
The 20th Annual

 **Creating**
 **Original**
 **Music**
 **Project**

Saturday, April 19, 2025



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 Sinuefield and the Sinuefield 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
Sinuefield 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 380

12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

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

2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Elementary Workshop with Dr. Wendy Sims
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)

1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Middle School & High School Popular Genres Concert & Awards Ceremony
Sheryl Crow Hall

4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

High School Notated Music, Jazz & Awards Ceremony
Sheryl Crow Hall



LUNCH

12 :30 PM: Elementary Students and Jazz

2 PM: Middle and High School Notated Music

3 PM: Middle and High School Popular Genres

Lunch Location: Memorial Student Union North (214BC)
518 Hitt St



Creating Original Music Project

Elementary & Middle School Notated Music

11:15 a.m. April 19, 2025, Sheryl Crow Hall

Dance of the Strings Evan Hilbert

Alexandre Da Silva Negrao, violin
Harry Gonzalez, violin
Elaina Mauer, viola
Dean Wibe, cello
Sydney Hoynacki, bass

Piano Trio No. 1 Rowan Seidman

Alexandre Da Silva Negrao, violin
Dean Wibe, cello
Jinhong Yoo, Piano

Piano Trio No. 1 Sam Finkel

Alexandre Da Silva Negrao, violin
Dean Wibe, cello
Jinhong Yoo, Piano

Call On Me Samantha Schick

Samantha Schick, voice & guitar

Hey, Sunshine! Alouisa Marcantonio

Alouisa Marcantonio, voice

Tiny Things Susannah Hooker

Susannah Hooker, voice

Rainbow Rain Nicholas Mehta

Nicholas Mehta, piano

Umori del Vento Mary Anderson

Mary Anderson, piano

The Dinosaur Forces Combined Avery Francisco

Avery Francisco & Hannah Macarthy, piano

Creating Original Music Project

Middle & High School Popular Music

1:45 p.m. April 19, 2025, Sheryl Crow Hall

Pretty	Brendan Rieth
"The Greenhoods"	
Someone to Lean On	Ada Clark
Ada Clark, voice	
Pink Skies	Ian Lundholm
fixed media	
Exxxtra Exxxtra Drippy Sauce	Cohl McTyer
Cohl McTyer, voice & fixed media	
Perilous Journey	Elijah Gwyn
Elijah Gwyn, piano	
Different Ways	Lacie Reetz
Lacie Reetz, voice & guitar	
Break-Up Song	Maddie Huckabay
Maddie Huckabay, voice & guitar	
Incessant Intollerability	Gerald Brown
fixed media	
Scenarios	Henry Lammers
Henry Lammers, voice & fixed media	
Think of Me	Tony Campanella
Tony Campanella, voice & fixed media	
That Rock, Pacific	Paloma Greim
Paloma Greim, voice & guitar	
Step 17	Samantha Creasy, Bennett Pieper, Jonah Meyer, Ryder Sexton
saxophone, drumset, electric bass, piano	

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High School Notated Music & Jazz

4:15 p.m. April 19, 2025, Sheryl Crow Hall

Big Bandit Evan Kenneth Mabary
Jazz Band

Breeze From Brazil Isaac Faust
Jazz Combo*

Drei Kleine Andrew Kahler
Nate Leslie, baritone saxophone
Seda Balci, piano

Humoresque Moses Pavon
Alexandre Da Silva Negrao, violin
Harry Gonzalez, violin
Elaina Mauer, viola
Dean Wibe, cello

Apparitions of an Oasis Mason Pieterick
Alexandre Da Silva Negrao, violin
Harry Gonzalez, violin
Elaina Mauer, viola
Dean Wibe, cello

Mizzou Jazz Band

Saxophones

Caleb Hays
George Szabo
*John Doss
Emma Spalding
Trinity Kimbrough

Trombones

Reade Snelling
Antonio Flores
Dezon Gagnon

Trumpets

Jesse Hamilton
Katy Miller
Patrick Ferguson

*Beckett Mitchell, drums

*Luke Reaume, bass

*Atticus Schlegel, piano

*Will Thives, guitar

Creating Original Music Project

Winners By Category

Elementary School: Instrumental

- 1st Sam Finkel**, *Piano Trio No. 1*
Grant Elementary, Columbia
Sponsor: Elizabeth Tummons
- 2nd Avery Francisco**,
The Dinosaur Forces Combined
East Elementary, Waynesville
Sponsor: Hannah Macarthy
- 3rd Nicholas Mehta**, *Rainbow Rain*
Andrews Academy, Lake Saint Louis
Sponsor: Maria Sarri

