear the weight of all human suffering.

A New Creature - Fall 2018

"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

After throwing out several ideas, I decided on the story of redemption as a narrative for this piece. Two themes make up the beginning section. The first theme I chose to represent Jesus, His divinity, His benevolence, and His perfection. The second theme represents the emptiness of human life without God. As the piece unfolds, God tries everything He can to save us, and to bring us back into intimacy with Him. The first and second theme come closer and closer together, culminating in their combination towards the end of the piece. As the second theme becomes a new theme when reharmonized within the framework of the first theme, so does humanity become a new creature when hidden in Christ. There is hope for humanity in the healing power of God's love.

Romance - Spring 2023

Chamber music has been a significant part of my experience at Andrews. Since I've played in a string quartet every semester, I thought it would only be fitting to include a piece for me and my quartet to play. I decided on *Romance* as a fitting title, because to me the piece shows the variety of strong emotions a person experiences when developing feelings for someone they admire.

Day by Day - Spring 2020

This arrangement was an attempt to bring deeper meaning to the classic hymn. The words of the song speak for themselves with a new freshness.

Day by day, and with each passing moment,
Strength I find, to meet my trials here;
Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment,
I've no cause for worry or for fear.
He Whose heart is kind beyond all measure
Gives unto each day what He deems best—
Lovingly, its part of pain and pleasure,
Mingling toil with peace and rest.

Every day, the Lord Himself is near me
With a special mercy for each hour;
All my cares He fain would bear, and cheer me,
He Whose Name is Counselor and Power;
The protection of His child and treasure
Is a charge that on Himself He laid;
"As thy days, thy strength shall be in measure,"
This the pledge to me He made.

Help me then in every tribulation
So to trust Thy promises, O Lord,
That I lose not faith's sweet consolation
Offered me within Thy holy Word.
Help me, Lord, when toil and trouble meeting,
Ever to take, as from a father's hand,
One by one, the days, the moments fleeting,
Till I reach the promised land.

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Glory - Fall 2019

This song is an adaptation of a poem under the same title, written by Kevin Paulson. The poem is much longer than what is contained in the song, and it describes the experience of those who live during the last hours of earth's history. It tells of how those who choose love will be persecuted, and how God will deliver them when all looks hopeless.

Deep within the caves of earth repose the saints of God
Others lie in prison cells beneath the captor's rod
Human justice turns aside, protecting us no more
Every nation lends its arms to wage global war

But they don't know Glory; they don't know God.

Evil men move forward, weapon-sights upon their prey
Then at once a darkened cloud descends to bar their way
Now a rainbow spans its arc above our praying band
Girding us with glory from our God's protecting hand

Oh, what glory! The glory of God!

Heaven's portals stand ajar; the Saviour comes to view
Now to grant eternal joy to us His faithful few
The voice of God the Father, attendant with His Son
Addresses all the universe, declaring, "It is done!"

It was pure glory! The voice of our God!

Through the blasted firmament the glorious cloud descends
Jesus lifts His nail-scarred hands to call His captive friends
"Awake, you sleeping righteous! arise to meet your King!"
From shattered graves the chorus sounds,
"O death, where is your sting?"

Oh, the sweet glory! The raising of the dead!
Oh, the sweet glory! Now the ground they tread!

Now the New Jerusalem is spread before our eyes
Through its gates we enter to receive the promised prize
A diadem of splendor adorns each ransomed brow
The struggles, pains, and woes of earth seem oh so paltry now!

Oh, the sheer glory! The faithfulness of God!
So ends at last the narrow way, the path we pilgrims trod.

Those redeemed alive from earth compose a perfect square
Now the song of Moses and the Lamb ascends the air
Awash in waves of glory, secure in sweet release
To fellowship with all I love,
To fellowship with God above,
in everlasting peace!

Oh, what pure glory is the love of God!
Salvation's sweet story is exactly as He said!

Oh, what full glory is the mercy of the Lamb!
The One that took the fatal blow was the holy great I AM.

Used by permission of Kevin Paulson.

Starbreather - Fall 2019

"The heavens were made by the word of the Lord,
and all the stars, by the breath of his mouth"
(Psalm 33:6).

This piece was my final project for the class Composition Seminar. I wrote it for my sister Tiffany's senior violin recital. We premiered it together in May 2020 on this very stage. The title comes from the above verse, which describes how God simply spoke, simply breathed, and the universe was born. Stars, galaxies, planets, and more all came into being at the sound of His voice.