

Claire lungerich

Senior Composition Recital

April 3, 2025

7:30pm

All Faiths Chapel, Kansas State University

PROGRAM

Patience
Claire lungerich, cello
Connor Jones, piano

Polydouri
Kansas State University Chamber Orchestra
Dr. Rachel dirks, conductor
Recorded on the Simply Strings concert 3/10/25

Salvation Must be Earned
Claire lungerich, cello & synth (digital media)

Epicenter
MIDI facsimile recording

Barnard's Loop
Ryan Woodruff, vibraphone
Jessie Whelan, vibraphone
Jasper Vallad, marimba
Emilia Henry, marimba
Chris Wells, tambourine
Grey Fluke, kick drum & snare

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Little Fennec Fox

Jessica Minnich, flute
Natalie Myers, oboe
Angel Amaro, clarinet
Thomas Stark, bassoon
Connor Jones, piano
Grey Fluke, percussion

Feel This Moment

Devlyn Jochum, soprano
Maggie Masoner, alto
Trigg Galle, tenor
Corbin Montenegro, bass
Regan Lattey, violin
Hollis Hagenbuch, violin
Suzie Johnston, viola
Bennett Addink, cello
Sarah Keary, conductor

People I Trust

Regan Lattey, violin
Hollis Hagenbuch, violin
Suzie Johnston, viola
Bennett Addink, cello

Program Notes

Patience

This very ironically named cello & piano duo is just the opposite of its name. Essentially, this is how I feel when someone tells me to be patient; white-knuckled and overdramatic. Its incessantly repeating piano notes and wild molto crescendos depict the feeling of uneasiness and great tension.

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Polydouri

This work for string orchestra is inspired by the incredible life and tragic death of Maria Polydouri. Polydouri was a Greek poet who lived from 1902-1930. She lived a life rich with suffering; from the early death of her parents, her tragic love affair with the Greek poet Karyotakis, and her own young death to tuberculosis, she experienced much pain throughout her short life. However, though she suffered greatly, she also lived a deeply meaningful and proud life. She remained a devout activist for women's rights, excelled in her many hobbies, and wrote some of the most influential and profound Greek poetry of the 20th century. In fact, she wrote her greatest poems while slowly withering away in a tuberculosis sanatorium. Much of her poetry is, of course, quite bleak, but Polydouri accomplished something only done by a few in each generation: she transformed her pain into a source of beauty. Her final works demonstrate a level of acceptance that can only be achieved by those who truly understand the purpose of suffering.

Because I was so deeply inspired by the story of Maria Polydouri, I chose to tell that story by writing my largest composition yet. I was inspired by the works of Max Richter to create slowly expanding atmospheric sections with intangible meter and contrasted them with my own sections of chaotic fortissimo. To capture the depth of Polydouri's experience, I visit the extremes of musical expression, from triple piano all the way to triple forte.

Salvation Must be Earned

This piece was improvised, rather than written, for my final project in my electronic studio class. I had been experimenting with additive synthesis and decided to combine what I learned with my existing cello skills in an improvisational piece of music. Like any other composer, I tend to write what I am feeling, and the bleakness and turbulence of this piece speaks to what I was feeling at the time.

Epicenter

This work for solo organ, titled "Epicenter", captures the feeling of belonging and freedom. It is based on the minimalist works of Philip Glass, and as such, it uses the same ostinato for almost the entire piece, gradually building in intensity and excitement.

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Barnard's loop

Named after my favorite nebula in space, this piece is my first attempt at writing for percussion ensemble. It features a mixture of keyboard percussion and unpitched percussion for a fun and exciting take on the classical theme and variations idea.

Little Fennec Fox

This piece was born of my desire to write something cute for woodwinds. Naturally, the cutest thing I could think of was the Fennec Fox, which promptly became the theme of this piece. As you listen to its delightfully fun melodies, picture a little Fennec Fox scampering, scurrying, bouncing around, and generally being an adorable fool.

Feel This Moment

This octet for voice and strings is based on a quote from a Star Wars character named Kreia. The text's boundless optimism represents the idea that our passions and our struggles are lesser than our true being.

*"But let us be silent... words and thoughts are distractions. Feel this moment, for as long as it will last. Feel life, as it is, with the crude matter stripped away" - **Kreia***

People I Trust

For my second string quartet, I chose to be more adventurous with articulations, speed, and melodies. I wrote a section featuring predominantly polyrhythms followed by rapid arpeggiations and soaring bright melodies. This piece is dedicated to all those who were my trusted friends and colleagues throughout college. You are the inspiration to all of this.