Music Factory (Fall 2026)
8pm Concert
Program Notes

"I Must Go" by Eve Linke

Have you ever had to say goodbye without being ready? "I Must Go" is about the internal tension between comforting and convincing someone to let you go, while you are not ready to say goodbye. The composition is minimal, scored for two violas, tenor, and baritone voice. Much of the material throughout is repeated to depict the repetition of comforting someone while they're upset. Throughout the piece, the voices and violas exchange between each other, portraying the difference between the external and internal emotions. While the violas are playing, the voices are comforting and convincing; while the voices are alone, they are questioning and grieving.

"Whitman's Whens" by Jamison Gross

This short cycle uses three poems by Walt Whitman and sets them to song for two violas and two voices. In each of the three poems, Whitman reminisces on the past in a variety of ways. Throughout the cycle, the narrator feels a wide spectrum of emotions: pride, regret, nostalgia, embarrassment, impatience, refreshment, betrayal, and joy. As is the case with many of Whitman's works, these poems all feature an innate focus on transcendentalist ideals like nature and love, and those facets are mirrored in the pieces' whimsical melodic lines, jaunty text setting, and playful harmonic and textural choices.

"Refuge by Eric Brindle

Dickinson's "Refuge" is a poem which evokes images of a raging storm. The text highlights the chaotic elements of nature's fury, comparing them in juxtaposition to objects that can be found within the refuge of one's home. Brindle's setting of *Refuge* invokes the mournful qualities of the viola and the natural minor scale to embody the solemn tone of the poem.

"Duet for Clarinet and Tenor Sax" by Ehsan Tavakkol

This piece is composed for a duet of clarinet and tenor saxophone. It is built around three distinct musical patterns that gradually develop and transform throughout the composition, creating a three-part structure. Elements of Iranian musical intervals are incorporated into certain passages, and their distinctive sonorities can be heard recurring within the thematic material throughout the piece. The composition also features complex rhythmic structures and frequent changes of time signature, adding an extra layer of technical and interpretive challenge for the performers.

"parakeets in london" by Ethan Yoder

parakeets in london is a meditation on our place in the world. When we find ourselves in a place unfamiliar, where we feel as though we don't belong, how are we meant to cope with that discomfort? How do we live with subtle dread of knowing something is wrong, but not being sure what?

"aria" by Kaden Filson

"aria" is about pain, and the things that can simultaneously create it and take it away.
This piece contains flashing lights and loud noises