

The University of Missouri School of Music Presents

 **The 19th Annual**
 **Creating**
 **Original**
Music
Project

Saturday, April 20, 2024



Mizzou New Music Initiative
University of Missouri



SINQUEFIELD
Charitable Foundation

Welcome



Welcome to the Creating Original Music Project (COMP) at the University of Missouri!

We are thrilled to host another festival celebrating creativity and musical innovation through COMP. With deep appreciation for the vision and dedication of Jeanne Sinquefield and the Sinquefield Charitable Foundation, COMP isn't just a competition; it's a celebration of innovation, collaboration, and the boundless potential of young minds.

To our K-12 students, I want to express how deeply we admire your courage and passion as you embark on this creative journey. Through COMP, you have the chance to explore new avenues of expression, to push the boundaries of music, and to make your mark on the world of composition.

To parents, family members, faculty, and supporters, your unwavering encouragement and belief in the power of music are truly invaluable. Your support not only nurtures the dreams of our young composers but also enriches our communities with the beauty of original musical expression.

COMP has become a beacon of opportunity for budding composers, offering them a platform to share their unique voices with the world. We are immensely proud of the incredible talent and creativity that this event has nurtured over the years, and we are committed to fostering even more opportunities for composers to thrive.

Jared R. Rawlings, Ph.D.
Director and Professor, School of Music

The Mizzou New Music Initiative's programs are made possible through the support of the Sinquefield Charitable Foundation.

Direct questions to Dr. Andrea Luque Káram, Managing Director
Phone: (520) 269-5661 - andrea.luquekaram@missouri.edu

MU School of Music
208 Sinquefield Music Center
Columbia, MO 65211

Creating Original Music Project **General Festival Schedule***

MASTERCLASSES

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Popular Genres & Jazz Masterclass with Drs. Bonnie McLarty and Sam Griffith
Sinquefield Music Center 383

12:15 p.m. – 1:35 p.m.

High School and Middle School Notated Music Masterclass with Dr. Stefan Freund
Sinquefield Music Center 385

1:35 p.m. – 2:35 p.m.

Elementary Workshop with Barry Watson and Ethan Walker
Sinquefield Music Center 383

CONCERTS

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Elementary & Middle School Notated Music Concert & Awards Ceremony
Sheryl Crow Hall (SMC 132)

1:35 p.m. – 2:35 p.m.

Middle School & High School Popular and Jazz Concert & Awards Ceremony
Sheryl Crow Hall

3:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

High School Notated and Popular Concert & Awards Ceremony
Sheryl Crow Hall



**Specific itineraries,
including assigned lunch
time for winners and
families are available at
the registration table.*

Creating Original Music Project

Elementary & Middle School Notated Music

11:15 a.m. April 20, 2024, Sheryl Crow Hall

<i>Fury of the Rattlesnake</i>	Niveah Wilson
Nicholas Wu, flute	
<i>Snowy Mountain</i>	Anna Bergin
Anna Bergin, piano	
<i>Neon Dreams</i>	Leland Baker
Fixed media	
<i>The Sky Song</i>	Jo Ault
Jo Ault, voice and fixed media	
<i>I Wish I Could</i>	Beckett Crawford
Beckett Crawford, ukulele and voice	
<i>In the Castle</i>	Bryce Boudreau
Nicholas Wu, flute Jinhong Yoo, piano	
<i>Majestic</i>	Rowan Seidman
Rowan Seidman, violin Seda Balci, piano	
<i>String Quartet No. 1</i>	Sam Finkel
Alexandre Da Silva Negrao, violin Sydney Studer, violin Maurer Elaina, viola Felipe Celis, cello	
<i>Galactic Desires</i>	Daniel Sedyankov
Alexandre Da Silva Negrao, violinist Sydney Studer, violinist Parker Krudop, viola Elaina Maurer, viola Dean Wibe, cello Elizabeth Derner, bass	
<i>Level Up</i>	Cohl McTyer
Cohl McTyer, voice, drums, and fixed media	

Creating Original Music Project

Middle & High School Popular Music and Jazz

1:35 p.m. April 20, 2024, Sheryl Crow Hall

Nautical Dreams Allison Scott

Big Band

Funk Burger Collin Scott

Big Band

Saxophones

Ian Prinster
Yoell Teowolde
Emma Spalding
Jon Gowan
Sterling Sewell

Trombones

Titus Weinzierl
Antonio Flores
Reece Hinton

Trumpets

Layden Dukes
Jesse Hamilton
Brandon Sconce
Katy Miller
Ben Rodebaugh

Greyson Smallen, drums
Luke Reaume, bass
Robyne Sieh, piano
Jamison Jeffries, guitar

Red Leaves Chace Curtis

Chace Curtis, guitar and voice

On Fire Brody Vestal

Brody Vestal, guitar and voice

Invigorating Rain..... Elijah Gwyn

Elijah Gwyn, piano

Zoomer Ian Lundholm

Fixed media

Afterburn Noah Cates

Fixed media

Awake at Night Wyatt Weatherford

Wyatt Weatherford, voice and fixed media

Shining Star Elizabeth Griffin

Elizabeth Griffin, voice and fixed media

Stars Henry E. Lammers

Henry E. Lammers, voice and fixed media

Creating Original Music Project

High School Notated & Popular Music

3:45 p.m. April 20, 2023, Sheryl Crow Hall

They Are All Gone Hannah Wolkowitz

Andrea Lee, alto sax
Miles Bohlman, kick drum
Olivia Sletteland, marimba
Dean Wibe, cello

Escape the Candy Factory Nathan Buckwalter

Nicholas Wu, flute
Meghan Brown, clarinet
Kara Balthrop, oboe
Logan King, tenor saxophone
Luke Frith, bassoon

Naked Trees Yueheng Wang

Andrea Lee, soprano saxophone
Jackson Huenefeld, alto saxophone
Abby Reed, tenor saxophone
Nate Leslie, baritone saxophone