Honorable Mention
Kaitlyn Paik, *Treble Rag Rock*
Spoede Elementary, Saint Louis
Sponsor: Jessica Nutt

Elementary School: Song with Words

- 1st Samantha Schick**, *Call on Me*
Ridgeway Elementary, Columbia
Sponsor: Abby Meeds
- 2nd Alouisa Marcantonio**, *Hey, Sunshine!*
Lillian Schumacher Elementary, Liberty
Sponsor: Anya Holland
- 3rd Susannah Hooker**, *Tiny Things*
Grant Elementary, Columbia
Sponsor: Elizabeth Tummons

Honorable Mention
Hadleigh Atterberry, Avery Barnhart,
and Ella Blevins, *Rainfall*
Williamsburg Elementary, Williamsburg
Sponsor: Sherry Reetz



Middle School: Popular - Acoustic

- 1st Ada Clark**, *Someone to Lean On*
Christ Community Lutheran School,
Saint Louis
Sponsor: John Spangler
- 2nd Lacie Reetz**, *Different Ways*
North Callaway Middle School,
Williamsburg
Sponsor: Brittany Carpenter
- 3rd Elijah Gwyn**, *Perilous Journey*
Northeast Middle School,
Maryland Heights
Sponsor: Peggy Craig
- 3rd Samantha Creasy, Jonah Meyer,**
Bennet Pieper, and Ryder Sexton
Step 17
Troy South Middle School,
Moscow Mills
Sponsor: Robert Berzack

Middle School: Notated Music

- 1st Rowan Seidman**, *Piano Trio No. 1*
Hixson Middle School, Webster Groves
Sponsor: Stephanie Grubb
- 2nd Evan Hilbert**, *Dance of the Strings*
Clinton County Middle School, Plattsburg
Sponsor: Aaron Guyer
- 3rd Mary Anderson**, *Umori del Vento*
Bingham Middle School, Independence
Sponsors: Sarah Hessenius & Dr. Melissa Koonce

Honorable Mention
Luke Vogel, *Life, Death, and Love*
Home Schooled, Waynesville

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Winners By Category

Middle School: Popular – Electronically Produced

- 1st Ian Lundholm, *Pink Skies***
Platte City Middle School, Platte City
Sponsor: Dr. Matt Bonsignore
- 2nd Cohl McTyer, *Exxxtra Exxxtra Drippy Sauce***
Pattonville Heights Middle School,
Maryland Heights
Sponsor: Carlye Feeney

High School: Popular - Acoustic

- 1st Maddie Huckabay, *Break-Up Song***
Francis Howell North, Saint Charles
Sponsor: Jennifer Oncken
- 2nd Brendan Rieth, *Pretty***
Galena High School, Galena
Sponsor: Drew Tate
- 3rd Paloma Greim, *The Rock, Pacific***
Saint Teresa's Academy, Kansas City
Sponsor: Steve Perry

Honorable Mention
Rebecca Stanford, *Happily Ever After*
Mexico High School, Mexico
Sponsor: Julie Pappas

High School: Jazz

- 1st Evan Kenneth Mabary, *Big Bandit***
Marion C. Early High School, Willard
Sponsor: Dinah Hotz
- 2nd Isaac Faust, *Breeze From Brazil***
Staley High School, Kansas City
Sponsor: Meara Mitchell



High School: Popular – Electronically Produced

- 1st Henry E. Lammers, *Scenarios***
David H. Hickman High School,
Columbia
Sponsor: Timothy Hercules
- 2nd Tony Campanella, *Think of Me***
Holt High School, Wentzville
Sponsor: Trevor Carter
- 3rd Gerald Brown, *Incessant Intolerability***
Billings High School, Billings
Sponsor: Shannon Waldo

Honorable Mention
Olyssa Herico, *Get the Girl*
David H. Hickman High School, Columbia
Sponsor: Timothy Hercules

High School: Notated Music

- 1st Andrew Kahler, *Drei Kleine Stücke***
Doniphan High School, Doniphan
Sponsor: Donald Falk
- 2nd Moses Pavon, *Humoresque***
Parkview High School, Springfield
Sponsor: Kevin Grice
- 3rd Mason Pieterick, *Apparitions of an Oasis***
Liberty North High School, Kearney
Sponsor: Alysse Trusty

