



Looking toward the sea at the East Point Sanctuary in Biddeford, Maine.

Being, Becoming, Breaking

from the chrysalis to life beyond

featuring the music of

Connor Gibbs and Hayden Stacki

composers from Bowling Green State University

Sunday, March 20, 2022 at 8:00 p.m. EDT

Choral Rehearsal Hall

College of Musical Arts

Bowling Green State University

PROGRAM

Presence (2021)
for piano trio

Connor Gibbs
(b. 1995)

Cole Habekost, violin
Joshua Lyphout, cello
Ariel Magno da Costa, piano

† Awakening (2021)
for percussion duo

Hayden Stacki
(b. 1998)

Neil Faulkner and Hayden Stacki, percussion

† Internal Path (2020)
for violin and saxophone quartet

Connor Gibbs

Cole Habekost, violin
Quentin Brown, soprano saxophone
Elizabeth Mumford, alto saxophone
Hannah Wren, tenor saxophone
Kaitlyn Wincup, baritone saxophone

† Inside Voice (2022)
for Pierrot+ ensemble

Connor Gibbs

Connor Gibbs, voice and percussion
Otávio Manzano Kavakama, cello
Ariel Magno da Costa, piano
Lauren Nichols, flute
Janell Preheim, violin
Jacob Wolf, clarinet

† Chrysalis (2021)
for chamber ensemble

Hayden Stacki

I. Melting, Oozing, Dripping
II. Growing, Swelling, Multiplying
III. Assembling, Constructing
IV. Breaking, Straining
V. Emerging, Soaring

Lauren Nichols, flute
Jacob Wolf, clarinet
Garrett Evans, saxophones
Cole Jackson, percussion
Ashley Lewis, piano
Janell Preheim, violin
Anthony Marchese, cello
Sai Ceng, conductor

† *Premiere Performance*

PROGRAM NOTES

Being, Becoming, Breaking

Today's concert program explores the boundaries and intersections revolving around existence, self-actualization, and the actions that support the former and force the latter. *Presence* creates a soft and introspective sound world focused on the idea of being present. *Awakening* dramatically builds from this world with a celebratory ritual beginning. *Internal Path* balances opposing halves of life in harmony.

On the other hand, the narrator in *Inside Voice* has not achieved this harmony. The work features an outburst from holding back and conforming, almost reaching authenticity before making the scene appear as a joke. We break away from this holding back in *Chrysalis* with the programmatic journey of a caterpillar metamorphosing into a butterfly. The parallels of finding yourself and striving for authenticity call for being present. From the chrysalis to life beyond...

***Presence* • (Connor Gibbs)**

There are a lot of mysteries to life, including one's purpose or what remains beyond our realm of understanding. Highlighting a poem by the composer, *Presence* juggles the ideas of existing, being present, and embodying an aura which affects others. In the end, everything will melt, disappear, and sink, but also have existed. *So, where are you?*

The waves move so slowly here
They oscillate like an iceberg
We're not sure when the waves will stop moving
Or when the universe will burn out.

But while we're here,
We may as well appreciate
How... slowly... life moves.
Before you know it, the glacier in the sky

Will melt
Will disappear
Will sink
Will exist.

***Awakening* • (Hayden Stacki)**

The piece begins sparsely and softly, treading carefully as not to wake the sleeping deities. Once the elders are ready, the ritual drums are brought out, and the *Awakening* ceremony begins.

***Internal Path* • (Connor Gibbs)**

Internal Path takes light inspiration from Taoist philosophy of living life in harmony. The word Tao can be translated as multiple words, including "way." Taking this idea of a balanced path through life, the life journey that everyone walks is filled with equal moments of reflection and moments of frenzy. The violin melody is inspired by the erhu, a Chinese spike fiddle which is played for its beautiful melodies. Overall there are two sections to represent yin and yang, with one brief return to the opening material for musical closure (but a suggested return of cycling through the piece infinitely).

***Inside Voice* • (Connor Gibbs)**

Inside Voice is inspired by the notion of having to stay silent and repress your feelings and/or your personality to satisfy someone else. When someone [younger] screams, they're often reminded to "use [their] inside voice." This work follows a poem by the composer through cycling frustration, bursting out into an "outside voice." The chaos is cut off dramatically by the singer, who twists the text to suggest that this entire presentation has been a farce, as often happens when someone else "doesn't like what they hear." The piece concludes with a grounded sense of self and a *self-chosen* inside voice.

