

Intersections: The Piano, Eastern Thought, and Orientalism

Piano Students of Catherine Kautsky
Religious Studies Students of Connie Kassor
8:00 pm, May 21, 2024
Harper Hall

Estampes (1903)

1. Pagodes

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Kyle Roberts

Five Preludes, Op. 74 (1914)

1. Dououreux, déchirant
2. Très lent, contemplatif
3. Allegro drammatico
4. Lent, vague, indécis
5. Fier, belliqueux

Alexander Scriabin (1871-1915)

Nicklas Hull

Mystic Flute (1941, rev. c. 1962)

Kirsten Stuber

Alan Hovhaness (1911-2000)

Etude no. 3 (1991-2012)

Jasmine Maller

Phillip Glass (b. 1937)

Piano Sonata No. 2 "Concord, Mass., 1840-1860" (1911-12)
III. "The Alcotts"

Owen Artiles

Charles Ives (1874-1954)

Rang De Basant. (2012)

Benjamin Keating

Reena Esmail (b. 1983)

Chameleon (1973)

Reese Pike

Herbie Hancock (b. 1940)

Preludes (1927-1928)

I. Andante Mystico

Joseph Carpenter

Ruth Crawford (1901-1953)

Lotus Land, Op. 47, no. 1 (1905)

Moishe Imber Safdar

Cyril Scott (1879-1970)

Roman Sketches, Op. 7 (1917)

Charles Tomlinson Griffes (1884-1920)

II. The Fountain of the Acqua Paola

Craig Jordan

Lullaby for Hikage-dori (From 6 Preludes)

Michio Mamiya (b. 1929)

Eliot Blackmoore

Glimpses (2006, 2016)

Vivian Fung (b. 1975)

I. Kotekan

Benjamin Keating

We are very grateful for the participation and contributions of students from Connie Kassor's class,
"Buddhism in North America:"

Jayna David (introductory comments and program notes)

Della Pfister (artwork)

Caitlin Rodko (poster and introductory comments)

Victor Sandberg (poetry)

A Call to Listen

You play one's music that of which of whose meaning and history becomes a burden of the heart and a taxing of the mind.

Like a cask of wine made from damaged wood,
whose containments are spoiled by its own vessel.

How can such things be saved?

How can such mistakes be learned?

Surely its spoil isn't for naught.

Even bitter wine is still wine to the tongue and the sounds we hear are still music to the ear.

Listen to those sounds,

for within them holds the story of what is being told or untold.

Of what is being given or taken.

Of what should be accepted or not accepted.

Learn and reflect on what you believe.

As the painter tells a story with every stroke he casts, so speaks the composer in every note he lays.

The Teacher

Your suffering is but the symptom of existing,

forced to endure the pain of continuous death and the pleasures that never last.

How can we sever the pain of suffering from our heart?

And how can we learn to breathe without the moments dream passing to time?

A teacher tells of a solution of the self,

learning how to blossom as a lotus above the murky water below.

Believe in his teachings,

for in them holds the key to enlightenment.

To be free from suffering, one must follow the buddha.

To be free from suffering, one must follow his teachings.

To be free from suffering, one must be part of the people.

These three precious jewels of truth are the necessities of life,
and life is but a necessity of awakening.

Who We Are Students: Buddhism in North America



This program encompasses many talented musicians playing pieces with an Eastern influence. However, there are several students involved in tonight's program who are not piano students.

So, who are we? We are students who are a part of Professor Kassor's Buddhism in North America course offered at Lawrence. In this course, we have learned about the development and history of Buddhism in North America and the traditions it encompasses dating from the beginning of the 19th century. We have dived into learning the practices, beliefs, and traditions that have formed due to these traditions.

So, why are we here? We are here and have been working closely with the musicians tonight to provide context and information on Buddhism and how the composers of their pieces were influenced by these traditions/practices. While not all the composers were influenced by Buddhism directly, the power of Eastern religions such as Buddhism during this time were impactful and even provided life changing experiences for these composers.

