

Emma Lansdowne, Composition Recital

November 17th, 2021

7:30pm

Chapman Theater, Kansas State University

PROGRAM

Flirting Lessons.....Emma Lansdowne

Masie Dulitz
Matt Robison
Alicia Santee, Piano

Beth's Breakdown.....Emma Lansdowne

Masie Dulitz
Alicia Santee, Piano

a journeyEmma Lansdowne

Ryan Keith, Violin
Bridget O'Neill, Violin
Blake Modean, Viola
Matthew lungerich, Cello

the middleEmma Lansdowne

...of the forest
...of the ocean
...of the sky

Tony Rodriguez, Clarinet
Ryan Keith, Violin
Blake Modean, Viola
Matthew lungerich, Cello
Jacob Thomas, Piano

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

School of Music,
Theatre, and Dance

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PROGRAM NOTES

Flirting Lessons

"Flirting Lessons" is the first song I composed for the musical I am working on. This song falls in the first act of the show and is a conversation between Beth and her best friend Jim where she asks him for love advice. It is a lighthearted comedic song that acts as a fun duet between low voiced main characters as I believe low voices are not highlighted enough in musical theatre.

Beth's Breakdown

"Beth's Breakdown" is another song I composed for the musical I'm working on. I wrote this song in a low range because many parts for women on Broadway rely on high belting women and I want to change that. Within the show, the main character, Beth, is dealing with the loss of her mother by imagining her life as a Broadway musical. This song is the last song in the first act where Beth realizes she must deal with the death of her mother after realizing she is afraid to admit she has feelings for her best friend because she fears she will lose him like she lost her mother. This song is a very emotion heavy song for the actor, so the music is very simple.

a journey

"a journey" is a string quartet piece I wrote in 2019. This song plays a lot with counterpoint and modulations. In the beginning after the violin has their solo moment, the viola is modulating back and forth between the major and minor by arpeggiating through each in every other measure. Pizzicato is one of my favorite things to do with strings so there is a brief section in the middle that is a variation of the first section but with pizzicato. After the pizzicato section the strings move into a counterpoint section that eventually begins modulating up together. The piece ends with another round of the A section.

“the middle” song cycle: of the forest, of the ocean, & of the sky

This song cycle is my favorite pieces I have written to date. I used a unique ensemble that gave me interesting sounds to work with. Each one represents a different area of nature and “the middle” of it.

“The middle of the forest” has constant movement within the violin and viola which is reminiscent of the life that makes up the forest while other instruments sound as if they are different animals such as gentle deer or a rabbit hopping around.

“The middle of the ocean” is very still with wave-like patterns to simulate the motion of water. The piano sounds similar to the ripples as it arpeggiates each chord and the strings create a more busy wave-like movement with the violin creating the image of a boat sitting on top of the waves the viola and cello are making underneath.

“middle of the sky” begins with a soundscape approach as the strings are sliding around as if they are pieces of metal creaking in the heavy wind. The piece then breaks out into a very fast and jovial sound with bird calls scattered throughout.

Special Thanks:

A special thanks to everyone who has helped make this recital possible including all the musicians, Dr. Weston, Alicia Santee, Dr. Gartner, Dr. Morris, Spencer Pope on sound, my family, and my friends for their support.