Foldable Piano Ovy Diwakaran

Ovy Diwakaran, piano and voice

Beautiful Broom Andrew Allen

Andrew Allen, guitar and voice

Ivory Sheets Stone Gill

Stone Gill, voice and fixed media

Black Widow Reagan Sheedy

Reagan Sheedy, voice and fixed media

Creating Original Music Project

Winners By Category

Elementary School: Song without Words

- 1st** Sam Finkel, *String Quartet No. 1*
Grant Elementary, Columbia
Sponsor: Elizabeth Tummons
- 1st** Anna Bergin, *Snowy Mountain*
Home Schooled, Liberty
Sponsor: Natalie Bergin
- 2nd** Leland Baker, *Neon Dreams*
Ray Miller Elementary, Kirksville
Sponsor: Elaine Aubuchon
- 3rd** Rowan Seidman, *Majestic*
Avery Elementary School, Webster
Groves
Sponsor: Heather Mosley

Honorable Mention

Avery Francisco,
The Unknown Creature of the Darkness
East Elementary, Waynesville
Sponsor: Elizabeth Gibson

Elementary School: Song with Words

- 1st** Jo Ault, *The Sky Song*
Moreau Heights Elementary School,
Jefferson City
Sponsor: Alexander Featherston
- 2nd** Cohl McTyer, *Level Up*
Parkwood Elementary School,
Maryland Heights
Sponsor: Ms. Leonard
- 3rd** Beckett Crawford, *I Wish I Could*
Hatton-McCredie Elementary, Mexico
Sponsor: Lily Pedelty

Honorable Mention

Alouisa Marcantonio,
Be With Me
Lillian Schumacher Elementary, Liberty
Sponsor: Anya Holland



Middle School: Popular - Acoustic

- 1st** Chace Curtis, *Red Leaves*
Liberty Middle School, Liberty
Sponsor: Dan Rasmussen
- 2nd** Elijah Gwyn, *Invigorating Rain*
Parkway Northeast Middle School,
Maryland Heights
Sponsor: Peggy Graig
- 3rd** Brody Vestal, *On Fire*
Moberly Middle School, Moberly
Sponsor: Nicholas Welker

Honorable Mention

Blakely Cooper, *Monsters*
John Warner Middle School, Columbia
Sponsor: Macy Hoover

Middle School: Notated Music

- 1st** Daniel Sedyankov, *Galactic Desires*
Parkway Southwest Middle School,
Ballwin
Sponsor: Jacquie Sheehan
- 2nd** Bryce Boudreau, *In The Castle*
Lasalle Springs Middle School, Eureka
Sponsor: Christopher Sakowski
- 3rd** Niveah Wilson, *Fury of the Rattlesnake*
Northgate Middle School, Kansas City
Sponsor: Dustin Mott

Honorable Mention

Johann Uhl, *Argomento del Quartetto d'archi*
Wright City Middle School, Wright City
Sponsor: Amber Smith

Creating Original Music Project

Winners By Category

Middle School: Popular – Electronically Produced

- 1st** Ian Lundholm, *Zoomer*
Platte City Middle School, Platte City
Sponsor: Dr. Matt Bonsignore
- 2nd** Elizabeth Griffin, *Shining Star*
Our Lady of Lourdes, Columbia
Sponsor: Ellen Williamson
- 3rd** Noah Cates, *Afterburn*
Oakville Middle School, St. Louis
Sponsor: Chris Ramey

High School: Popular – Acoustic

- 1st** Stone Gill, *Ivory Sheets*
Arcadia Valley High School, Arcadia
Sponsor: Charles Lee
- 2nd** Andrew Allen, *Beautiful Broom*
Christian Fellowship School, New Franklin
Sponsor: AJ Siedhoff
- 3rd** Ovy Diwakaran, *Foldable Piano*
Ladue Horton Watkins High School, St. Louis
Sponsor: Ruth Grollman

Honorable Mention:

Lily Schaumburg, *If The Day were the Night*
Clayton High School, Saint Louis
Sponsor: Brian Parrish

Easton Beezley, *For Sale Sign*
Ozark High School, Ozark
Sponsor: Amy Brammer



High School: Popular – Electronically Produced

- 1st** Henry E. Lammers, *Stars*
David H. Hickman High School, Columbia
Sponsor: Timothy Hercules
- 2nd** Reagan Sheedy, *Black Widow*
Raymore-Peculiar High School, Raymore
Sponsor: Grace Ann Mott
- 3rd** Wyatt Weatherford, *Awake At Night*
South Shelby, Shelbina
Sponsor: Josh McCoy

High School: Notated Music

- 1st** Yueheng Wang, *Naked Trees*
Ladue Horton Watkins High School, St. Louis
Sponsor: David Werfelmann
- 2nd** Nathan Buckwalter, *Escape the Candy Factory*
Fulton High School, Fulton
Sponsor: Kelly Neudecker
- 3rd** Hannah Wolkowitz, *They Are All Gone*
Parkway Central High School, Chesterfield
Sponsor: Doug Hoover

Honorable Mention

Cohen Nguyen, *Tavern*
Muriel W. Battle High School, Columbia
Sponsor: Robert Thalhuber

High School: Jazz

- 1st** Collin Scott, *Funk Burger*
Nixa High School, Nixa
Sponsor: Jennifer Stammers
- 2nd** Allison Scott, *Nautical Daydreams*
North County High School, Bonne Terre
Sponsor: Dobie Carroll

Creating Original Music Project

Acknowledgements

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Dr. Jared Rawlings – Director of the School of Music
Dr. Stefan Freund – Professor of Composition and MNMI Artistic Director
Dr. Andrea Luque Káram – Mizzou New Music Initiative Managing Director