Honorable Mention
Nathan Buckwalter, *The Creative Process*
Fulton High School, Fulton
Sponsor: Kelly Neudecker

Hannah Wolkowitz, *Freylekh Soul*
Parkway Central High School, Chesterfield
Sponsor: Doug Hoover

Adrian Sterk, *The Adventure of a Lifetime*
Lee's Summit North High School, Lee's Summit
Sponsor: Jonathan Krinke

Creating Original Music Project

Acknowledgements

Dr. Jeanne Sinuefield – Sinuefield Charitable Foundation
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

Kyrsten Wehner, second-year flute performance graduate student
Emily Aponte, first-year horn performance graduate student
Meghan Brown, second-year clarinet performance graduate student
Harry González, third-year composition graduate student
Giovanni Porfirio, second-year composition graduate student
New Music Ensemble members mentioned in today's programs

School of Music Staff

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

Elementary and Notated Music Middle School Judges

Dr. Wendy Sims, Director of Music Education Studies
Amanda Greenbacker-Mitchell, Music Education Doctoral Student
Xuanrong (Ronnie) Fu, Music Education Doctoral Student
Nate Leslie, Undergraduate Music Education Student

Notated Music High School Judges

Harry González, Composition Graduate Student
Giovanni Porfirio, Composition Graduate Student
Henry Rusten, Undergraduate Composition Student

Popular Genres and Jazz Judges and Festival Instructors

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

Program Notes and Bios

Elementary & Middle School Notated Music

☆ **Evan Hilbert** (Middle School Notated: 2nd Place - Plattsburg)

Evan Hilbert is an 8th grade student at Clinton County Middle School in Plattsburg, MO. Evan moved to Plattsburg 3 years ago from Temple, Texas. He lives with his parents, Linda and Jacob, and his little brother Oliver.

Dance of the Strings

Program notes - *Dance of the Strings* piece is a short, sweet string quintet with inspiration from Mozart and various civil war-era pieces. A 3/4 time signature in a dance style creates the image of the string instruments themselves dancing while a crowd watches.

☆ **Rowan Seidman** (Middle School Notated: 1st Place - Webster Groves)

Rowan Seidman, 12, attends 6th grade at Hixson Middle School in Webster Groves, MO. He especially enjoys composing for strings, and his favorite composers are Paganini, Liszt, Ysaÿe, and Beethoven. Rowan has had the honor of performing his own violin concerto composition with his Hixson school orchestra. As a violinist, Rowan plays for his school orchestra, as well as an orchestra and chamber group through the Webster University Community Music School. Outside of music, Rowan enjoys learning magic tricks.

Piano Trio No. 1

Program notes - In *Piano Trio No. 1*, Rowan wanted to bring listeners to different places. He had a clear sense of the emotions he aimed to evoke. The first section seen in Movement 1 represents an angry power.

☆ **Sam Finkel** (Elementary Instrumental: 1st Place - Columbia)

Sam Finkel is 11 years old and a 5th grader at Grant Elementary School. Sam has been composing nearly every day with a MIDI keyboard and his iPad since he got them on his 9th birthday. He currently takes composition lessons with JT Wolfe and previously studied with Sam Whitty and Jack Snelling. Sam has been playing violin since he was 5 with his teacher Siri Geenen, and is in Maestro Kirk Trevor's Missouri Academy of Music Sinfonietta, which recently premiered his first orchestral work, *After Winter*. Sam's favorite types of music are Classical and video game music. This is Sam's second time winning the Elementary Instrumental division in this competition, and he is grateful to live in a town with opportunities like the MU Comp Festival. When he's not composing, he likes to play disc golf, play video games, and play chess.

Piano Trio No. 1

Program notes - *Piano Trio No. 1* is Sam's first composition using piano, violin and cello. This piece features many different keys and moods, with several peaks of intensity separated by slower sections. Each instrument has the melody at different times.

