

Malachi Williams Composition Recital

April 22, 2023

4:00pm

All Faiths Chapel, Kansas State University

PROGRAM

78 Tons..... Malachi Williams

The Castle Guard Malachi Williams

Malachi Williams, trombone
Jacob Daley, trombone
Austin Perr, euphonium

Ambition Malachi Williams

Checkpoint Reached..... Malachi Williams

Arcadian Meadows Malachi Williams

Laura Bogner, flute
Mark Ahlman, clarinet
Erin Flax, clarinet
Ethan Karnes, bassoon

Program Notes

78 Tons is a piece that is meant to go hard and heavy while also having 'tons' of notes. The reason for it being 78 specifically is because it is in 7/8 time, meaning it has short and long beats. These beats are meant to be unequal in length and give a bit of an unstable feel. I had not yet composed any music with a lot of fast notes and wanted to when I started composing 78 Tons.

I originally wrote The Castle Guard for an assignment and eventually made it into a serious composition. It is a short piece, but it conveys what I originally intended well. It makes me think of arriving at a fortress before embarking on some sort of medieval adventure.

Ambition is a song that I wrote without knowing what to name it. I decided on the name after thinking about what the song makes me feel. It starts out being relatively simple and straightforward before branching out into more complex things. Some goals can be ambitious without being impossible, but that doesn't always mean they are realistic. I think this song is an achievable project of mine that isn't necessarily perfect, but it's okay because perfection isn't necessarily realistic.

I initially was going to call this piece Happy Song but decided that that was too boring. I consulted a friend of mine and got some good advice on the topic. I was enlightened with the idea that it sounds like something out of a platformer video game. The name Checkpoint Reached was then born. I realized that this music made me feel a sense of accomplishment rather than just a general happy feeling. For me personally, reaching a checkpoint is a satisfying feat and I wanted to convey this idea in a musical way.

Arcadian Meadows is almost like the sequel to The Castle Guard. I think of this music as part of a journey. Arcadian means relating to or constituting an ideal rural paradise and I believe this music conveys just that. The feeling of arriving at the perfect ending to an adventure is what I hope this music will convey to the listener.