Graduate Teaching Assistants

Mahbod Shirvani, second-year composition graduate student
Meghan Brown, first-year clarinet performance graduate student
Harry González, second-year composition graduate student
Giovanni Porfirio, first-year composition graduate student

School of Music Staff

Jennifer Smith – Business Manager
Brooke Danielsen – Operations & Logistics Coordinator and Large Ensemble Coordinator
Victoria Deutsch – Admissions Coordinator
Joanna Griffith – Coordinator of Community Outreach and Marketing
Susan Worstell – Administrative Assistant, Current and Prospective Student Support
Lucy Urlacher – Piano Technician

Notated Music Middle School Judges

JT Wolfe, Composition Junior
Seda Balci, first-year composition graduate student

Notated Music High School Judges

Harry González
Giovanni Porfirio
Mahbod Shirvani
Sam Whitty, Mizzou composition alum

Popular Genres and Jazz Judges

Dr. Sam Griffith – Assistant Teaching Professor of Jazz and Director of Jazz Studies
Dr. Bonnie McLarty – Assistant Teaching Professor of Music Theory

Elementary Music Judges

Dr. Wendy L. Sims – Director of Music Education
Amanda Greenbacker-Mitchell, Music Education Doctoral Student,
Xuanrong (Ronnie) Fu, Music Education Doctoral Student
Ethan Welker, Music Education Senior



Program Notes and Bios

Elementary & Middle School Notated Music

Niveah Wilson (Middle School: Notated Music, 3rd place)

My name is Niveah Wilson, I'm an 8th grader at Northgate Middle School in Kansas City, MO. At school, I am in our Northgate band where I play the flute. I have also begun to learn how to play new instruments such as guitar, piano, marimba, and some percussion. I am planning to play in the symphonic band and drum line next year in high school. I also enjoy drawing, painting, and sports such as track.

This is not my first time creating a song, but this is my first time composing one. The idea of the song came about when I was playing around with different notes, and it became sort of a rhythm that led to me creating another song. I was excited about the song and asked my band teacher, Mr. Mott if he could help me notate it. When listening to the song, I want to take the audience to Egypt and see a rattlesnake slithering through the desert sands. Listen for the flutter tongue which represents the rattlesnake rattling its tail as it is getting ready to strike, but the last notes are like the rattlesnake attacking!

Anna Bergin (Elementary: Songs without Words, 1st place)

Anna Bergin is an 11-year-old pianist, bookworm, and dog lover. At 5 years old, she began studying piano with Diane Stolz who fostered Anna's love of classical music. Now she studies with Olivia Zimmerman in Liberty, Missouri, and has participated in many competitions and MTNA festivals receiving top marks. Clementi and Burgmüller are two of Anna's favorite composers and Burgmüller's *The Limpid Stream* helped inspire Anna's composition submission. When Anna is not at the piano, she loves to read, swim, and play basketball with her brothers. Anna is grateful COMP opened the world of composition to her and is excited for the honor of presenting her submission, *Snowy Mountain*.

Anna Bergin was influenced by the nature reference and fast movement of Burgmüller's *The Limpid Stream* and began composing *Snowy Mountain* this past autumn when the threat of cold weather loomed. Inspired by the woods of a tranquil mountain where various animals live, Anna envisioned the turmoil a blizzard could bring to their home. The mirroring of the major and minor sections depicts how different circumstances change the mood of a place. As the blizzard fades, the mountain and its inhabitants return to a feeling of calm with a clean sheet of snow to play in.

Leland Baker (Elementary: Song without Words, 2nd place)

Leland Baker, age 11, was inspired to create *Neon Dreams* because of his musical family. As soon as he heard about this competition, he jumped at the chance to create something and submit it. When Leland is not creating music on his computer, he is playing and creating video games or at swimming practice. He loves being creative, adventurous, and learning new things.

While listening to *Neon Dreams*, I want people to feel good. I created this song using Soundtrap, an app where you can make loops and create music. I researched different sounds, looking for the ones that went well together and felt good. I feel like the beat part would be too long and boring without the mellow section. I created the name of this song using suggestions and the names of other songs in this genre. *Neon Dreams* felt like the right title because it has high-pitched sounds that feel neon to me. And the lines on Soundtrap (that show your sounds) are neon colors, so it felt perfect! I wanted it to be somewhat like Calavera, a lesser-known electronic musician that you should REALLY listen to!

Jo Ault (Elementary: Song with Words, 1st place)

Jo Ault attends fifth grade at Moreau Heights Elementary School and won first place with the song titled *The Sky Song*.

Beckett Crawford (Elementary: Songs with Words, 3rd place)

Beckett is ten and is in the fifth grade at Hatton McCredie Elementary. He lives on his family farm in a rural community called Hatton. He is the son of Brandon and Jess Crawford. He has three siblings, Bane, Breckley, Boone, and a dog named Bogie. Beckett has a natural ability for singing and playing his ukulele which he inherited from his grandparents Bill Wilson and Pam Crawford. He has acquired his musical abilities from great music teachers, especially Mrs. Sherry Reetz. Beckett can be found singing and humming everywhere or enjoying books, puzzles, Legos, creating drawings and stories, or writing songs. Beckett loves exploring, camping, kayaking, fishing, and singing in the Lighthouse Children's Choir. He is a competitive swimmer and plays football and soccer. Most of all, he loves God and does his best to serve Him while showcasing his unique sense of humor, love, and talents to all.

My wish for this song is for everyone to feel all the wonders that our God has created on Earth... to feel the amazing abilities of these unique animals; like feeling the power of a lion's roar, soaring high as an eagle, running lightning fast as a cheetah, or swimming the ocean's depths like a dolphin, and to feel being present in this beautiful world. There are so many adventures and possibilities that our world has to offer and many new discoveries. I'd like for the audience to be taken away to a place where there are no boundaries or limits on how far you can go. You just take the chance and believe that you can do whatever you set your mind to. Seize the moment and the opportunity to live every second like it is the last day of your life. I wish I could.....