☆ **Samantha Schick** (Elementary with Words: 1st Place - Columbia)

Sam is a 5th grader at Ridgeway Elementary School, where she is a student of music teacher Abby Meeds. Sam has been playing the guitar for 2 ½ years, taking voice for 1 ½ years and she started writing music last May. She studies guitar and voice with Violet Vonder Haar at Compass Music, Inc. She also participated in the January 2025 song writing challenge at Compass where she wrote a song every day of January. Joy Olakodun, Kacey Musgraves, Adrienne Lenker, Phoebe Bridgers, and Ed Sheeran are some of her favorite musical influences and song writers. Her other interests include horseback riding, reading, and listening to podcasts.

Call on Me

Program notes - *Call On Me* was written in May 2024, at the end of 4th grade when Sam was going through a tough time. This song helped Sam express her feelings and opened her eyes to all the possibilities of writing music.

☆ **Alouisa Marcantonio** (Elementary with Words: 2nd Place - Liberty)

Alouisa Marcantonio is a talented young musician and performer currently in the 5th grade at Schumacher Elementary in Liberty. She loves music, theater, and dance, investing her time singing, and practicing her violin, guitar, and ukulele. Her passion for the stage has led her to participate in numerous musical theater productions, most recently playing the role of Bielke in a community theater production of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Alouisa is the lead singer of Three Strings, a band with her siblings that performs throughout the community. Most recently, Three Strings served as New Years Eve entertainment for the Norterre Memory Care Facility in Liberty. For the past two years, she has been writing original music - creating songs that reflect her love for storytelling through sound. Making music with her family is one of her greatest joys, and she finds that music is her favorite way to give back to the community.

Hey, Sunshine!

Program notes - *Hey, Sunshine!* is a pop style song written originally on ukulele. Alouisa was inspired by the happiness of summer. While trying to be the sunshine for others in her personal life, the harmonies represent how we can work together to find the sunshine. Alouisa hopes *Hey, Sunshine!* brings you some sunshine today!

☆ **Susannah Hooker** (Elementary with Words: 3rd Place - Columbia)

Susannah Linthacum Hooker is 10 years old and a 4th grader at Grant Elementary in Columbia, Missouri. She has been taking voice lessons for 2 years and recently added piano to that. She participates in her school choir, is a member of the Intergenerational Rock Band Choir and is active in various music camps and classes. She loves all things school related and in the future wants to be an elementary school teacher. Outside of school she enjoys working on entrepreneurial endeavors, writing songs, singing, biking, soccer and spending time with her family, friends, dog, cat and toads.

Tiny Things

Program notes - *Tiny Things* is a piece composed in honor of a beloved pet toad who is no longer with us and written for all those who have lost someone special to them.

☆ **Nicholas Mehta** (Elementary Instrumental: 3rd Place - Saint Louis)

Nicholas, who recently turned 7, is a thoughtful and creative child with a love for learning. He has been playing piano since the age of 4 and enjoys improvisation and composing his own music. Nicholas also enjoys playing chess. In his free time, he loves being active—whether it's hiking, biking, or playing tennis. Above all, Nicholas cherishes spending time with his sister and family.

Rainbow Rain

Program notes - *Rainbow Rain* is a piano piece written entirely by hand by Nicholas Mehta and inspired by the rainbow that appears after the rain.

☆ **Mary Anderson** (Middle School Notated: 3rd Place - Independence)

Mary Anderson is a 7th grader at Bingham Middle School in Independence, MO. At the age of 4, her dad taught her to plunk out Mary Had a Little Lamb and a few jazz runs on the piano. From there, she taught herself to play by ear and started composing original music at 9 years old. In addition to piano, Mary plays the viola and is teaching herself the guitar. She also likes expressing her creativity through sketching and baking.

Umori del Vento

Program notes - This is a piano composition in C minor that reminds Mary of the wind flowing through the trees.

☆ **Avery Francisco** (Elementary Instrumental: 2nd Place - Waynesville)

Avery is a spirited and determined 9-year-old from Waynesville, MO, who attends to East Elementary. She has a deep love for music and plays the piano with great dedication, while also enjoying an active lifestyle through soccer and baseball. An inquisitive and enthusiastic reader, Avery loves to discover new knowledge, especially in science and medicine. She aspires to becoming a geneticist and is already focused on her goals for medical school. Whether she's on the field, at the piano, or lost in a book, Avery's vibrant energy and ambition are evident in all her pursuits.

The Dinosaur Forces Combined

Program notes - This piano duet (for double piano) musically illustrates the story of dinosaur interactions within the dinosaur kingdom. Some of the dinosaurs are best friends and get along, while others are fierce enemies with obvious animosity between them.

