

Songwriters Workshop

Sunday, May 19, 2019 at 5:30pm
Jennie Lee Hansen Hall, Mary Baker Russell Music Center

Pacific Lutheran University
School of Arts and Communication / Department of Music presents

Songwriters Workshop

Jeff Leisawitz, *director*

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Welcome to Jennie Lee Hansen Recital 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

Moonchild..... Caroline Goodwin

I wrote this song while studying abroad in Oxford, England this past January after deep contemplation and emotional healing over winter break. I discovered the opportunity to perform this piece in its raw form at a treasured open mic venue in the community called the Catweazel, where I shared the stage with inspiring folk artists and poets. This modern folk tune fuses elements of jazz within its color scheme in a smooth, reflective folk-nature. Themes of self-love, discovery from the journey of heartbreak upon the parting of romantic partners, and trust in the universe were interwoven together to craft the emotional concept of the lyrics and musical soundscape. This piece was a result of my own healing in which I found the overwhelming beauty that exists from the “shattered pieces” of heartbreak which glitter when exposed to the light. These experiences pave the way to a deeper relationship with oneself and guide us to become our most organic, vibrant self.

Just Before the Moonlight..... Austin Schend

This one’s for Anita.

Back in my Body by Maggie RogersLily Weeks

Maggie Rogers is the up and coming queen of indie pop, and singer/songwriting. Her thoughtful and intentional lyrics set her apart from other musicians and make her a relatable and unique artist. I covered her song *Back in my Body* because it's about being grounded and confident in yourself, a message that has spoken to me deeply over the last year.

Hazel NightsLily Weeks

Hazel Nights is a song about warm and fuzzy love, the kind that leaves you dreaming. Artists are always coming up with new ways to say things, and this song was a new way to say I love you to someone who means a lot to me.

Magic Ways by Tatsuro Yamashita.....Anita Zeng

This is a cover of a city-pop style song, which is a 80s’ Japanese funk music style tune originally sung by Tatsuro Yamashita. The interesting harmonic lines play an important role in this song, with some whispers saying “magic.” The funky beats give listeners a very summer vibe. The singer is Austin Schend.

Anonymous blueAnita Zeng

This is an unfinished song in instrumental form. As a violinist, it's my first time adapting a violin solo in my pop song project. Also, you may hear lo-fi sounds through the entire song.

Can't Help Falling In Love by Elvis Presley.....Cindia Estrada-Diaz

When deciding on a song to cover from a range of 500 other outstanding songs, it was a no-brainer to choose this one. It's one of my favorites from since forever, as for most people as well, and it's a natural gravitation that I have to romance, so it just felt right. Elvis's tone is my favorite aspect from this song, and it just goes masterfully hand-in-hand with the lyrics that one of his partners wrote. He expresses the "okay-ness" to the feeling that we get when we're using our hearts and not our heads, and simultaneously stating that he's not "wise," he's not this and he's not that, and that's okay. It honestly comes down to doing what makes you happy and that's all that really matters to him, and should to us all. Thank you for listening.

Two Shovels (feat. Grayson Peet)..... Derek Gibson

It was an experience making this song. I usually make hip hop, but as the beat developed it had more of a pop sound. I decided to run with it and produce a pop radio hit while integrating lyrics about the bigger picture of helping somebody through mental illness.

Sabotage by Beastie Boys Derek Gibson

After attempting to cover *Buddy Holly* by Weezer, I quickly learned that I can't sing. Therefore, a week before the song was due I decided to change it to this insane song. I'm actually writing the program notes before I have made the song, so let me know how it went after the show.

Silence..... Luke Wenceslao

Any relationship, whether platonic, romantic, or somewhere in between, needs to be a two-way street. This song is about the feeling like one's friendship is one-sided. It feels like you're doing all the talking and the work, and the other person is just leaving you in silence, with no effort on their part to communicate with you.

Imagine by John Lennon.....Luke Wenceslao

I like this song because of the more simplistic production of the song and the importance of the themes in it. I chose to keep the same spirit of the acoustic-style production with a little bit added.