Bryce Boudreau (Middle School: Notated Music, 2nd place)

Bryce Boudreau is a 13-year-old 8th grader at La Salle Springs Middle School in Eureka, MO. "Bryce is a unique student because he is very talented, intrinsically motivated, and works really hard. In his young life, he already has some great achievements to be proud of, with both this award and earning the first chair in the St. Louis All-Suburban Honor Band, all without taking private lessons! Mr. Joe Padawan and Mr. Chris Sakowski are very proud of Bryce!" Bryce enjoys expressing himself through music when playing his clarinet or while composing. Bryce's love for music started in fifth grade the moment he picked up the clarinet. With his creative imagination and the support from his middle school music teachers, Bryce has found a passion for music. Bryce is excited about marching band as he starts his freshman year in high school later this year. "Hearing my composition being played by musicians will be so rewarding!"

In The Castle, by Bryce Boudreau, is a musical journey for the flute and piano inspired by Star Wars' adventurous and beautiful melodies. Bryce first started this piece when his band directors Chris Sakowski and Joseph Padawan informed him about the 2024 COMP. Bryce was intrigued and spent several hours crafting his piece which was split into 3 parts: a slow beginning followed by a playful and tricky middle and a slow ending to wrap things up. "In my opinion, my best work."

Rowan Seidman (Elementary: Songs without Words, 3rd place)

Rowan Seidman is a fifth-grade student at Avery Elementary School in Webster Groves, Missouri. In his free time, you can usually find him playing violin and composing. He also enjoys electric guitar lessons and dabbles in magic.

In writing *Majestic*, Rowan thought of a main theme for the violin and then modulated the theme through the range of the violin and into a minor key. He wanted the piano to share in playing the melody at times and included a section where it plays alone, leading into the minor section. He set out to write in the style of Bach with the violin and piano parts coming together at the end.

Sam Finkel (Elementary: Songs without words, 1st place)

Sam Finkel is a 4th-grade student at Grant Elementary in Columbia, Missouri. He has been a violin student of Siri Geenen since 2018 and plays in the MAM and MOSY youth orchestras. Sam has enjoyed improvising on his home piano and violin from an early age and began scoring music on his 9th birthday. He loves classical and video game music. He is inspired by all of his teachers which include Siri Geenen (violin), Sam Whitty (composition), and Jack Snelling (composition). He is also inspired by his conductors, Maestro Kirk Trevor and Briana Frieda, and his school music teacher, Elizabeth Tummons. He is also inspired by his sister, Lily Finkel, who is an excellent violinist and friend. He would like to thank his parents for all the support and his keyboard and iPad. When he's not making music, he loves video games, disc golf, pizza, and his dog, Walter.

String Quartet No.1 by Sam Finkel is a two-movement quartet for two violins, a viola, and a cello. The first movement is short, fast, and in a major key. I think it feels like prosperity and happiness. I liked composing this movement as it is joyful, exciting, and happy as the different instruments intertwine. The second movement is basically the opposite. It is slow, in a minor key, and long. It is very sad but has an exciting ending as the instruments get louder and crash together to create an intense peak. This gives the whole quartet a fast-slow-fast experience, which is something I imagined when I began to write it.

Daniel Sedyankov (Middle School: Notated Music, 1st place)

My name is Daniel Sedyankov. I'm from St. Louis, but my parents are from Bulgaria. I also have a sister and a pet rabbit. I'm in 8th grade, and I play viola. I've been composing since October 2021 for various genres of music, but mostly for strings.

The song isn't really based on anything. I focused more on the overall mood, which is meant to feel as if you're in space. The fast parts represent the intensity of space, while the slow parts represent the vastness. It is also my first song with Muscores.

Cohl McTyer (Elementary: Songs with Words, 2nd place)

Introducing Cohl McTyer, the Parkwood Elementary School scholar, also known as Lil' Drippy! Originating from Saint Louis, Missouri, this remarkable 11-year-old rapper breaks the mold. With a fervor for gospel rap and drumming, Lil' Drippy shines as a beacon of optimism and resilience, captivating audiences across generations. From spearheading community initiatives like toy drives to gracing the stages of renowned tours hosted by Nick Cannon, Lil' Drippy leaves a lasting impact. At the tender age of 8, he released his debut single "Drippy," catching the attention of DC Young Fly and gaining widespread social media acclaim. Lil' Drippy became interested in the drum set at the young age of two. However, he fully engulfed himself in the craft at 10 years old. He encapsulated this moment by creating his first YouTube music video, "Level Up", to signify his breakthrough with his newest passion. Beyond music, he's an accomplished author, offering his book *Lil' Drippy's Nacho Adventures: From Boredom to Business Success*.

Level Up by Lil Drippy, the drummer from Saint Louis, Missouri, embodies a vibrant fusion of gospel rap and contemporary beats. The song's style is characterized by its energetic tempo, catchy hooks, and uplifting lyrics, reflecting Lil Drippy's positive message and musical prowess. Notable features include Lil Drippy's dynamic drumming, which incorporates a mix of traditional gospel rhythms with modern techniques. His drum patterns are characterized by crisp snare hits, syncopated hi-hat rhythms, and intricate kick drum accents, creating a driving groove that propels the song forward. Throughout "Level Up," Lil Drippy showcases his technical skill and musicality through fills and flourishes that punctuate the verses and choruses. His use of ghost notes, rim shots, and dynamic changes adds depth and complexity to the song's arrangement, enhancing its overall impact and appeal. Overall, "Level Up" is a testament to Lil Drippy's talent as both a rapper and a drummer, combining infectious beats with uplifting lyrics to create a memorable musical experience.