Keep it down
I am here
My voice is too loud
My imagination too vocal

Think, unthink, rethink, sink
It's late, it's early
It's uneven
Nothing to believe in

My voice is too early
Keep it uneven
Keep it down, not loud
My imagination too late

Sink, rethink, unthink, think
I am here
On time
Something to believe in

***Chrysalis* • (Hayden Stacki)**

Chrysalis is divided into five short movements which dramatize the journey of a caterpillar's metamorphosis into a butterfly. The music reflects the literal physical processes that the caterpillar goes through, as well as the struggle of this process as a whole.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

• **Connor Gibbs** is a composer, music educator, and singer from Western Massachusetts. He is currently studying at Bowling Green State University for his MM degree in Composition with Dr. Christopher Dietz, Dr. Mikel Kuehn, and Dr. Marilyn Shrude. Connor previously graduated from Wagner College in May 2017 with his Bachelor of Arts in Music and taught choral and vocal music in Springfield, Massachusetts for three years.

His work has been performed across the United States and Europe at festivals and workshops including the Space City New Music Festival, Dartington International Music Festival, European University Cyprus International Composition Workshop, Boise New Music Series, highSCORE Festival, Iceberg New Music Institute, and more. Collaborations with other artists include violinist Esther Abrami, flutist Iwona Glinka, and playwright Daniel Smith.

Visit www.connorgibbs.com to learn more!

• **Hayden Stacki** is a composer and percussionist from Westbrook, Maine. He aims to write music that energizes and elicits emotion from the listener, often through dark tonalities and intricate rhythmic textures. He has composed for ensembles such as the Toledo Symphony Orchestra, Susquehanna University Symphonic Band, and Westbrook High School Wind Ensemble. Upcoming projects include pieces for The _____ Experiment, Unheard-of//Ensemble, and the Furman University Percussion Ensemble. Recently, he had a piece accepted for the SEAMUS 2022 National Conference. He is currently pursuing his M.M. in Composition at Bowling Green State University. Composition teachers include Christopher Dietz, Marilyn Shrude, Mikel Kuehn, and Patrick Long, and percussion teachers include Nicholas Fox, Gregory Alico, and Gregory Simonds.

Visit www.haydenstacki.com to learn more!

• **Quentin Brown** is a senior at Bowling Green State University. He is currently finishing both a saxophone performance degree with Dr. John Sampen and a jazz studies degree with David Bixler. He is from Genoa, Ohio, and went to school at the Toledo School for the Arts where he studied with Shannon Ford. He currently performs with the BGSU Wind Symphony, a Chamber Jazz ensemble, Lab Band II, and Madison Avenue. He has previously performed with the OMEA All State band in 2018, the international jazz band Pink Martini in 2016, The Toledo School for the Arts Studio Orchestra, as well as numerous pit orchestras. In his free time, he enjoys playing D&D with his friends, as well as playing with his cat, Leo.

• **Sai Ceng** is an aspiring conductor from Long Island, NY and is a master's conducting student at BGSU. He has conducted in the Spontaneity of the Performing Arts masterclass led by Joseph Gifford and David Rudge, and was a fellow at the Conductor's Institute of South Carolina under the tutelage of Donald Portnoy, Peter Jaffe, and Victoria Bond. Sai is currently a student of Dr. Emily Freeman Brown.

Sai has earned a Bachelor Degree in Music Education with a concentration on Clarinet, and a Master of Music Degree in Wind Conducting from SUNY Fredonia.

• **Garrett Evans** is a current student at Bowling Green State University, working towards his Doctor of Musical Arts in Contemporary Music Performance Degree. As a musician, Garrett has performed both domestically and internationally. In 2015 he travelled to Strasbourg, France and gave performances with the Lawrence University Saxophone Quartet as part of their presentation titled *Silent Sound*. Domestically, Garrett has performed in a wide variety of locations, such as warming shelters, public schools, country clubs, parks, and malls. In addition to his experience as a chamber musician and performer, Garrett has also spent a couple of years teaching in the public schools in Northern Wisconsin. Garrett has taught middle and high school choir and band, as well as K-6 general music and strings. His primary instructors in saxophone have been Matthew Arau, Jesse Dochnahl, Steven Jordheim, Sara Kind, Sumner Truax, Carrie Koffman, and John Sampen.

