

Brooklyn College of CUNY
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COMPOSERS AT THE PIANO

Hyun-Kyung Lee, *Director*

Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 7 p.m.

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Morning Thoughts

ROBERT WYATT

Little Prelude

MANDY RUAN

The Journey Within

TIMOLYN BENTON

Program Notes

Morning Thoughts – Robert Wyatt

This piece of music was composed during the early morning hours when I meditate. This composition is inspired by the elements of nature in the morning such as the sun rising, the cool morning breeze, and the water streams that circulate the earth. This piece is meant to be music you can meditate with or listen to as a means of finding peace and serenity within yourself. Listeners should listen with the intention of having peaceful thoughts.

– R.W.

Little Prelude – Mandy Ruan

This piece is in G major, then E minor, and it ends with E major. In addition, this piece is in A-B-A' form. I got inspired by one of the Preludes from Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier* – 48 Preludes and Fugues.

– M.R.

The Journey Within – Timolyn Benton

The Journey Within is a musical composition that focuses on the many ways you can compose a single melody without feeling too repetitive. Throughout its entirety, there is a recurring theme or melody that was introduced within the first two measures. By having the sustained chords underneath, it really brings your ear to listen in, creating a very dramatic feel while also leaving the window of expression open to those who decide to perform it.

In order for me to still create the idea of that specific melody, without directly repeating myself, I utilized certain musical devices such as inversions, rhythmic changes, as well as key changes in the various versions that appear. The best way to describe the structural format of this piece would be A-B-A-C-A-D-A-C. After every time you hear the main melody or a version of the main melody, I composed the parts in between to almost serve as a stepping stone to bring you to the next version of the main melody.

Although I am a singer and my first instrument is not the piano, I do feel that I have a certain musical capability when it comes to writing music and composition. I did have some prior experience with writing lyrics, but this was my first piano instrumental composition. I actively help write music and song lyrics for the music department at my church. I have always found that lyrics and catchy melodies seem to be a strong point for me, and I think that it shows within my original piece here. I hope you all enjoy!

– T.B.