Middle & High School Popular Music and Jazz

Allison Scott (High School: Jazz, 2nd place)

Allison Scott is a 16-year-old sophomore from North County High School in Bonne Terre, MO. She is a member of North County's Marching Band, Symphonic Band, and Jazz Ensemble. In these bands, she plays the French horn and trumpet. Alli started composing small pieces for jazz assignments and discovered a love for creating music. As someone who has just started composing, she looks forward to continuing her composition journey and is grateful for the opportunity to share her work with others through this competition.

The song *Nautical Daydreams* is a lighthearted jazz tune that incorporates the same chord progression as *Sunny Side of the Street*. The optimistic feel of this song is meant to represent the thoughts of a young sailor looking out on the sea, imagining the endless possibilities.

Collin Scott (High School: Jazz, 1st place)

My name is Collin Scott. I'm a musician from the Springfield area who aspires to be a film composer. I attend Nixa High School and study choral and instrumental music in all genres. Growing up, I was always drawn to composing and the musical arts, writing piano solos and performing them at recitals or school talent shows. Only recently, I started to write large ensemble music and experiment with different styles due to the inspiration of my teachers and peers in both vocal and instrumental settings.

Funk Burger is a tribute to Mary Durkop, the current Jazz Director and Brass Caption Head at Nixa High School. The Big Band jazz chart reflects her teachings and style, focusing on rhythm and using it to build a melody on a solid foundation. The title is related to the section-based flow of the piece and the apparent funk style. Featuring two sixteen-bar solo sections open for any part, *Funk Burger* highlights the inclusive and welcoming nature that Mrs. Durkop embeds in the jazz band at Nixa High School.

Chace Curtis (Middle School: Popular - Acoustic, 1st place)

Chace Curtis is an 8th grader from Liberty, MO. She has been writing music since she started taking piano lessons at age 8. Chace plays piano, ukulele, and guitar. She has taken voice lessons for the last 5 years with Laura Barge. She started out singing at church and she got the bug to sing on stage. Laura helped Chace record her first album, *Colors*, which she released on music platforms in December of 2023. Chace loves to write music and perform. She has had several performances around Liberty, including her own vocal showcase last summer. When Chace is not performing music, you can find her on stage in her school and community theatre programs.

Chace took a few guitar lessons in the summer of 2022 and started trying to find different chord progressions she liked. *Red Leaves* was one of the first songs she created after learning guitar. She wanted to create a song that would showcase her vocal range. She decided to write a song about how it would feel when a relationship is a one-sided love.

Brody Vestal (Middle School: Popular - Acoustic, 3rd place)

Brody attends 8th grade at Moberly Middle School. He plays saxophone in the band and guitar in the jazz band. Brody is also a vocalist and lead guitar player for the teen rock band, Concannon. Heavily influenced by 90s alternative rock, Brody is the songwriter for the band and in 2022 they recorded an album titled "Distortion". In 2023 Concannon was nominated for Best New Rock Band of the Year at the Mid-Mo Rock Awards Show. When Brody doesn't have a guitar in his hand, he maintains his A honor roll grades, playing video games, and running for the MMS cross country and track & field teams.

When I wrote *On Fire*, I was sitting on my back porch and strummed a few chords that I thought sounded pretty catchy. I like to portray different emotions and the song ended up being a paradox of an upbeat sounding melody with heavy lyrics.

Elijah Gwyn (Middle School: Popular - Acoustic, 2nd place)

Elijah Gwyn is a self-taught 6th-grade piano composer at Parkway Northeast Middle and has never received any piano education. Instead, he makes up melodies that sound good and perfects them, transforming them into compositions. He has done this ever since he was a young child, playing on a tiny keyboard. In 5th grade, he joined the Parkway Strings Program in his elementary school, which inspired him to start composing pieces for orchestras. A couple of times his orchestra class played his piece, allowing Elijah to experience what his composition sounded like. His other hobbies include studying advanced math, reading, coding, and working on schoolwork and projects.

Frequently, I sit down at my piano and experiment with different melodies, rhythms, and chords and try to find one that sounds good. When I find something I like, I'll start composing the different sections of the song- how its main theme develops through the separate parts and how I can make it sound better. *Invigorating Rains* is a result of one of my improvised pieces. I started with a simple set of chords but then altered how I played it. I named it after the strong feeling the rain can possess. The different segments of my song show the personalities of rain... it can be a powerful and inspiring rainstorm, a gentle drizzle, a booming thunderstorm, or a mysterious mist... there are many different sides of rain, as my song reveals.

Ian Lundholm (Middle School: Popular - Electronically Produced, 1st place)

Ian Lundholm is 12 years old and lives with his mom, dad, younger brother, and older sister. He is passionate about music, speedcubing, and riding roller coasters. He currently plays the piano, and trumpet, and used to play the cello. Ever since he was ten years old, he has been experimenting with Ableton Live (a digital audio workstation) with his dad's old computer which barely works anymore. He likes music production because there are no limits to what you can create. In 4th grade, he composed a song on the piano called 'Endless' and won 2nd place in the COMP 2021 for notated music.

I was originally inspired because I learned about chords and different types and styles of chords on a YouTube video, so I attempted to make a chord progression with these different chords than I usually use. This is the piano that you hear at the beginning. After the song was done and it was time to name it, I thought, *Zoomer!* because the fast-paced drums could simulate driving on a racetrack.

Noah Cates (Middle School: Popular - Electronically Produced, 3rd place)

Noah is 14 and an eighth grader at Oakville Middle School in St. Louis. He is the only brother in the middle of 4 sisters. He has been singing since birth and his passion for music has only grown. He plays many instruments including guitar, trombone, and piano. He composes music online and likes to experiment. His compositions vary widely, from classic rock to ragtime to video game music. He is inspired by lots of music, including The Beatles, The Beach Boys, and Tally Hall. When he is not playing music, he likes to solve puzzles, listen to records, and go to school.

Afterburn was inspired by classic video game soundtracks. It features classic '90s video game instruments and modern synthesizers. The song was originally commissioned as a video game menu theme, but he decided it was too good to only reach a limited audience. He likes the way the multiple melodies and harmony flow and he hopes that you enjoy the song.

