



School of

Music

College of Arts and Sciences

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Presents

Hannah Ransom, *marimba*

Guest Artist Recital

Suite V for Unaccompanied Cello (ca. 1720) J.S. Bach
I. Prelude

Imagined Orders (2022) Jonathan Scales
Laws
Money
Religion

I Promise Not to Poison You xoxo (2024) Gemma Peacocke
I. Nightshade
II. Hemlock
III. Crocus Sativus

Lament for banjo (2016) Eric Hutchins

Selected works for guitar Leo Brouwer
Danza característica (1957)
Estudios sencillos (1983)
XI.
Nuevos estudios sencillos (2001)
V. Omaggio a Tarrega
X. Omaggio a Stravinsky

Rhapsody for Vibraphone and Marimba (2012) Michael Taylor
Jake Ransom, *vibraphone*

Kimbrough Concert Hall – January 20, 2025 – 7:30pm



Program Notes

Jonathan Scales: *Imagined Orders* (2022)

Laws – “staggering, loose; deviously curious”

Money – “mechanically precise”

Religion – “like racing thoughts”

Scales is best known for his work as a composer and virtuoso steel pannist with the group Jonathan Scales Fourchestra. *Imagined Orders*, his only composition for the marimba, was commissioned by a consortium of percussionists that was organized by Corey Denham and included Hannah Ransom. The piece was inspired by the book *Sapiens* by Yuval Noah Harari. Any selection of the original four movements can be performed in any order.

Gemma Peacocke: *I Promise Not to Poison You xoxo* (2024)

From the composer:

I Promise Not to Poison You xoxo is a technically-demanding piece that follows three folkloric plants in a feminist riff on poison and pleasure.

I. Nightshade

In European folklore, deadly nightshade (belladonna) belonged to witches; women who understood physiology and chemistry well enough to draw medicine from poison. That contradiction drew me in: pain relief and flying ointment, relief in childbirth and danger, all held within the same dark berry.

II. Hemlock

Hemlock, rich in coniine, induces a paralysis that crawls slowly up the body until breath stops. Hildegard von Bingen wrote of its danger but also its precision: how it might soothe crushed limbs when boiled, applied, and bound. The difference between healing and harm depended entirely on who prepared it.

III. Crocus Sativus

People pick the delicate stigma of the crocus – a flower that blooms briefly, then vanishes – to harvest the golden threads of saffron. Women have used it for millennia: to ease pain, to lift mood, to spark desire. Crocus Sativus is a reminder that tenderness can be potent, and that desire itself is a form of knowledge.

Eric Hutchins: *Lament* (2016)

Originally for solo 5-string banjo, *Lament* was written after the passing of the composer’s oldest brother. The banjo is typically tuned to G major and while alternate tunings can be used, the instrument is not often played in a minor key. For this piece, two strings would be re-tuned to A to accommodate the key of D minor.

Leo Brouwer: *Danza característica, Estudios sencillos, Nuevos estudios sencillos* (2001)

Cuban composer, conductor, and guitarist Leo Brouwer (b. 1939) has composed extensively for the guitar, film, and other media. *Danza característica* is one of his earliest works, having been composed when Brouwer was just eighteen years old. *Estudios sencillos* and *Nuevos estudios sencillos* are sets of straightforward guitar etudes

that Brouwer has written and published between 1974 and 2001. The *Nuevos estudios* were written in homage to ten composers by which Brouwer has been inspired throughout his career.

V. Omaggio a Tarrega [“Homage to Tarrega” – Spanish composer Francisco Tárrega (1852-1909)]

X. Omaggio a Stravinsky [“Homage to Stravinsky” – Russian composer Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971)]

Michael Taylor: *Rhapsody for Vibraphone and Marimba* (2012)

This piece was originally conceived as a duet for marimba and cello. Taylor rescored the piece for the Quey Percussion Duo Composition Contest which he won in 2012. He writes of *Rhapsody*, “...my goal was to show the ease in which a particular style or mood of music could transform into another, sometimes gracefully, and at other times quite violently. Influenced heavily by classical, tango, heavy metal, and funk music, *Rhapsody for Vibraphone and Marimba* is sure to have a little something for everyone.”