Janna Graham

DRUM SET, VIBRAPHONE, PERCUSSION

with

Michael Optiz, *tenor sax, flute*

Patrick Arthur, *bass*

Jez Graham, *piano*

Justin Chesarek, *drum set, percussion*

Monday, September 12, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center, Brooker Hall

Sixth Concert of the 2016-17 Concert Season
All compositions by
Janna Graham (b. 1992)

Friendship Spaceship

Flangen's Prophecy

Winky the House Elf

The Propeller Seller Feller

Hello, Porkpie Hat

Mindy & Jez Infinity

The Whale and Dolphin Telepathy Suite
   I. The Blue Whale in The Dark Waves
   II. The Gemini Alien Dolphin
   III. Underwater Electric Brainwaves

This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of requirements for the degree Bachelor of Music in Performance.
Ms. Graham studies jazz percussion with Justin Chesarek.
Good evening!

I am extremely appreciative of the opportunity to share these compositions with you all. This recital is meant to be, above all, a message of gratitude to my family, my friends, my dog, Harry Potter books, the ocean, the universe, and my porkpie hat. It is a great honor to perform with these excellent musicians, and I composed each of the tunes with them in mind. If you wish, close your eyes and let the music take you to a peaceful and whimsical place. I am opening the doors to my imagination and I would love for you to take a listen around.

- Janna Graham

Friendship Spaceship

Friendship Spaceship is a tune inspired by bebop and David Bowie. It is also in honor of all of the wonderful friends that I’ve acquired, some of whom are playing with me tonight and several others who are listening from the audience. I hope the musicians and listeners will feel as if they are floating through space with their best friends while this tune is being performed.

Flangen’s Prophecy

Flangen is my family’s dog and we have had her since I was eleven years old. Her full name is Ginger Flugendorphin Fleekydeeky Flangen Sneekydeeky Slangen Delmar Parvin Graham. This tune is a tribute to her contagious, effervescent spirit. Musically, it is inspired by bluegrass, New Orleans music, the Beach Boys, and Joni Mitchell. What is Flangen’s Prophecy? If you close your eyes and listen to the music, you will find out!
Winky the House Elf

*Winky the House Elf* is a ballad in honor of a beloved character in the Harry Potter novels who sadly never made it into the movies. Winky was a freed house elf who did not want freedom. She found freedom disgraceful for a house elf and therefore fell into an addiction to butter beer that she would never escape from. We shall never forget how she bravely fought the death eaters in *The Battle of Hogwarts*. Here we aim to tell her whimsical yet tragic story.

The Propeller Seller Feller

This tune tells the story of a peculiar man who sells propellers for a living. He strolls through neighborhoods, knocking abrasively on every door, and performing his sales pitch to innocent townsfolk. When he knocks on my door I am quite amused by him. The prelude includes double drum sets, creating the sound of the *Propeller Seller Feller* knocking on doors. When I open my door he begins his sales pitch which is musically expressed by a schmoozing piano melody. Our conversation continues on until I make an exclamation to the world. "The propeller seller feller's been knocking down my door, but if I don't have a helicopter, what do I need a propeller for?!

Hello, Porkpie Hat

My intention for this tune was to capture through music the moment I was united with my porkpie hat. I saw the mystical hat for the first time on the top shelf of my mom's closet, sitting there peacefully, forgotten for years. When I put it on, I loved how it was too big for my head, and a new chapter of my life began. The chords for this song were inspired by Herbie Hancock and the title is a play on the Charles Mingus tune, "Goodbye, Porkpie Hat."
Mindy&Jez Infinity

This tune is a vibraphone and piano duet I wrote to play with my dad. I composed it on the piano that I grew up playing at my parent's house. The inspiration for the title comes from my dad's songs that he's written for my mom. He has written so many songs for her and he calls them all "Mindy," "Mindy #1," "Mindy #2," etc. My parents are the most wonderful and inspiring parents that I could ever ask for and this is my dedication to them.