Wyatt Weatherford (High School: Popular - Electronically Produced, 3rd place)

I am Wyatt Lucas Weatherford. I am a student at South Shelby High School and have been going to South Shelby since kindergarten. My dad has always been into music and it definitely rubbed off on me. We always had a piano in the house. I would sort of just mess around on it from time to time and eventually learned how to play it by ear. Around 4 years ago I got into EDM music and bought Ableton Live, which I have been using since 2021.

I have been developing my sound and have gotten much better at music production, even since this song, *Awake at Night*, which I made about 6 months ago. My family has been a huge support in my career so far and I intend to go to college for music to further improve my abilities and knowledge regarding music. I have released over 60 songs and made OSTs for 2 video games.

This song, *Awake at Night*, was made when I was, well, awake at night. I found myself waking up at around 3 in the morning and I just had a melody in my head that I couldn't shake off. I went down to my computer, got the melody down along with some chords, and then went back to sleep. Over the next week or so, any free time I had went into the song and it continued to evolve. Eventually, I had an instrumental EDM song I was quite fond of. I used Ableton Live 11, my DAW, and the Serum synthesizer VST respectively to create it. I felt the song was missing something, so I wrote up some lyrics about how I was awake in the middle of the night making the song and how it was early morning before I went to sleep. I sang them (I am very much a producer, not a singer) and had to re-record several times before I had vocals I was somewhat happy with. I polished the song further and ended up with this as my final product.

Elizabeth Griffin (Middle School: Popular - Electronically Produced, 2nd place)

Elizabeth is 13 years old and a 7th grader at OLLIS in Columbia, MO. She has loved singing from a very young age. However, over the past few years, her interest and efforts have increased with the help of Audra Sergel. Audra has not only helped Elizabeth "find her voice" but has also introduced her to the guitar and increased her exposure and appreciation for music. Elizabeth has enjoyed Broadway musicals like *Music Man* and *Wicked*, but also loves country music, with Thomas Rhett, Morgan Wallen, and of course, Taylor Swift leading the way! Elizabeth's other interests include piano and tennis, and she loves traveling. She is even willing to occasionally take walks with her parents and sister on the MKT trail. She is also interested in all the latest skin care products. And like most kids her age, she likes to hang out with her friends.

Shining Star is a song about being who you are and being confident in yourself. This song was written for others to listen to and know that they are not alone in their struggles. Months before submitting this song, Audra asked me to start brainstorming ideas. I decided to choose the topic of self-love because it was something that had been on my mind. I started writing the chorus of the song first because that was where I wanted the main message to be. After the chorus was completed, I was able to write the verses and the bridge. After finishing the lyrics, I then worked on the music. I started with a simple melody on the piano. Then, Audra helped me find a great chord progression to go with the melody that makes the song upbeat. I am grateful for the opportunity to write this song, to hopefully build up others who are feeling down.

Henry Lammers (High School: Popular - Electronically Produced, 1st place)

Henry Lammers is a junior at Hickman High School who was selected as an All-State Choir singer this year. Since early life, Henry has enjoyed finding the beat, feeling connected to sounds, and being passionate about music's intricacies. He has been self-taught over multiple years with piano and electronic production. The massive role music plays in his life fuels his interest in the unconventional, a complexity that he often finds in EDM. From his coincidental initials "HEL" Henry created the alias "HELfire" for the online release of his music. Henry won 3rd place in the same category of COMP last year, as well as attending Summer COMP in 2023. It was a source of great fulfillment and positivity for him, and he looks forward to furthering his connections with musical people through this program. He thanks his parents and teachers for encouraging his open mind for the arts and supporting his endeavors.

Stars is a maximum effort attempt to combine the special rhythms and synth design of electronic music, the accessibility of modern pop music, and the harmony coordination of choral music. I knew I needed something that would use my existing strengths, something fun to see performed, and something that would sound interesting without being too odd for an ordinary audience. The lyrics reflect my struggle for certainty and ease. The verses express worries and the choruses flip these topics to their optimistic side. An ever-changing life, while terrifying, is guaranteed to improve. Sometimes that improvement requires a lot of effort, and that's okay. *Stars* took over 2 months of work and contains at least 15 layers of completely original synthesizer sounds and over 30 vocal recordings of my own voice. I believe it's my best work, and I hope you enjoy it as much as I do.

High School Notated & Popular Music

Hannah Wolkowitz (High School: Notated Music, 3rd place)

Hannah Wolkowitz, composer and classical saxophonist, lives in Chesterfield, Missouri, and is a junior at Parkway Central High School. As a composer, Hannah was selected as a 2023-24 fellow for the Luna Composition Lab Program where she is composing a piece to be premiered by the Kronos Quartet. She was also selected as a winner in Webster University's Community Music School composer's competition, composed two prize-winning pieces at Indiana University's Composition Academy (2022, 2023), and won the top prize in the University of Missouri's COMP competition (2023). As a saxophonist, Hannah performed as a soloist in the U.S. Navy Band's International Saxophone Symposium (2023, 2024), and as a concerto winner with the University of Missouri-St. Louis orchestra (2023), the University of Illinois-Springfield orchestra (2024), and the Alton Symphony Orchestra (2023). Hannah was a competitive gymnast but now enjoys spending time on her music, being with family, and doing CrossFit.

They Are All Gone tells the story of COVID. The piece starts with a kick drum solo, mimicking a steady heartbeat, and leads into a flowing, eerie stage of warning. The heartbeat quickens into worry. Quickly, the concern escalates into full-blown panic, with a recurring COVID, or "monster" motif, screaming through the chaos. The whirlwind dies down into a heartbeat, slower than before, which spills into a section of mourning, still attached to the "monster" motif. The piece solemnly ends with the slowing and permanent silence of the heartbeat. Although life has regained most of its normality, COVID's effects will never leave. Remembering the grief the world felt as millions passed away is vital. Without loss of life, we cannot fully understand how blessed we are to have our lives. This piece is dedicated to those who have died from COVID and to those who have experienced it.