Middle & High School Popular Music

☆ **Brendan Rieth** (High School Popular - Acoustic: 2nd Place - Galena)

Brendan Rieth was introduced to music through his dad and uncle, who have both played guitar for many years. At the age of 10, Brendan began seriously playing guitar and learning songs. He quickly became fascinated with song structure and writing, and wrote his first original piece around the age of 15. Today, Brendan is a member of The GreenHoods, a band formed with his friends Levi Keltner, Tristin Papazian, Ryan Parton, Logan Gipson, and others. The group originally performed as part of Galena's high school rock band, The Grizzly Goons. After the seniors graduated, the remaining members formed The GreenHoods, a name inspired by the day they all showed up wearing green hoodies. In addition to music, Brendan participates in track and baseball at school, and is a member of a clarinet quartet that will perform at the state small ensemble festival on May 3rd.

Pretty

Program notes - *Pretty* is a corny song about what it feels like to love someone.

☆ **Ada Clark** (Middle School Popular - Acoustic: 1st Place - Saint Louis)

Ada Clark is an 8th grader at Christ Community Lutheran School in Kirkwood, MO. Ada has been surrounded by music her whole life and has been influenced by a wide variety of artists across genres. Playing music at home with her family has always been one of her favorite pastimes. At age 4, Ada began tinkering on the piano. In 2nd grade, her music passion for music grew with weekly ukulele lessons and with singing in the St. Louis Children's Choir. After 4th grade, her grandparents took her to purchase her first guitar and she began to compose music and perform around the community. Outside of music, Ada enjoys playing sports, including basketball and field hockey. In the future, Ada hopes to release her songs and continue composing and performing her music.

Someone to Lean On (by Ada Clark)

Program notes - *Someone to Lean On* is a song written for a friend – a reminder of the comfort it brings knowing that someone is there for you through all situations. This mellow, guitar-leading song, helps share that feeling to the listener, and will hopefully remind them to also be someone to lean on for others.

☆ **Ian Lundholm** (Middle School Popular - Electronic: 1st Place - Platte City)

Ian Lundholm is an 8th grader at Platte City Middle School. Ian is very passionate about making music, and enjoys every aspect of music. Starting with playing his great grandpa's old piano, Ian has grown to creating music like his newest creation, *Pink Skies*. Outside of music, Ian enjoys robotics, speedcubing, and riding roller coasters.

Pink Skies

Program notes - *Pink Skies* is a Track that is reminiscent of the sun rising. It stands out from other tracks, capturing the way that the colors from a sunset “just hit different”. *Pink skies* is a track inspired by the “walk away” remix by an artist Disphing. The theme of sunrise materializes through the cinematic chords and transitions. This track consists of 50+ electronic instruments, including drums, “supersaws”, piano, sub bass, and so much more! Ian continues to be very happy to make music and share enjoyment of listening to it with other people.

☆ **Cohl McTyer** (Middle School Popular - Electronic: 2nd Place - Maryland Heights)

Lil' Drippy (Cohl McTyer) is a multi-talented 12-year-old entrepreneur, musician, and author with a passion for creativity and business. He is the founder of Lil' Drippy's Nacho Adventure, a unique food venture that combines his love for music and entrepreneurship. Lil' Drippy is an accomplished musician who plays double bass and drums, showcasing his versatility in rhythm and melody. His musical talents extend to his performances, where he merges hip-hop and storytelling to engage and inspire audiences. His songs – including *Cry a Lie*, *Level Up*, *Exxxtra Exxxtra*, and *Thinking About the Money* – reflect his drive, ambition, and commitment to success.

Exxxtra Exxxtra Drippy Sauce

Program notes - *Exxxtra Exxxtra Drippy Sauce* is a dynamic track that fuses faith, rhythm, and raw creativity. At its core, the song represents breaking cultural norms and excelling in a world overflowing with music notes, pitches, and tones, all tied together with bold, driving drum patterns.

☆ **Elijah Gwyn** (Middle School Popular - Acoustic: 3rd Place - Maryland Heights)

Elijah Gwyn is a self-taught 7th-grade piano composer who attends Parkway Northeast Middle. He developed his own methods of composing – assembling rhythmic melodies and refining them until a simple tune transforms into a full composition. He has done this since he was a young child, playing on his father's tiny keyboard. Last year, he entered the COMP contest, placed second in the same category, and enjoyed playing his piece at the festival. In addition to his work on the piano, he also creates orchestral arrangements and piano accompaniments. Another of his passions is learning advanced math –he is currently studying calculus. His other hobbies include reading, writing books, working on self-assigned projects, and instilling a love of learning in his younger brothers.

