

Composers Forum

Thursday, May 7, 2026 at 7:30pm
Lagerquist Concert Hall, Mary Baker Russell Music Center

Pacific Lutheran University
The College of Professional Studies and School of Music, Theatre & Dance present

Composers Forum

Baldwin Giang, *director*

Thursday, May 7, 2026 at 7:30pm
Lagerquist Concert Hall, Mary Baker Russell Music Center

Welcome to Lagerquist Concert Hall.
Please disable the audible signal on all watches and cellular phones for the duration of the concert.
Use of cameras, recording equipment, and all digital devices is not permitted in the concert hall.

PROGRAM

01 **Wu-Yin Makayla Lu**

World premiere

Pablo Arellano Cárdenas, *violin* • Marisa Robbins, *cello*

Romdoul **Chana**

World premiere

Mia Caldwell, Allison Geary, Cadence Philbeck, Anna Yee, and Grace Weddle, *sopranos*
Kaitlynn Koehn, Paulina Kormos, Wu-Yin Makayla Lu, Mariana Vargas, and Isabella Wilkins, *altos*
Evan Nakanishi, *marimba*

this distance between us **Hunter Brown, Darlene Castro & Baldwin Giang**

Ear Training IV, Sections 1 and 2

Moira Bugal-Fender, Nathaniel Clay, Marco Diez, Hudson Groom, Benjamin Hegge, Bethani Belle Juarez,
Juliyana Mandzyuk, Kaitlyn Owen, Logan Somers, Faye Stock, Cade Tate, Mariyka Vasilchuk, Grace Weddle,
Leila Bauer, Janelle Chin, Lily Dadole, Gaje Dequis, Allison Howes, Kaitlynn Koehn, Paulina Kormos,
Wu-Yin Makayla Lu, Max Minjares, Matthew Roe, and Anna Yee

Son no. 1 **Pablo Arellano Cárdenas**

World premiere

Devin Bianchi-Rivera, *trumpet* • Pablo Arellano Cardenas, *violin* • Marisa Robbins, *cello* • Luis Falcon, *viuela*
Evelina Bozkho, *piano* • Cameron McLennan, *Double Bass* • Wu-Yin Makayla Lu, *drumset*
Kindra Gonsalves, *conductor*

Program Notes

01

To Lila and Lenù.

Romdoul

Romdoul is an original text and piece inspired by Cambodian culture and sounds that I have grown up hearing. The piece was created with the idea to be played by elementary youth choirs with the option to sing with piano or marimba. Romdoul (or Rumdul) is the national flower of Cambodia that has white-yellow petals with yellow-brown like bark stems. Not only is it beautiful, but it is known for its fruits, fragrance, and decoration usage all around Cambodia. The main inspiration to have a marimba accompaniment is based on the traditional wooden xylophone, the roneat, that is often heard in cultural Cambodian music.

Thngaisaek chea thngai dal srasa saat
(Tomorrow will be beautiful)
Baesen chea anak nov tinih
(If you are here)
Thngaisaek chea thngai dal senn rikreay
(Tomorrow will be delightful)

Beauty, tomorrow it will rise
If you are here in time
Delight into morrow

Romdoul beget beneath the lotus
Blessed be your dance
May tomorrow be at ease

Romdoul mean kamneit cheinh pi phkachhouk
(Rumdul birth from lotus)
Baesen chea anak roam
(If you dance)
Thngaisaek chea thngai dal sabay
(Tomorrow will be nice)

Thngainih chea thngai dal srasa saat
(Today is beautiful)
Proshte anak nov tinih
(Because you are here)
Thngainih chea thngai dal senn rikreay
(Today is delightful)

Romdoul mean kamneit cheinh pi phkachhouk
(Rumdul birth from lotus)
baesen chea anak roam
(If you dance)
Thngainih chea thngai dal sabay
(Today will be nice)

Romdoul

Thngainih chea thngai dal srasa saat
(Today is beautiful)
Srasa saat nasa
(So beautiful)

this distance between us

In normal times, we navigate the distances between ourselves and the other through the daily rituals of the life-world. What can start first as a gulf of understanding between oneself and the other becomes bridged through custom and reflexive feedback. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted all of our daily routines and systems of relations, drastically widened inequality in all forms of society, and upset the equilibrium between our inner life and the external world. *this distance between us* is our ritual attempt to restore spiritual balance for those who perform it. Using the everyday cell phone technology that connects us all, half the musicians create a rich, unpredictable life-world of feedback, upon which the other half of musicians find self-expression through guided improvisation. Over the course of this ritual, what was outside becomes inside, and inside becomes outside, reconnecting the self to the other after a long period of separation. This piece was commissioned and premiered by the Metropolis Ensemble in 2021 at Brooklyn Botanical Gardens as part of their Biophony Project.

Son no. 1

Sol-Luna

(Sol-Sun)

A new day begins, sun beams piercing across the hills, unto rooftops, lakes, and everything breathing beneath. His essence flowing through our veins, bringing life, destruction, and light. He claims the sky as solely his, leaving only the clouds at his feet. Do what you can; he will not stay forever.

(Luna-Moon)

The sun now gone, Earth is swallowed by darkness. But from the mountains rises the moon, here to bless the lost, the lonely, the loved, all who fall under her gentle cool light, Looking down from her shimmering throne to the people below. A witness to their serenades, their sorrows, and their slumber. Rest soundly, for she will watch over till the break of dawn.