Nate Buckwalter (High School: Notated Music, 2nd place)

Nate Buckwalter is a sophomore at Fulton High School. He is involved in band, jazz band, cross country, track, theater, and student council. This year, he was the 1st chair bassoon for the Northeast Missouri All-District Band and the First Alternate bassoon for the Missouri All-State Band. He is also a band section leader and drum major.

Imagine you get to tour the world's leading candy factory! As you are swept through the facility, suddenly, something goes wrong. You must *Escape The Candy Factory* before it all falls apart!

Yueheng Wang (High School: Notated, 1st place)

Yueheng Wang is a junior at Ladue High School in St. Louis, Missouri. He studied piano with Mabel Kinder and Sue Chiu and music composition under David Werfelmann. He has received 1st and 2nd place four times each at COMP. He attended the COMP Summer Institute and the Boston Conservatory Summer Camp and has been accepted into the Juilliard Summer Camp for the summer of 2024. He loves writing music, especially for his friends and people who share his passion. Yueheng wishes to pursue a career in Music Composition.

Naked Trees is a piece about the swirling of leaves, the whistles, and howls of the wind, the marching of little critters on the branches that reach the sky, and the roots that dig so firmly into the earth.

Ovya Diwakaran (High School: Popular - Acoustic, 3rd place)

Ovya Diwakaran has been playing the piano since age five. Ovya began writing music in middle school, starting with piano solos and later growing to full symphonies. Recently, her orchestral composition, *Carousel*, won first place in the Missouri Composer Project. Though her writing career has evolved, Ovya has never lost sight of her love for singing; more specifically, her love for storytelling. Ovya thanks the Mizzou New Music Initiative for all the opportunities they have given her in her musical career. She also thanks her friends and family for their unconditional support. Ovya attends 12th grade at Ladue Horton Watkins High School and won third place with the song titled *Foldable Piano*.

Many times, when I overthink, I am told to 'leave it to the universe' or 'let the universe figure it out'. This song is a jazzy-pop play on this saying and is meant to convey the idea that at the end of the day, I am the one who writes my story. I am the one with the pen.

Andrew Allen (High School: Popular - Acoustic, 2nd place)

I (Andrew Allen) am a senior at Christian Fellowship High School in Columbia Missouri. Music has always been present in my life, my dad from when I was very little would break out the guitar and play me some of "the oldies." Out of that came a passion and a calling, not solely to make music, but to use the medium as a way to truly connect with people and share the gospel with them. I'm confident that music is central to my purpose; how it will come to fruition is yet to be determined, but until it is I'll continue writing, continue recording, and continue creating. Because what greater beauty is there than to create something?

In preparing for this comp I had produced an entirely different song, and right when it felt done I got the feeling that it wasn't the right one. So I sat down on Jan 10th with my guitar and wrote something that may not be as impressive as the song I intended to enter, but it's real.

Stone Gill (High School: Popular - Acoustic, 1st place)

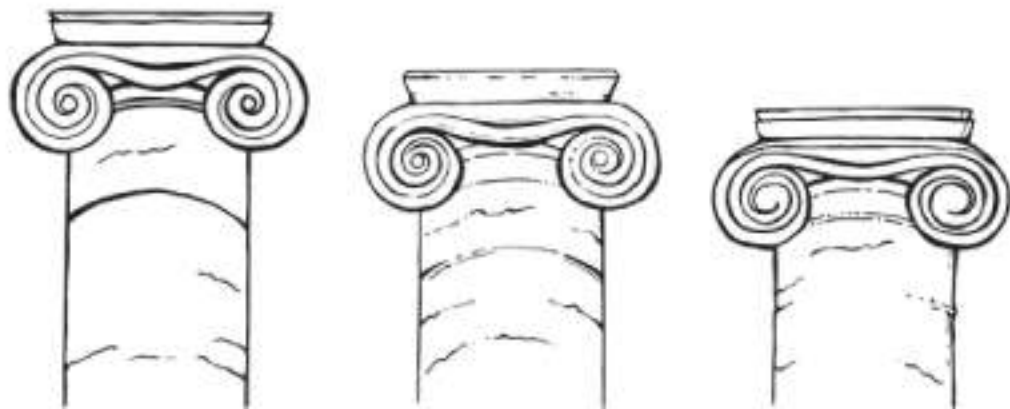
Hey there! I'm Stone Gill from Arcadia Valley! I've been exposed to music my entire life but I started writing music around 8 years ago and quickly discovered that I loved it! I'm currently in an alternative and a metal band and am preparing to tour with both throughout the summer! This fall, I plan to attend the University of South Florida and further my music career! I appreciate you all and hope everyone enjoys the concert.

Hey there! My song, *Ivory Sheets*, is a piano-heavy track primarily about my own experiences with religion. I attempted to capture a "solemn" mood for the song and experimented with modulating from major to minor keys as it was something I hadn't really done before. Once I had everything, but the bridge finalized, I wanted to see if I could invoke a little more of a "Soul" feeling before the climax of the song and I am pleased with how it turned out! I hope you all enjoy it!

Reagan Sheedy (High School: Popular - Electronically Produced, 2nd place)

Reagan Sheedy is a junior at Raymore-Peculiar High School. She has been singing, dancing, and acting since before she can remember. She was a member of both the 2023 MO All-State Choir and Show Choir. She taught herself to play the guitar, ukulele, and keyboard during COVID and started composing music around that time. Her edgy-sweet sound combines elements of R&B, Jazz, and Pop-Rock, drawing inspiration from greats such as Alice Smith, Michael Jackson, and Etta James. She believes music is a feeling and composes her songs as such, crediting her lyrical storytelling to artists like Sara Bareilles and Taylor Swift. She thanks her parents, voice teacher Grace-Ann Mott, and her listeners for their unwavering support of her endeavors. Catch Reagan at her next gig around Kansas City by following her Instagram @reagansheedy_!