• **Neil Faulkner** is currently a Third-Year Graduate student in the BGSU percussion studio. Originally from the Metro-Detroit area of Michigan, Neil received his Bachelor of Music degree from Oakland University in Instrumental Performance. In addition, he recently received his Master of Music degree in Percussion Performance from BGSU and is currently continuing his studies at BG as a student in the Performance Certificate program.

- **Cole Habekost** is a Violin Performance student at Bowling Green State University, studying with Caroline Chin. A devoted chamber musician, Cole has had extensive coaching and mentorship with members of the Kronos Quartet and Takács Quartet. His chamber ensembles have recently won first prize in both the Douglas Wayland Chamber Music Competition and the Rocky Ridge Music Center Chamber Music Competition. In 2020, Cole was one of two winners in the undergraduate division of BGSU's Concerto Competition. Cole is currently the recipient of the Dr. Paul Makara Violin Scholarship and a recipient of the Bernice E. Coulon Music Scholarship. He was recently announced to be an inaugural member of the Fulton String Quartet, a handpicked ensemble comprising of four undergraduate students from the College of Musical Arts, funded generously by David L. Fulton.
- **Cole Jackson** is a second-year master's student in the BGSU percussion studio. Originally from Southern New Hampshire, he received his Bachelor of Music from SUNY Fredonia in music education. There he studied with Dr. Kay Stonefelt and received a well-rounded education in classical, contemporary and world music. He particularly enjoys playing orchestral timpani and chamber music, and looks forward to expanding his abilities at BGSU.
- **Otávio Manzano Kavakama** is a cellist from Brazil. He is currently studying at Bowling Green State University, where he is pursuing a doctoral degree in contemporary music. His current teacher is Dr. Brian Snow, and he also studied with André Micheletti and Dr. Alexander Russakovsky. Otávio is a fellow of the Aspen Contemporary Ensemble at the Aspen Music Festival and School.
- **Ashley Lewis** is a pianist and piano teacher from Chelsea, Alabama. She received her Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Alabama where she studied under the tutelage of Dr. Kevin Chance. She recently moved to Bowling Green, OH to pursue a Master of Music degree under the direction of Dr. Solungga Liu at Bowling Green State University. She is affiliated with several ensembles at BGSU and works as the staff pianist at Trinity Methodist Church. She has received numerous commendations for her skills as both a performer and teacher, and hopes to one day pursue her dual passions of teaching and performing as a university professor.
- Cellist, theorist, and composer **Josh Lyphout** is currently studying at Bowling Green State University under Dr. Brian Snow (BM Music Performance 2025). An accomplished young cellist and avid proponent of new music, Lyphout works regularly with living composers and new music ensembles to program concerts and recitals both with classical standards as well as premieres. Lyphout also performs with the BGSU Early Music Ensemble on a period baroque cello as well as with the Hansen Trio.
- Brazilian pianist **Ariel Magno da Costa** currently serves as Adjunct Assistant Professor at Bowling Green State University, where he completed his doctoral studies in Contemporary Music in 2021 with Laura Melton and Thomas Rosenkranz. His dissertation is focused on the music for solo piano by Basque-Spanish composer Gabriel Erkoreka (b. 1969). Recent activities include participation in the 14th and 15th editions of soundSCAPE Festival (Cesena, Italy), Bowling Green New Music Festival 38, 39, 40, and 41, Society of Composers 2018 National Conference (Tacoma, WA), and the 2017 IDRS Annual Conference (Appleton, WI).

