

# HOUGHTON COLLEGE

GREATBATCH SCHOOL OF MUSIC

*presents*

## Nature and Numbers

Houghton Composers' Recital

Recital Hall  
Center for the Arts  
Friday, April 28th, 2017  
6:30 p.m.

## Program

This Fight

Rachel Booz

Kingsley Kolek, lead vocal; Arthur Ward, electric guitar; Rachel Booz, piano; Hunter Gregory, bass; Jessi Sacco, drums

Job's Song

Jeffrey Hansen

AnneMarie Ranger, soprano; Jeffrey Zane Hansen, piano

Number 152

David Dytschkowskyj

David Dytschkowskyj, piano

Whispering Sorrows

Ryan Tanner

Jonathan Denham, piano

Life without Nature

Eric Bernardin

Alana Cross, piano

Divergent Winds

Seth Wright

Derek Chase, alto saxophone; Dr. Sharon Johnson, piano



There is no reception following this program.

Composers at Houghton College are students of Dr. Carrie Magin, Dr. David Hanner, and Prof. Christopher Ashbaugh and are presenting this recital in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Music degree in Music Composition.

As a courtesy to the performer and your fellow audience members, please be certain that all cell phones, watch alarms, and pagers are either turned off or set for silent operation. Flash photography can be very disconcerting to performers and is not permitted during the performance. Thanks for your cooperation.

## Program Notes

**This Fight**, Rachel Booz - [No one said this would be easy, but no one said it'd be this hard. ] [You're allowed to scream. You're allowed to cry. But do not give up. ] [ It's not about how hard you can hit. It's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward. ] [ The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing. ] [ Justice is the church's mission. It's looking at the prince of darkness and saying "you're riding a sinking ship, because our king is risen". ] [ There's some good left in this world, and it's worth fighting for. ] [ You stabbed me a thousand times and then acted like I was the one holding the knife. ] [ It's okay to be scared. It means you're about to do something really brave. ] [ Let me see redemption win. Let me know the struggle ends. That you can mend a heart that's frail and torn. I want to know a song can rise from the ashes of a broken life, and all that's dead inside can be reborn. 'Cause I'm worn. ] [ She needs time, like we all do. Time to be okay with being okay. Because sometimes, feeling right after feeling wrong for so long, is the hardest thing to get used to. ] [ Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the little voice at the end of the day that says "I'll try again tomorrow". ] [ Always speak the truth, even if you're voice shakes. Just because you're brave doesn't mean you're not scared, and justice is always worth fighting for.]

**Job's Song**, Jeffrey Hansen – This song, written in an unusual chordal style, was written in response to some perceived deficits in contemporary Christian hymnody. Just like the source material, the book of Job, the music suggests that commonly held views on the subject matter are complex and God's view on the topic is far beyond human comprehension. This song plays on tropes found in this genre of music, sometimes accepting them and sometimes inverting the trope completely. The piece utilizes Job 19:17-29, which like large portions of the Canon, contains some very meaningful passages that are easily neglected. As is the practice for contemporary hymnodic singing, those in attendance are invited to look up the passage on their phones and sing along, even if there are significant variations in the text and those in attendance have never heard the music before.

**Number 152**, David Dytschkowskyj - Out of complete honesty, this piece materialized from necessity to bring something to lessons. There was a want to produce something that felt like a music box. But ultimately this is what was heard in my head while sitting at the piano. I named my song what I did because I found an older piece named "number 151" that I worked on. I truly have no idea why I named it this. The only thing I can think of is it is a numbering system similarly used in databases and catalogs. Often times a company or programmer will use a large number, such as 1001, to make it seem like there are many products, for example. But really 1001 represents the first product actually known as 1. It's simply an illusion to hide what one actually has.

**Whispering Sorrows**, Ryan Tanner - This short piece is based around a simple, 4 measure motive which is continuously developed throughout the piece. I improvised the original motive while playing the piano as a stress-relieving activity in my spare time,

and I decided to notate it and expound upon it until I had a full song from it. It remains one of my favorite pieces that I've written because of its calming, melodious nature.

**Life without Nature**, Eric Bernardin - Life without Nature is about a lonely never ending journey in a dark world. A mysterious man is searching for any living thing to create new life throughout the world. After days of searching, he stumbles upon a single piece of grass growing through the floor cracks. He spent days caring for this single piece of grass but couldn't manage to grow it. He became angry and ripped out the single piece of grass from the cracks. As it was in the beginning, he must start his search once more as he spends his days in darkness for eternity!

**Divergent Winds**, Seth Wright – Composed in 2016 as a commission from a student at Oklahoma State University, *Divergent Winds* was written specifically to be premiered at the 2017 North American Saxophone Association conference in March. The name is taken from a meteorological phenomenon in which high-pressure air currents oppose lower pressure areas in the atmosphere, resulting in swift downward wind. Listen to the ways in which each melody seems to be pulled downward throughout the work, until the final moments where the motion moves upward at last. You'll also notice the use of rhythmic tension and release, elements of rock music, and a generally tonal harmonic landscape.

Many thanks to Dr. Sharon Johnson and Derek Chase for their commitment to sharing this music with us today! It's a great honor to have such skilled musicians willing to play my music.