Perilous Journey

Program notes - *Perilous Journey* began with a simple melody that evolved into a mysterious and mystical story. The piece reflects how occasional fog can sneak into the world, cloaking everything in perplexing murkiness. Yet even in darkness, hope persists. Darkness will always exist – but so will hope and light.

☆ **Lacie Reetz** (Middle School Popular - Acoustic: 2nd Place - Williamsburg)

Lacie Reetz is the daughter of David and Sherry Reetz. She is 14 years old and attends North Callaway Middle School. This year she played softball and basketball and she played Genie in Aladdin Jr. She is very active with the fine arts and theater at Presser Performing Arts Center in Mexico, MO. She performs regularly with a community ukulele group, Heirborn Bluegrass group, church worship groups, and she gives ukulele lessons at Mexico Music. Lacie has been writing songs since she could talk and she enjoys being in her room playing the guitar, piano or ukulele.

Different Ways

Program notes - This song is about how the heart and mind can pull a person in different directions as they try to figure out what to do, what choice to make, or where to go.

☆ **Maddie Huckabay** (High School Popular - Acoustic: 1st Place - Saint Charles)

Maddie Huckabay, 17, lives in St. Louis. Maddie loves to write music. She also enjoys participating in the choir at school and in her church's worship band. Maddie also loves to read and enjoys really good food.

Break-Up Song

Program notes - This song is about Maddie's first break up. Written through a whirlwind of negative emotions, Maddie threw her emotions into this song.

☆ **Gerald Brown** (High School Popular - Electronic: 3rd Place - Billings)

Gerald Brown is a high school senior from Billings, Missouri. Music has been Gerald's main activity for a few years and he will have many track ideas on his mind at any given moment. Gerald composes for many genres including electronic, jazz, various sub-genres of classical, rock, and more. One of Gerald's hobbies includes video games.

Incessant Intolerability

Program notes - This electronic track blends various styles, making it difficult to assign to a specific genre. The synths are sourced from the mobile version's General MIDI (GM) synth, as the composer prefers the sound over the desktop version.

☆ **Henry E. Lammers** (High School Popular - Electronic: 1st Place - Columbia)

Henry Lammers is a senior at Hickman High School who was selected as a Missouri All-State Choir singer for the second time this year. Since early childhood, Henry has always felt deeply connected to sounds and passionate about the intricacies of music. He is largely 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 which he often finds in EDM. From his coincidental initials “HEL” Henry created the aliases “HELfire” and later “H-e Element” for the online release of his music. This is his third time winning COMP and he hopes to go back to the Summer COMP program for a third time this year before attending Belmont University as a major in Audio Engineering Technology. He thanks his parents and teachers for encouraging his open mind for the arts and supporting his endeavors.

Scenarios

Program notes - *Scenarios* is an electropop piece about a fantasized unrequited love. It was influenced by modern ambient, trap, and dubstep music. The piece includes 16 layers of painstakingly nitpicked vocal harmonies, various unique synthesizer creations, key changes, and a subtle tempo change.

☆ **Tony Campanella** (High School Popular - Electronic: 2nd Place - Wentzville)

Tony Campanella, 16, is a junior at Holt High School in Wentzville, Missouri. Tony's passion for music, while always present, became serious around the time of the pandemic when he taught himself how to play a variety of instruments. Tony saved enough to purchase his first MacBook a few summers ago and has been writing, producing, and mixing ever since.

Think of Me

Program notes - Written about 1 year ago, this song is about growing up and becoming your own person while not forgetting all of the things or people that made you who you are.

☆ **Paloma Greim** (High School Popular - Acoustic: 3rd Place - Kansas City)

Paloma Greim, a classically trained pianist, is a junior at Saint Teresa's Academy in Kansas City. She began playing piano at 8 years old, and also played violin for several years with the Kansas City Youth Symphony. Today, she enjoys playing in the Senior Flute Trio with the Kansas City Young Chamber Musicians and was recently awarded a scholarship to attend Northwest Missouri State University through its Sonatina Competition. Through her high school choir, she found her passion for singing, and was selected to be a Metro District Honor Choir participant in 2024. Three years ago, she began to teach herself guitar. Having written poetry all her life, she decided to try songwriting. It instantly became an important area of exploration in her love for music. This is the first competition in which she has entered her work, and she is grateful for the opportunity to perform her compositions for the first time. Paloma hopes to pursue careers in piano performance and journalism, and looks forward to attending Brevard Music Festival in North Carolina this summer.