Black Widow is a twisted tale of a gender role-reversal involving love and betrayal. One day, after listening to Taylor Swift's *Reputation* album, a melody stuck in my head and I just ran with it. It was one of the easiest songs I've written (I guess that tells you something about me:)). Get ready to delve into the complexities of endearment and the consequences of a vulnerable heart as you listen to *Black Widow*.



About the University of Missouri School of Music

The University of Missouri School of Music prepares students to make meaningful contributions to the world as performers, composers, teachers, and scholars. Its notable alumni include Grammy award-winning singer/songwriter Sheryl Crow, Canadian Brass founder Eugene Watts, 2008 America's Got Talent winner Neal Boyd, and opera star Caroline Worra, as well as members of major orchestras, arts administrators, and leaders in the field of music education.

The School of Music offers professionally oriented bachelor's and master's degrees in performance (brass, classical guitar, percussion, piano, strings, voice, and woodwinds), composition, music education, music history, and music theory. Master's degrees are also available in conducting (choral, orchestral, and wind ensemble), jazz performance and pedagogy, collaborative piano, and piano pedagogy, and the Ph.D. is offered in music education. Students can further enrich their studies by pursuing an undergraduate or graduate certificate in jazz studies or music entrepreneurship as an add-on or a freestanding credential. The School of Music also offers the Bachelor of Arts in music, a degree program attracting double majors from the numerous academic options available on the Mizzou campus.

Major ensembles populated both by music majors and non-music majors include the University Philharmonic, University Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, University Band, Marching Mizzou, Concert Jazz Band, Studio Jazz Band, University Singers, Concert Chorale, Women's Chorale, Hitt Street Harmony, Choral Union, and the Show-Me Opera. In addition, many more performance opportunities are available in both chamber (woodwind quintets, piano trios, etc.) and studio ensembles (percussion ensemble, horn choir, clarinet ensemble, etc.).

The Mizzou New Music Initiative brings together several programs that promote new music composition and performance from the early stages of a student's life through graduate study. Those programs include the Creating Original Music Project (COMP), the Summer Composition Institute, full scholarships for the undergraduate composition program, an assistantship-based graduate new music ensemble, graduate student funding, and the International Composers Festival conducted every summer with ensemble Alarm Will Sound.

Composer Connection

The MU Composer Connection gives composers a chance to connect with and receive instruction from a graduate student in composition at MU free of charge. The School of Music recognizes that not all students throughout Missouri have the opportunity to study with a local composer. In an effort to give students further guidance while in the creative process, the School of Music developed this distance-learning initiative.

Students can email works in progress, ask questions about composing, and receive feedback and suggestions. The current composer on call is Mahbod Shirvani, who can be reached at msgtd@missouri.edu

Connect with the Mizzou New Music Initiative on Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, and SoundCloud! Listen to performances by the Mizzou New Music Ensemble, works by student composers, and performances from the Mizzou International Composers Festival by Alarm Will Sound, and stay on top of the opportunities we are offering year-round.

Missouri Summer Composition Institute

A Summer Workshop for Missouri High School Student Composers • June 9–15, 2024

The Missouri Summer Composition Institute is an exciting opportunity for Missouri's young composers to come together for one week of learning and interacting with other creative minds. The 20 accepted students will be able to participate for FREE thanks to the generosity of the Sinquefeld Charitable Foundation. They will write new works to be workshopped, performed, and recorded by an ensemble of professional musicians.

The camp is on the University of Missouri campus and the accepted students can expect high-quality instruction and a face-to-face experience with our faculty, as well as presentations, workshops, and a performance/recording by renowned musicians that will bring their compositions to life.

Participants will receive composition lessons from MU faculty and compose a piece to be premiered at the end of the week. This year's classical music track will be under the instruction of Dr. Stefan Freund, and Dr. Yoshiaki Onishi. Dr. Bonnie McLarty and Dr. Frank Nawrot will lead a section in popular genres. Learn more about Bonnie's and Frank's work on their websites: <https://www.bonniemclarty.com/> and <https://franknawrot.com/>



Apply here!



Activities include:

- **Daily Notation, Instrumentation, and Repertoire Courses:** Students meet at the Sinquefeld Music Center each day for courses in notation, repertoire, and instrumentation, taught by MU's world-class music composition faculty.
- **Daily Private Composition Lessons:** Each student has daily one-on-one meetings with their composition instructor to get feedback on their works in progress.
- **Workshops with Members of a Professional Ensemble:** Professional musicians will host workshops demonstrating tips and tricks for instrumental writing, leading up to rehearsals and performances of each new composition to be premiered in concert on Saturday, June 15th.
- **Chamber Music Rehearsals:** Students attend rehearsals of their new pieces, provide feedback, and learn how a professional ensemble approaches a new work, from rehearsal to a polished concert performance.
- **Evening Activities:** Our camp staff will provide fun group activities each evening.
- **Lodging and Meals:** Meals and housing will be provided through Mizzou Residence Life and Dining Services.

For more information, contact Managing Director Dr. Andrea Luque Káram, andrea.luquekaram@missouri.edu

Learn More: <https://newmusic.missouri.edu/comp/missouri-summer-composition-institute>
Application Deadline: April 28, 2024, 11:59 p.m. Central

Up Next

MNMI-Sponsored Events

Mizzou New Music Ensemble Concert

7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 28, Sheryl Crow Hall (SMC 132)

Premiere of MU Student Works by the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 30, Touhill Performing Arts Center, St. Louis

SUMMER

Summer Composition Institute, June 9-15

Mizzou International Composers Festival, July 22-27

Scan for more
MU School of Music Events



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All free and open to the public



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