

GCSU Department of Music

Sound Sculptures XXI

Bar to Bar, A Musical Odyssey

David H. Johnson, director

Thursday, April 30, 2026, 7:30 p.m.

Max Noah Recital Hall



Program

Undiscovered Light

Brooke Carter (b. 2004)

For my piece *Undiscovered Light*, I ended up creating a more shoegaze/indie sound that I recorded on my guitar and bass, as well as layering my vocals. I wanted to go for a more dreamlike and hazier sound with heavier amounts of reverb and a thick amount of distortion on the guitar for texture. Writing this song, I wanted to create a story that somehow expresses that the source of everything one is looking for is found within oneself, and that there is so much more to appreciate in life.

Of Mice and Men & Teenage Troglodytes

Jace Barlow (b. 2004)

Inspired by grunge and the riot grrrl genre, this piece highlights the struggles of adolescence as it transitions into adulthood. A lot of young adults like me struggle with themes of identity, belonging, and a fear of being “behind.” I wanted my piece to showcase these common emotions. My piece uses percussion alongside basic punk rock instruments to create a garage-band-like aesthetic.

Stormwatch

CJ Dolan (b.2004)

I created this piece in an attempt to capture the liminal space of a massive storm viewed from the safety of the indoors. Watching the rain under a dark sky often makes me feel small, or at least aware of how big the world can make itself. I wanted to stay focused on this idea with just a few musical elements at play, while creating a space that feels big, and tried to incorporate live instruments where I could. I hope it comes across.

Greater Than Yourself

Jack Tipper (b. 2004)

This piece is centered around a theme of self-improvement, specifically how the journey to improve oneself can be incredibly difficult and how it can require large amounts of time discipline, as well as the passage of time itself, and how everything undergoes a cycle of birth, death, and rebirth. The lyrics are comprised mostly of advice and words of encouragement that I wish that I had heard when I was younger, things that would have helped me to reach my goals sooner. This piece shares a part of my soul, as each and every lyric and musical component is very deeply personal to me, and each part was specifically chosen to align with my personal self-improvement journey. I hope you enjoy.

Reflections of Spring

Lily Butler (b. 2004)

Reflections of Spring is a work that draws inspiration from the jazz, lo-fi, and bedroom pop genres. The work features audio clips interspersed with synthesized and acoustic instruments, and ambient noise. The aim of this piece is to evoke feelings of nostalgia and to allow the listener to reflect and reminisce on spring times of the past.

Accident

Cole Smith (b.2004)

In what started as a solo written song intended to match the style of my shoegaze band, my piece started as a guitar riff and somehow ended up becoming an early 2000s alternative rock-esque song. With an audio clip intending to honor my mother, it was originally going to be a saddening work but developed into a more nostalgia leaning track, earning the name, "Accident". I hope you enjoy this.

FireWatch

Ryan Merchant (b. 2004)

This musical piece is an amalgamation of different musical styles and references to other songs I love. I took elements from those songs and learned how they use them so I could use the same techniques. I have had a lot of fun making this piece to be a sort of parting or graduation gift to myself and all the friends that have helped with this project and other musical adventures.

Braindead

May Weber (b. 2005)

I have been creating music digitally for nearly a decade and have a few electronic songs online with thousands of streams. This project was incredibly ambitious for me and all-in-all a huge steppingstone for my musical abilities. The genre of *Braindead* is e-punk and it has been a blast to work on creatively. It was my first time writing lyrics, working with vocals in a serious manner, working with live instruments in a serious manner, and it gave me that push I needed to take the step into my next musical era.

Alice's Wonderland

Bradley Lyon Smith (b. 2005)

Within this adaptation of a 1923 short film, I explore the dream world and living art from the Disney production. Through the use of manipulated instruments and colorful harmonies, this soundscape represents the way we construct our dreams from the unconscious to the material plane.

Green Pastures

Lily Butler

Green Pastures is a scoring of a short film by the same name. The film, released in 1926, is a stop motion short created by Joseph Sunn, a pioneer in Claymation films. The work draws inspiration from American folk music and the scores of early cartoons. *Green Pastures* employs a variety of interesting musical techniques and ideas such as the use of a twelve-tone series, synthesized sounds, and extensive use of audio manipulation. This work is a culmination of the wide variety of musical skills and knowledge I have gained at Georgia College over the span of my music degree.

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