The Rock, Pacific

Program notes - This song is about Paloma's relationship with her mother. Through lyrics, melodies, and harmonies, Paloma explores a wide range of emotions.

☆ **Samantha Creasy, Jonah Meyer, Bennett Pieper, and Ryder Sexton**

(Middle School Popular - Acoustic: 3rd Place - Moscow Mills)

Bennett Pieper, Samantha Creasy, Ryder Sexton, and Jonah Meyer are The Krewe; seventh grade students playing funky jazzy blues/rock. We started learning music together in Mr. Berzack's guitar class in elementary school, continuing every year since then. He taught us chords, scales, composition, and improvisation. Sam Creasy says that "I have loved getting to know each of these guys over the years. We have come so far together and overcome huge obstacles." Bennett Pieper says "Every second I've gotten with these guys has been well spent. I don't know what I would do without them." Jonah says "Being in a band is really fun. If anyone is thinking about starting one, you definitely should. It's one of the most fun and unique experiences you'll ever have – meeting new people and discovering amazing things you won't find anywhere else." Ryder says "Working with these guys on something we all love to do is a great experience. Having fun with them while developing great relationships is fantastic." Mr. Berzack says "I started calling them The Friday Krewe, that's when we meet. It's always a great time and great music."

Step 17

Program notes - *Step 17* is a bluesy funk tune with some syncopated kicks, a very surprising jazzy middle section, exciting improvisation, adventurous chords, and a snappy ending!

High School Notated Music & Jazz

☆ **Evan Kenneth Mabary** (High School Jazz: 1st Place - Willard)

Evan Mabary is a senior at Marion C. Early High School in Morrisville, MO. Evan has been a percussionist for 6 years, while also playing the baritone, guitar, and piano. Evan's plan for the future is to pursue a Music Education degree at Mizzou while still learning about composition. As a musician, Evan has received All-State Band recognition, and Solo and Small Ensemble State placement. Evan started taking composition seriously in 2024, stating "this project gave me a perfect reason to write such a big chart, and for that, I'm thankful."

Big Bandit

Program notes - *Big Bandit* was written as a tribute to all the musical educators who have helped advance Evan's musical career. Playing on the word 'Big Band,' *Big Bandit* features a melody that both twists and resolves around key changes, like the tension experienced in a bandit's plight.

☆ **Isaac Faust** (High School Jazz: 2nd Place - Kansas City)

Isaac Faust is a sophomore at Staley High School, part of the North Kansas City School District. He would like to thank his family for their support. He also would like to recognize his music teachers Ryan Main, Jim Freise, Dennis Bogart, Meara Mitchell, Susan Campagna, Jeff Nunn, Stephanie Hill, Roger Wilder, and Brant Jester for their guidance through the years! Isaac performs on Violin with the Northland Youth Symphony, and on piano with the Kansas City Area Youth Jazz ensemble. He recently performed at Carnegie Hall with his high school orchestra.

Breeze From Brazil

Program notes - This laid-back, Bossa Nova composition is a groove that will put you on the coast of Brazil. Isaac composed it on paper without a piano nearby, but then added a B section later. For the recording, he began with the bass, followed by piano, sax, and drums, then used Audacity to edit the final track

☆ **Andrew Kahler** (High School Notated: 1st Place - Doniphan)

Andrew Kahler is a junior at Doniphan High School. Andrew has been interested in composition since his 5th grade band class. Currently, Andrew's focus instrument is a mixture of trombone, keyboard, and electric bass. Andrew's intrigue in music theory stemmed from the mathematical reasons that harmonies sound in different ways depending on the pitches. This led him down the "microtonal rabbit-hole", abandoning the twelve-tone, equal-tempered musical system for systems that were more harmonious or novel. After Andrew's introduction to Philip Glass's minimalist opera, *Einstein on the Beach*, he started thinking less about how chords sound and more about how art feels. Some specific goals Andrew had in mind were figuring out how specific elements (chords, rhythms, and their underlying structures) trigger thoughts, feelings, and memories in the listener. Andrew mentions his hope is "I'll find one that 'strikes a chord' in a completely original way, giving the listener a new experience that gets them thinking not only about the meaning in the piece itself, but about what art can look like."

