

Kathryn Edom
Graduate Composition Recital

Abandoned Cathedral (2020)

Delgani String Quartet

Playin' On (2020)

Kathryn Edom (bendir/frame drum),
Samantha Fordis (riq/doumbek), Eva Ruiz (darabuka/cajon)

The Yellow Meadow (2021)

Estelí Gomez (soprano), Jacob Lee (piano)

It Runs In The Family (2020)

(world premiere)

Lynette Edom (piano), Corinne Edom (French horn),
Kathryn Edom (marimba), Jeff Edom (drumset)

Meditation and Dance (2020)

German Lopez (oboe), S. J. Dinsfriend (viola)
Kathryn Edom (frame drum)

Alis Volat Popriis (She flies with her own wings) (2020)

- I. Multnomah Falls
- II. Florence
- III. Crater Lake
- IV. Mt. Hood
- V. Eugene

Ball State University Horn Quartet

Program Notes

Abandoned Cathedral

When searching for my inspiration for *Abandoned Cathedral*, I was struck by the image of a cathedral. It was a very generic image, initially, but I was drawn to the massive interior space created by the high ceilings in the gothic cathedrals and the acoustics that go with it. The first half of the title didn't come until after the piece was finished when my roommate mentioned she thought of walking through a forest when she heard it. These ideas combined in the image of a cathedral that had been abandoned for decades to the point of being overrun by nature. Shrubs and even trees had started to grow around and inside the building and various forms of wildlife had made their nests in the nooks and crannies created by years of neglect.

Playin' On

Playin' On was written during the spring of 2020 in the midst of COVID-19 lockdowns. It was written in the style of some of my favorite hand drum pieces, most notably *Piru Bole* by John Bergamo. One of the notable characteristics of pieces like these is that they leave quite a bit up to the performer, including tempo, dynamics, number of players, and even instrumentation. These were all characteristics I implemented in *Playin' On*, but the number of players and instrumentation was especially important. Because of the lockdowns, I knew I needed to write a piece that could be played solo, but I wanted to leave the option open to someday play it with my friends. During the time of quarantine, this was a reminder for myself that we would get through this, and someday we would be able to gather and make music together again. Until then, we would just have to keep playin' on.

The Yellow Meadow

"The Yellow Meadow" was written for the 10th annual collaboration between the University of Oregon Composers Forum and acclaimed soprano Estelí Gomez. I wrote the text during my first year of college for a creative writing class, and I was inspired by "Rue's Lullaby," from Suzanne Collins's *The Hunger Games*, which was still riding its initial wave of popularity. While I find the lullaby beautiful in and of itself, what struck me most was the theme it represented: the idea of finding joy and peace in the midst of immense grief and suffering. I tried to instill a similar sense of peace in the text when writing the initial poem, and continued in my attempt to create this atmosphere when setting it to music. I hope it will bring peace in the darkness to all who listen.

It Runs In The Family

It Runs In The Family is a piece that is very special to me and one I've been wanting to write for many years now. Everyone in my family is a musician and music has always been a huge part of our lives, so when I started writing my own music one of the first pieces I wanted to write was one the four of us could play together. Surprisingly the COVID-19 pandemic finally created the right circumstances and gave me the push I needed to write it. I am very excited about this piece and am grateful to my family for taking time out of their very busy schedules to play it with me. *It Runs In The Family* is dedicated to my parents, Jeff and Lynette Edom. Without them and the love of music that they have instilled in my sister and myself, I would never have become a composer and this piece would not exist.

Meditation and Dance

Meditation and Dance was written for a series of concerts hosted by the Oregon Composers Forum over the fall 2020 and winter 2021 season. Due to the unique situation created by COVID-19, we were tasked with writing pieces for a small ensemble that could be performed by members of the forum. At the time I was inspired by several duets written by Gene Koshinski for bassoon and percussion and decided to put my own twist on it. Instead of bassoon, I chose to pair oboe and viola together, and after debating for quite a while, decided on utilizing frame drum for the percussion.

Alis Volat Popriis (She flies with her own wings)

Alis Volat Popriis was written for Deaf Cat Quartet, to be performed at the 52nd annual International Horn Symposium, which was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID-19. The symposium was supposed to be held at the University of Oregon in Eugene, and to celebrate the host city, we decided to write a piece in honor of the state of Oregon. The title is the Oregon state motto, which translates to "She flies with her own wings." Each movement was inspired by a different landmark or city with the state of Oregon and has its own dedication.

I. Multnomah Falls is dedicated to the members of Deaf Cat Quartet, Corinne Edom, Emily Schroeder, Cory Kirby, and Justin Phillips. This piece, first and foremost, was written for them, and even if they never get to play it in a public performance, it will always belong to the four of them.

II. Florence is dedicated to all the workers in the arts industry who have been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

III. Crater Lake is dedicated to all those who have lost their lives or their loved ones to COVID-19.

IV. Mt. Hood is dedicated to all the victims of Oregon and California wildfires.

V. Eugene is dedicated to my grandfather, Jim Edom, who passed away in 2012. For much of his life he was an active member of the Eugene-Springfield community.

Text

The Yellow Meadow

I lay my head down
The soft grass
caresses my skin

The wind whistling in the flowers
I hear it
whispering in my ear
telling of dreams sweet
as nectar and
Yellow rays of
sunshine
dancing on the air

I spread my arms
and curl my bare toes
She holds me
safe
in Her arms
and I feel
peace

Here I am safe
Here I am warm
Here I am free
From pain
From suffering
From fear

Cotton clouds above me
in a sea of Blue
I feel I may fall in
Swim in the sky as the world turns
upside-
down

The wind rises up
and leaves
rustle
The flowers bend to
stroke
my face
their bright
Yellow
petals
smiling at me

Here
I am
free

Here
I am
warm

Here
I
am

Safe