• Over 10 years **Anthony Marchese** has worked to hone his craft as a professional cellist, teacher, and musical collaborator. During his time in the field, he has performed as a featured soloist with the Eastern Michigan University symphony orchestra, placed first in the Barry Manilow concerto competition, and recorded a full-length album in collaboration with folk singer/songwriter Joanna Sterling. Anthony enjoys exploring all genres of music with an emphasis on folk and world music. Currently Anthony is a first-year doctoral student at Bowling Green State University in the studio of Dr. Brian Snow and works as adjunct professor of cello at Bluffton University. Upcoming projects include a second full length album in collaboration with Joanna Sterling and the release for 4 newly commissioned works by his ensemble Quarteto Raro. One of Anthony's primary goals in music is to commission new works from underrepresented composers, particularly within the LGBTQIA+ community.

• **Elizabeth Mumford** is a classical saxophonist from San Jose, California, and currently a sophomore in the studio of Dr. John Sampen at Bowling Green State University. She came to college from a background in jazz, and has studied classical saxophone for two years with Dr. Sampen and is a member of the BGSU Wind Symphony.

Elizabeth has performed several world premieres, notably *Rings of Light* by Augusta Read Thomas for BGSU's 41st Annual New Music Festival and *Once More to the Ocean* by Benjamin Nylander. She most recently was an undergraduate winner of BGSU's Concerto Competition in Music Performance. Elizabeth has also performed in several small ensembles and regularly performs new works by graduate students at BGSU.

• **Lauren Nichols** is an active performer and flute teacher. She recently graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Flute Performance and Studio Art, and a Minor in History from Fresno Pacific University in California. She is on the substitute list for two premier professional orchestras in the California Central Valley and has been a featured soloist in multiple collegiate ensembles. She has also served as Co-Director of Community Flute Choir of Fresno, Flute Instructor for FPU Community Music School, and Flute Clinician for FPU Summer Music Camp, in addition to running her own private studio. During the summers, Lauren has performed in masterclasses across the country, and in 2018, she won the Principal Flute position in the Intercollegiate Band for the College Band Directors National Association Western/Northwestern Division. Lauren is currently pursuing a Master of Music in Flute Performance at Bowling Green State University in Ohio where she holds a Graduate Assistantship.

• Originally from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, violinist **Janell Preheim** is a first-year master's student at Bowling Green State University, studying violin performance. She serves as a concertmaster for the BGSU Philharmonia and violinist for the Graduate String Quartet and enjoys teaching violin lessons at Black Swamp Fine Arts School. With a passion for teaching as well as excellent musicianship, she graduated from Goshen College in Indiana in 2021 with a B.A. in Music Education.

• **Kaitlyn Wincup**, saxophonist, is a music education major studying at Bowling Green State University. Initially from Naperville, Illinois, she is a Musicianship and Advanced Pedagogy scholar at BGSU and seeks as much experience as she can to develop herself as an educator, performer, and musician. Additionally, she currently serves as President of the Alpha Xi chapter of Tau Beta Sigma as a servant leader and dedicated musician. Outside of performing, she loves to cook and read whenever she can.

• **Hannah Wren** is a 3rd year music education major studying saxophone with Dr. John Sampen at Bowling Green State University. She is originally from Perry, Ohio where she performed with the Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony for several years. At Bowling Green, Hannah enjoys being involved in Kappa Kappa Psi, Concert Band, and the Falcon Marching Band.

• **Jacob Wolf** is a current fourth-year Clarinet Performance and Music Education major at Bowling Green State University studying with Kevin Schempf and Georg Klaas. Jacob is an avid performer of multiple genres including (but not limited to): Classical, Contemporary, Klezmer, jazz, and pop. Across all of these genres, his collaborations with fellow composers and performers are highly emphasized along with the music produced. Some notable collaborations Jacob has done with composers and other performers include: commissioning works for solo Clarinet and Bass Clarinet; playing on various composer's forum concerts/reading sessions of works; and playing in several different types of large and chamber ensembles. He is a very active orchestral player playing Co-principal in the BGSU Philharmonia and currently subs/plays for orchestras in Toledo, Lima, Columbus, Perrysburg, and across the greater Midwest. Jacob has performed various recitals, premiered/commissioned various works, and placed in many competitions. His most recent accomplishment is being the Grand Prix/Overall Winner of the Global Genius International Competition.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to all performers involved in this project.

Special thanks to Dr. Christopher Dietz and Dr. Marilyn Shrude for their support and instruction.