Drei Kleine

Program notes - *Drei Kleine* draws inspiration from Paul Hindemith and Philip Glass and is written for an instrument with virtually no solo repertoire: the baritone saxophone. The piece is about 4 minutes in length.

☆ **Moses Pavon** (High School Notated: 2nd Place - Springfield)

Moses Pavon is a 17-year-old junior at Parkview High School in Springfield, MO. He has been studying viola for five years and recently performed with the Missouri All-State Orchestra. Moses is a dedicated member of the Springfield Youth Symphony, where he won the composition portion of the Youth Talent Competition. He currently plays viola for the Missouri Philharmonic Orchestra, Springfield Youth Symphony, Galloway Chamber Orchestra, and Missouri State Orchestra. Moses is also involved in his high school band and jazz band where he plays guitar and upright bass. When he's not composing or performing, Moses enjoys playing baseball.

Moses started composing when he joined his middle school orchestra in 6th grade. He would write all the time and produce works that would sit on the shelf and never get performed. Recently, light has been shed on his talent and now he has composition gigs all across Springfield. The Missouri Philharmonic Orchestra, directed by Amy Andraesean, has asked him to create a brass fanfare that would be performed by the premier civic orchestra. He has also taken upon numerous projects in his high school, writing pieces for his high school orchestra and band. Moses hopes to take his skills to college, where he hopes to major in composition and take his music to the big screen.

Humoresque

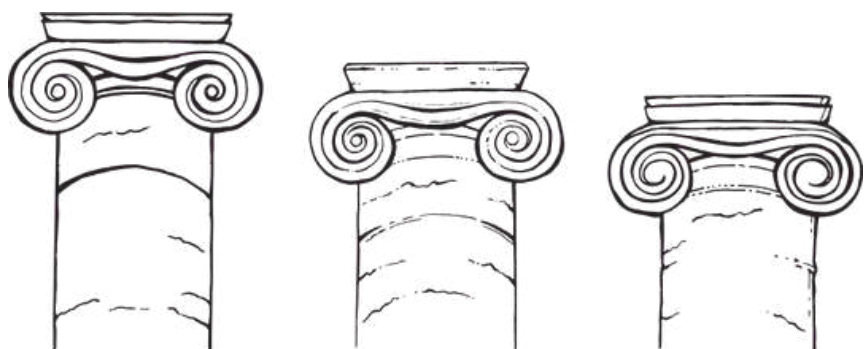
Program notes - *Humoresque* - For String Quartet contains lighthearted and folk-like melodies to dance to. It embodies the style of Dvorak's American Quartet, who was a major influence on this piece.

☆ **Mason Pieterick** (High School Notated: 3rd Place - Kearney)

Mason started playing the violin in 5th grade, inspired by the music of John Williams. Mason became interested in writing music in 7th grade, originally inspired by a book at the time. Later that year, Mason started playing the piano. He became serious about composition in 8th grade after premiering some compositions in concert. Mason currently attends Liberty North High School as a freshman. Mason says, "to me, playing instruments is just as important as writing music for them. I think the greatest part about music is the human connections that it can create."

Apparitions of an Oasis

Program notes - A traveler finds the oasis they need in a vast desert but goes mad upon realizing it was merely a mirage. Mason's main vision with this piece was to explore elements of Middle Eastern and Egyptian music, while infusing his own style and inspirations, namely Bartok and Shostakovich.



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 Harry González, who can be reached at hagpkk@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 22-28, 2025**

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 Sinefield 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.

Apply here!



Activities include:

- **Daily Notation, Instrumentation, and Repertoire Courses:** Students meet at the Sinefield 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 28.
- **Chamber Music Rehearsals**
- **Social 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 Program Coordinator Kyrsten Wehner: klw2n3@missouri.edu

Learn More: <https://newmusic.missouri.edu/comp/missouri-summer-composition-institute>
Application Deadline: May 4, 2025 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 22-28, 2025.

Mizzou International Composers Festival, July 20-26, 2025.

July 24-29, 2025

Scan for more
MU School of Music Events



Scan to learn more about MICF!
All free and open to the public



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