



University of
Lethbridge

Faculty of
Fine Arts
Piiksinaasin

Presents

Morgan Brooks, composition

In a

Graduation Recital

**From the Studio of
Dr. Arlan Schultz**

1:00pm

November 2, 2025

Recital Hall

PROGRAM

Written In A Look (2025)

Violin: Sophie Fuechter-Field

Piano: Maria Watson

City of Night (2022)

Directed by: Fraser Costen

Produced by: Duncan McMillan

Music by: Morgan Brooks

Cascade (2024)

Conductor: Tyler Houlihan

Flute: Zach Ficiur

Clarinet: Cadence Krueger

Horn: Ty Bahl

Alto Saxophone: Payge Laverdière

Trombone: Larissa Wright

Timpani: Quinn Schmick

Snare: Niamh Beilby

Violin: Sophie Fuechter-Field

Violoncello: George Fowler

~INTERMISSION~

The Hero's Saga (2025)

II. Grim's Hollow

III. Safe Haven

IV. The Final Reckoning

Conductor: Tyler Houlihan

Oboe: Phoenix Keeler

Violoncello: Kelsey Jespersen

Piano: Rigel Varga Rendon

Fantasy (2024)

Conductor: Life Yulo-Tamana

Flute: Zach Ficiur

Clarinet: Cadence Krueger

Horn: Ty Bahl

Violin: Sophie Fuechter-Field

Violoncello: George Fowler

Piano: Maria Watson

PROGRAM NOTES

Written in a Look

Written in a Look is a love song that explores the connection between two people with very different personalities who somehow fit together. The piece draws on material from one of my earliest compositions, reimagining a melody I've always loved and expanding on it with moments of dissonance that give the music its character.

Many relationships I've observed seem to balance opposites, an extrovert paired with an introvert. In this piece, the piano takes on the role of the energetic extrovert, always moving forward with excitement, while the violin embodies the reflective introvert, slower but equally vital to the dialogue. Together, they create a partnership that is both beautiful and loving.

This piece is dedicated to my Grandma Lois. Though we come from different generations and see the world through different perspectives, she has always been a bright and constant light in my life. Our differences

have reminded me that every generation carries its own stories, lessons, and ways of seeing the world, all of which enrich our lives when shared. You have enriched my life through the memories of staying over at your house, and sneaking into your room to watch *America's Funniest Home Videos* together. Love you grandma

City of Night

City of Night is a short film I had the pleasure of composing the soundtrack for in 2022. It was my first experience writing for film, and although I had little idea what I was doing at the time, I quickly fell in love with the process. This thriller-style short incorporates a range of musical approaches, including minimalism, sound mass, electronic textures, and virtual instrumentation. While I no longer have access to the completed film, I have reimagined part of the original score, transforming it into a fuller and more harmonically rich piece of music.

This piece is dedicated to my performers tonight. They have worked incredibly hard these last few months and devoted so much time to bringing this music to life. None of this would be possible without their commitment, talent, and passion, and I am truly grateful for the care they've shown in bringing my music to life.

Cascade

Cascade is a textural piece with no key signature that rises and falls in intensity. When I began writing it, I imagined a river that suddenly reaches rapids or a waterfall. The calm flow giving way to turbulence and chaos.

This was the first piece I wrote after living in Ireland, it marks a turning point in my writing, helping me grow and evolve as a composer. It's also the largest ensemble I've written for, and the piece itself feels like a leap into something entirely new.

This work is dedicated to my parents, Alanna and Kevin. Their support allowed me to travel, experience new things, and grow both as a person and as an artist. I wouldn't be who I am without them. They've encouraged me to express myself in every way possible, and I can never thank them enough.

The Hero's Saga

I'm a very visual person, and when I began writing this suite, I imagined a scene in my head that gradually evolved into a movie of my own creation. *Grim's Hollow* was the starting point for this cinematic, multi-movement suite. It tells a dark story of adventurers confronting a monstrous force and

the battle that unfolds. *Safe Haven* follows as a mournful reflection, a moment of calm and safety after loss or conflict. *The Final Reckoning* represents returning to face those inner or outer demons once more, realizing that even in darkness, you are stronger than you think. Each movement continues the story I first envisioned, and I encourage listeners to use their imagination to find their own version of the journey.

Music is often influenced by what's happening in the life of the composer or songwriter, and that's reflected throughout all three of these movements. The darker tones capture what was going on in my mind/life as my university experience gradually became more toxic, but in the end, good always wins, right?

I want to dedicate this piece to my boyfriend, Tyson, who supported and encouraged me through the challenges of my university life. The glimmers of hope and happiness woven throughout this piece exist because he was there, supporting me through it all.

Fantasy

Fantasy was inspired by my love for Disney movies. When listening to this piece, audiences may recognize hints of familiar melodies from various Disney films. By borrowing short snippets of these themes and using similar melodic structures or recurring intervals, I was able to create music that feels as though it belongs in the world of those films. This gives listeners a sense of being fully immersed in a cinematic soundscape.

The transitions between sections reflect the changing moods of the piece. When moving from a slower, more lyrical idea to a faster, playful melody, the shift is smooth and natural, as if the music always intended to move that way. In contrast, the transitions into more dramatic themes are sharper and more abrupt, mirroring the heightened tension and excitement of a movie's climax.

This piece is dedicated to my sister, Jenna, who has always been my Disney movie companion and partner in imagination. She never hesitates to rewatch the classics, sing along to every song, or join me on a Disneyland trip. Her joy, laughter, and childlike sense of wonder continues to remind me why I fell in love with these stories in the first place. *Fantasy* is for her, for the countless movie nights, shared memories, and the magic that continues to connect us.