



Young Composers Program Recital

Friday, June 26, 2026

5pm, Kulas Hall

Stagnation

Samuel Martin

Body of Christ

Deston Barnes

Pastoral

Delaney Sorichetti

Wild Thoughts

Wesley Gilmour

Sonata for Violin and Clarinet

Oliver Cruz

aokigahara

Ava Tsang

Clarinet Trio

Nathan Reaves

Thy Will Be Done

Jonah Vallejos

Danse Comique

Jayden Yoon

Jake McQuaid, flute
Justin O'Toole, clarinet
Leah Goor Burtnett, violin
Jaden Mills, cello
Jeffrey Singler, cello
Ralitsa Georgieva-Smith, piano

Faculty & Staff

Gabriel Novak, Artistic Director

Jack Hughes, Faculty

Jennifer Arnold, Program Director, CIM Summer Institute

Kiana Lilly, Joyee Wang, & Hadar Zaidel, Program Assistants

About the Music

My name is **Samuel Martin**, and I am a pianist and composer from Pittsburgh, PA. As a rising senior at a high school where rigorous academics and extensive extracurricular involvement are almost commonplace, a lot of my time is spent doing college prep: researching schools, writing music and essays, and learning piano repertoire for auditions. Amidst all these responsibilities, it can be easy to lose sight of the value of my accomplishments in my academic, musical, and personal pursuits. *Stagnation* explores this paradox of constantly moving while feeling as though you are stuck in place—trapped in your current situation. Its slower tempo paired with its frequent use of long, arpeggiated sixteenth-note piano runs, helps simulate the motion of reaching for something, and endlessly missing it as the notes inevitably fall again. Above this, the strings carry a melancholy melody which naturally gives the piece its tragic and somber tone.

My name is **Deston Barnes** and I am a composer and musician from Northern Kentucky and am currently a rising sophomore at Beechwood High School. I participate in several school ensembles, including the concert, percussion, and jazz bands, and I enjoy creating music that blends traditional influences with a cinematic style. *Body of Christ* was inspired by the atmosphere and beauty of historic Latin cathedral hymns such as *Anima Christi* and *Jesus, My Love*. The piece seeks to capture a sense of reverence, reflection, and spiritual wonder, drawing on the timeless character of sacred music while expressing it through my own cinematic musical language.

My name is **Delaney Sorichetti**. I am from Toronto, Canada and I have been composing music for the last 3 years. *Pastoral* is a piece for which I have taken much inspiration from nature. I also have tried to bridge different genres with *Pastoral* with certain passages taking inspiration from baroque and classical styles and other parts taking inspiration from more contemporary works.

I am **Wesley Gilmour** from Arizona, I am 15 years old. I was born in 2010 and I am a rising junior at Valley Vista. I am in marching and concert band along with concert choir. The main inspiration for my compositions is trying to express raw emotions. My composition *Wild Thoughts* was inspired by the incomplete thought process of ideas that I had for different keys. There are certain areas that can describe certain emotions, but out of those, it is up to you on how you interpret it. Throughout the piece, the violin and cello share conversations, almost like they are telling each other what they feel.

Oliver Cruz (b. 2013) is a violinist, pianist, and composer living in Miami, Florida. He performs with and writes music for the award-winning Southwood Middle School orchestra. He is educated in theory by his piano teacher and family who have a rich musical background as well. His musical inspiration comes from a variety of sources, such as nature, artwork, and mostly, personal experience. *Sonata for Violin and Clarinet* is a generally active and eclectic piece of

music that explores many different characteristics of both instruments' ranges. While beginning with a quiet introduction to one of its themes, it quickly builds into a section where the main motif is presented. It is the transformation of this motif into many variations that builds the piece's multifarious nature.

Ava Tsang (b. 2013), a pianist and composer from Raleigh, North Carolina, took up composition with Tom Lohr in the fall of 2024. Her music is often inspired by stories and works of other composers. *aokigahara* is inspired by a mysterious forest in Japan. The piece starts from a simple melody, developing into more complex sections, reflecting the different stages of a person's mental struggles along the path in the dense forest. The flute represents a small voice, encouraging optimism, contrasting with the strong opinion of the cello, urging to pull back.

My name is **Nathan Reaves**, and I am a composer and multi-instrumentalist from Columbus, Ohio. Recently I've been into genre mixing, inspired by great composers of jazz-classical music such as George Gershwin and Nikolai Kapustin, which inspired me in my piece to take from multiple non-classical styles and fuse them into classical music. I built a 'journeying' sort of piece by incorporating genre and mood switches that coincide with different characters in a story: first, our two protagonists meeting; then, a villain theme; and finally, a return to earlier material in a triumphant climax and denouement. In my compositions, I want to join the various non-classical sounds, like musical theater and folk, that we hear in our everyday musical lives with the virtuosic and special qualities of traditional classical music.

My name is **Jonah Vallejos**, a composer and pianist from Tennessee. *Thy Will Be Done* is a chamber miniature that delves into the obscure yet beckoning sounds of the early 20th century. Taking inspiration from Schoenberg and Johnny Greenwood, the music should be a reflection of society's ambivalent relationship with God and one another through the use of tumultuous harmonies and a single, continuous melody throughout.

I am **Jayden Yoon**, a 16-year-old composer of Neo-Romantic and Contemporary music who also plays piano, violin, and trombone. Outside of music, I am a connoisseur of roller coaster manufacturing and modern art. *Danse Comique* is a short chamber work for flute, clarinet, and cello inspired by the whimsical and spirited music of Sergei Prokofiev and Francis Poulenc. The piece emphasizes continuous momentum and lively exchanges between the three instruments, creating a playful and energetic musical character.