Home to Nowhere..... Emma Christensen

Before I came to PLU, I lived in Malaysia for nine years, and in Norway for four. I wrote *Home to Nowhere* about the experience of always feeling like a foreigner, and the uncertainty about where 'home' might be.

Thirteen by Big Star..... Emma Christensen

In this cover of *Thirteen* by Big Star (originally released in 1972) I wanted to stay true to the original simplicity and nostalgia of the song while changing certain aspects of the sound. I changed the instrumentation, used a few chord substitutions and focused more on vocal harmonies.

Perspective Is The Key..... Zack Smith

Bonnie Laret, *vocals*

I wanted to experiment with writing a straight-forward pop tune. Coming from a progressive rock and metal background, this was a fun challenge for me musically. To nail the fundamentals of a pop song was something I haven't done before. This song is about looking at life from two different perspectives, one positive and one negative. The nature of the song provides an image of how perspective can ultimately shape the outcome of our life. It's important to remember that everything that happens to you doesn't have to define you or your life if you don't want it to.

Let's Dance by David Bowie..... Zack Smith

Bonnie Laret, *vocals*

David Bowie is a recent inspiration for me. He has bridged so many different genres together in his discography, which is something I really enjoy in an artist. This song connects dance, pop and jazz music all at the same time and I thought it was a good idea to cover because it has lots of variety, including a pretty sick guitar solo towards the end.

Cat Trap..... Brett Rodriguez

This song is dedicated to my friend's cat, Tyrion. Named after the *Game of Thrones* character. Tyrion is sly, devious, and he does what he wants. When he's not being a good indoor kitty, he enjoys chasing birds, climbing trees, and scurrying under parked cars. We get to explore this side of Tyrion after the song's tempo change, which represents his escape out the backdoor and into the streets of Parkland.

Untitled Class Song

Emma Christensen, *vocals*
Zack Smith, *drums*
Derek Gibson, *bass*
Luke Wenceslao, *chords*

Chronic Anxiety..... Gillian Dockins

Produced by Will Bentley

This is a song that Gillian wrote a while back. Lyrically, she's voicing her frustration with a past romantic interest, expressing the impact that their interactions had on her, as well as offering suggestions to the other person moving forward. These eloquent words paired with a beautiful piano hook she came up with made me beyond excited to produce this song for Gillian. Because the piano hook is present through much of the song, a lot of the work I did was to provide a contrast of energy throughout, apart from chords. It was a lot of fun trying to create a track worth accompanying the message Gillian wanted to convey. Enjoy!

Interdependence Brett Rodriguez, Caroline Goodwin, and Will Bentley

This song is an instrumental based on a book that Will read as a kid called *Wolf Brother* by Michelle Paver. It tells of a boy whose father gets killed by a bear, and the boy is forced to live on his own. He soon comes across a wolf cub whose family was killed in a flood. The cub starts following the boy, as it has nowhere else to go, and the boy gets frustrated because he's already overwhelmed trying to survive on his own. However, he soon realizes that they need each other, and they become close. Musically, we assigned each character a theme and instrument: The dad is piano, the bear is cello, the boy is clarinet, and the wolf is flute. We also created a meditative soundscape to accompany the orchestration. Enjoy the story!

August..... Ian Lindhartsen, Austin Schend, Lily Wecks, and Anita Zeng

This song was written by the four of us together. It started with Anita and Austin composing the drums and bass. They then passed it on to Ian who handled the chordal element. After that was done, Lily took control of the lyrics and vocals. When that was completed, Austin mixed it into what you're hearing now. The song has a very "summery" vibe; and the lyrics attempt to paint that picture while making use of various seasonal metaphors.

19.95..... Ian Lindhartsen

Ian Lindhartsen, *midi controllers and voice*
Eric Zabala, *electric bass*
Audience, *voice*

With a medium that is easy to perfectly manipulate, and identically replicate, I believe a beauty can arise in the introduction of uncontrolled variables. This concept became the primary inspiration behind this piece of music that was written with the intent of specifically being performed live. Through the use of sound produced by the audience, the randomization of prerecorded samples, and the live performance of most of the notes in this piece, each performance becomes truly unique. The theme and lyrical content covered in this song comments on another effect of modernization, that being the over-commercialization of society.