The Whale and Dolphin Telepathy Suite

*The Whale and Dolphin Telepathy Suite* is a continuous suite with three movements. Throughout the suite, the whale is musically represented by the piano, bass, and drums, while the dolphin is represented by the flute, guitar, and vibraphone. My intention for this suite is to capture through music, a telepathic conversation between a whale and a dolphin. There are three main themes that are reintroduced in different styles and time signatures throughout the entire piece.

I. *The Blue Whale in The Dark Waves*

Movement one begins with a bass line played on the piano. The flute then joins in with a melody. Each instrument is added one by one to create a conglomeration of patterns which the flute and vibraphone begin to improvise over.

II. *The Gemini Alien Dolphin*

This movement begins with a jazz waltz which is made up of three melodies. It begins with the Gemini melody which appears two more times later on in the suite. The flute melody from the first movement is restated in two different keys, and a melody inspired by George Gershwin
is also played. The piano and vibraphone improvise over the waltz and then there is a sudden shift as the Gershwin melody is played in a bombastic tritone pattern in 5/8.

III. Electric Underwater Brain Waves

Movement three begins with the same piano bass line from the first movement, this time played fast and in 7/8. Each instrument joins in with a pattern one by one while the guitar begins to improvise on top of the patterns. The band then shifts into the Gemini melody from the second movement as the guitar keeps improvising. The music builds and then suddenly strips down to the first 7/8 piano bass line again. Each instrument adds on a four measure pattern and the combination of patterns turn into a vamp for the drums to improvise over. The energy builds to a peak until a suspended cymbal roll cues the final melody. A variation of the Gemini melody is played in a stately and rubato manner by the piano and flute to conclude the piece.

about the artist

Janna Graham is a young artist who aspires to reach the heights of creative expression through music. She believes in the connection and empowerment that music can bring, and is committed to spreading love and peace through performing, composing, and teaching.

Janna has a strong background in music, performing since she was 6 years old, at restaurants, concert halls, and venues such as the Strand Theater, the Red Clay Theater, Alliance Theater, Eddie’s Attic, Churchill Grounds and many more. Janna is currently studying jazz drum set, vibraphone, and composition with Justin Chesarek at Kennesaw State University. She was one of three students chosen to perform in Montepulciano, Italy, at the grand opening of the Fortezza Medievale for the Kennesaw State University study abroad program in summer 2014.

Janna has significant experience playing gigs in the styles of jazz, pop, rock, soul, Latin, funk, and musical theatre on drum set and percussion. Most recently, Janna has played drum set for the pre-Broadway production of "The Prom" at Alliance Theater, which runs from August 18 - September 25. She is relocating to New York City the day after closing night of "The Prom" to begin rehearsals for the 50th anniversary off-Broadway revival of "Sweet Charity," which runs from November through January.
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The School of Music at Kennesaw State University is an exciting place to live, work and learn. Housed in the College of the Arts, the School is infused with masterfully skilled and dedicated performing teachers who care deeply about their profession, our programs, our community, and every student involved in music and the arts. We are so excited about the musical and artistic events that happen here, and we are excited that you are here with us to enjoy them!

The School of Music is busy preparing our students to be productive artists. We want them to be accomplished and creative leaders of the arts world of tomorrow, professionals who are diversely trained and well-practiced. Diverse in their backgrounds, our students hail from many of the leading musical arts and honors organizations from across the southeast, and as a School of Music, we are dedicated to the purpose of furthering the arts and cultural offerings to our region and beyond.

Please take the time to meet our faculty, students and staff. Interact with them, talk shop with them - their enthusiasm is contagious whether on or off the stage. I look forward to a long and rewarding relationship with you. With your continued support of music and the arts, there is nothing that we cannot accomplish together!

Stephen W. Plate, DMA
Director
KSU School of Music

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