

THE ST. OLAF COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC PRESENTS

# FRESH INK: FALL 2025

## STUDENT COMPOSITION RECITAL

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025 • 8:15 P.M. • URNESS RECITAL HALL

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### PROGRAM

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#### **The Metropolia - Ballade for Solo Piano**

Vincent Giza '26

The Metropolia is a programmatic telling of the Russian colonization of Alaska, and the subsequent spread of Orthodox Christianity in America. "The Metropolia" existed as an administrative body of the Russian Orthodox Church primarily in North America after the Russian Revolution in 1917 and the subsequent severing of normal relations with the Moscow Patriarchate. This would eventually become known as the Orthodox Church in America, or the OCA. I, being Catholic, have no affiliation with the Orthodox church, though I do find their history fascinating and I hold them in high regard, especially due to their similarity to Catholicism.

The piece also references the popular Eastern Orthodox chant "Christ is Arisen" featured most popularly in Rimsky Korsakov's Russian Easter Festival Overture.

This piece started as an assignment for Dr. Castro's MUSIC 214 post tonal theory. It began as just one page, one minute long. For the second assignment, I expanded the piece to be 3 minutes. Over the summer, I expanded the piece even more to be a full 10 minute ballade with an explosive coda.

Христос Воскресе из мертвых смертью смерть поправ е сусчием во гровет живот даровав!

Vincent Giza '26, *piano*

#### **Marine Escapes**

Olivia Wenner '26

##### **I. The Kelp Forest**

This is the first piece in a collection inspired by different images of marine life. It aims to show the peaceful but thriving nature of the kelp forest as it is an important home to a wide variety of sea life. I picture following a fish through the kelp as it looks for food, hides from predators, and takes in everything this unique type of habitat has to offer.

Olivia Wenner '26, *piano*

#### **Why the Long Beak**

Luke Jones '28

This piece encapsulates a story revolving around a man who also happens to be part bird. A Birdman if you will. I will let you fill in the gaps and use your imagination, but the outline is this: Something has happened to the Birdman and the beginning of the piece is his immediate devastation. He dwells in his guilt as an antagonizing voice lingers in his head. His mind wanders, longing for a time of blissful ignorance, but he cannot put it out of his mind. His thoughts eventually turn to anger toward the voice until finally he reaches a breaking point and spreads his strange wings for an unnatural flight.

Luke Jones '28, *piano*

#### **Restless**

Vienna Adler '27

Vienna Adler '27, *violin*

## Sketches of a Silver Summer

Sarah Hall '27

### IV. Campfire Song and Finale

This work was written in celebration of the 25th summer of Stringwood Chamber Music Festival in southeastern Minnesota, and seeks to bring to life elements of my own experience at Stringwood, primarily in the summer of 2024.

The fourth movement is based on a simple melody I found myself singing to myself while at camp. Intended to be a narrative song following the overall journey of the summer, the refrain as intended lyrically speaks at first of wanting to go home, and then of desperately wishing to stay as time runs out. Between refrains, the “verses” advance the narrative, complicating the harmonies in the middle of the movement and then releasing them back into D major for the final refrain. While most of the choruses are personal affairs voiced by the viola over a simple backdrop, the final refrain is harmonized between viola and cello and includes many of the major themes of the movement, showing the bonds that have formed along the way. A rising and falling violin solo echoing the opening of the first movement, this time joined by the viola in a playful duet, seemingly brings the entire piece to a quiet, reflective close... until the ensemble explodes into a joyful, triumphant finale, a final celebration of the past 25 years and a forward-facing hope for many more to come.

Axel Laurence '28, Maggie Bevans '29, *violin*

Sarah Hall '27, Ben Hagel '28, *viola*

Jacob Loerzel '28, *cello*

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