

*Invisible Garden*  
*Four Pieces for Woodwind Quintet & Jazz Trio*  
**A Composition by Cassio Vianna**

Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 2pm  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA

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Project funded by the Tacoma Arts Commission.

Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.  
Please disable the audible signal on all watches and cellular phones for the duration of the concert.

**PROGRAM**

- I. Choro for my Boys**
- II. In Her Garden**
- III. The River**
- IV. Present**

Jennifer Rhyne, *flute* • Shelly Myers, *oboe* • Craig Rine, *clarinet* • Gina Gillie, *horn* • Francine Peterson, *bassoon*  
Cassio Vianna, *piano* • Clipper Anderson, *bass* • Mark Ivester, *drums*

## *Invisible Garden*

The initial thematic idea for the composition of this piece centered around the Tacoma Arts Commission call for projects that offered “opportunities for community and relationship building,” and contributed to “the social, emotional, and physical well-being of our community members.” Having lived in Tacoma for almost six years, I began this project by reflecting on my family – which has grown since our arrival here – on our time living in other states, and on the building of communities and friendships in each place. Because both my wife Bethany and I are musicians and teachers, much of our personal and professional relationships revolve around music, the arts, and education. With these themes in mind, I wrote *Choro for my Boys* and *The River* at the end of 2023; but it was later, in early 2024, that my wife introduced me to the beautiful poem *The Once Invisible Garden*, by Laura Foley, which begins with the question “how did I come to be this particular version of me, and not some other?” The poem provided the perfect metaphor for the completion of this musical piece, for our family life, and our community building: an invisible garden that requires grace, patience, experience, dedication, sometimes a bit of luck, and a lot of love, to grow.

***Choro for my Boys*** – Choro is an instrumental music style that flourished in Rio de Janeiro in the late 1800s, and which remains popular to this day. It stems from the merging of European dance styles with Afro-Brazilian influences – in a historical sense, its development and timeline are similar to that of ragtime music in the U.S. Typically, a choro has three major parts, all in different keys, which provided me with an opportunity to celebrate my three sons.

***In Her Garden*** – This movement is written in a Brazilian style called samba. In the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, composers began writing lyrics to choros, which simplified some aspects of the original genre and turned it into a new style known as samba, which then developed into many subgenres. Our backyard garden blesses us in both literal and metaphorical senses. First, it feeds us all sorts of delicious produce: berries, green leaves, vegetables, and fruits. But it is also a place of joy, a place for imaginary play for our little ones, for hide-and-seek and “Star Wars” made-up adventures, and for summer picnics. This is Bethany’s place: where we all feel safe, happy, and loved.

***The River*** – As we travel East in Washington and Oregon, we begin to see arid landscapes, as the forests of the West are slowly replaced by shrubs, grasslands, and rocky cliffs. Yet, wherever a river runs, taller trees and lush green plants grow by the riverside. To me, rivers have always been synonymous with grace: a generous, unlikely, and undeserved gift that flows through dry paths, soaking it with hope and life. This piece – a waltz – is inspired by the realization that all of us have the potential – some may consider it a calling – to become “rivers” to those around us.

***Present*** – Baião is both a music genre and a dance style largely associated with the Amerindian peoples from the Brazilian Northeast region. *Present* was the last movement I composed for this project; it is also the shortest of the four movements. The title is meant to convey three distinct meanings: it represents the present – the now – which is the immediate, short time that we [somewhat] control in our lives; “present” also represents the gift that is to be alive and surrounded by loved ones; finally, it represents our need to “be present,” to savor every moment, and never take this precious gift for granted.

## **About the Composer**

**Cassio Vianna** is Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Jazz Studies at Pacific Lutheran University, where he directs the University Jazz Ensemble and teaches jazz composition, jazz piano, and other jazz classes. Born and raised in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Dr. Vianna is a pianist, music educator, scholar, and an award-winning composer. His compositions and arrangements for jazz ensemble have received international recognition, including awards from the National Band Association, Jazz Education Network, Ithaca College Jazz Composition Competition, and the International Society of Jazz Arrangers and Composers (ISJAC). His works for jazz big band have been performed by artists such as Chris Potter, Eric Marienthal, Ernie Watts, Martha Reeves, the United States Army Field Band (Jazz Ambassadors), and the Colorado Jazz Repertory Orchestra, among others. Dr. Vianna has been featured as a lecturer, adjudicator, and performer at festivals and conferences in the U.S., Latin America, and in China. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Rio de Janeiro, a Master of Music degree from Western Oregon University, and a Doctor of Arts degree in jazz studies from the University of Northern Colorado.

### **My sincere gratitude**

- To the Tacoma Arts Commission for funding this project and for providing helpful advice;
- To the PLU School of Music, Theatre & Dance for the encouragement and logistical support;
- To Pr. Joel Schuldheisz and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for the partnership in the presentation of this concert;
- To my PLU colleagues Jennifer, Shelly, Craig, Gina, Francine, Clipper, and Mark for trusting my music and for dedicating their talents to this performance;
- To Eleanor Sherry for designing the beautiful poster;
- To friends, colleagues, students and community members who support my work;
- To our community attending this concert.

Find out more about Cassio Vianna's upcoming projects, recordings, and published music at [www.cassiovianna.com](http://www.cassiovianna.com).

