

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS



presents

CHRISTOPHER RAHN
SENIOR COMPOSITION RECITAL

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025

7:30 PM

BRAITHWAITE RECITAL HALL

PROGRAM

Plastic Thing

Mia Tamez, Aida Tomez, Cindy Gonzalez, clarinet
Jackson Forman, bass clarinet

In Loving Peace

Jadon Cherry, Makenzie Mburugu, Jose Loredó-Amador,
Prof. Catherine Boyland, horn

Lost & Miracles

Rayann Rowland, flute
Prof. Elena Daughtery, piano

Oceanic Dreams

Nicholas Nard, Zach Paul, trumpet
Lauren Taylor, horn
George Foreman, trombone
Brayden Persinger, tuba

Adventures of Dreams

Joel Carnero, soprano saxophone
Jovanny Morales, Bradley Gutierrez, alto saxophone
Jose Herrera, tenor saxophone
Anthony Orduña, baritone saxophone

Intermission

Reminiscent Memories

Lauren Taylor, Sebastian Hernandez, Zach Paul, Mitchell Gilbert, trumpet
Elijah Grey, Noah Nuñez, flugelhorn

Children's Playground

Ani Aparicio, piccolo
Rayann Rowland, Maddison Jones,
Christopher Rahn, Camilla Willis, flute

Dancing Wolves

UT Tyler Trombone Choir

*This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of the
Bachelor of Music degree with concentration in music composition.
Christopher is a student of Dr. Kyle Gullings.*

PROGRAM NOTES

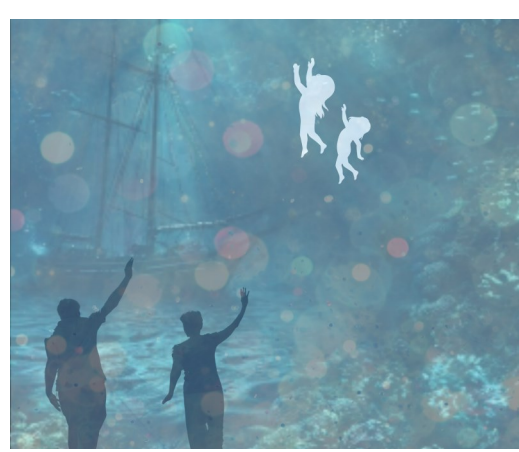
Plastic Thing is a work that was composed for a few friends from when I was studying at The University of Central Arkansas. In this, I had just finished my first semester of Counterpoint, because I decided to take two semesters of it, and decided to take some of the knowledge I learned from that class to write this quartet. There are several points of imitation and several points of polyphony.



In Loving Peace was originally written in 2021 but has been edited in 2025 for my Senior Composition Recital at The University of Texas at Tyler. Early on in my career, I was very fond of the French horn's sound and texture. Throughout the writing process, I explored the range of the horn, but also some harmonic texture as well. I used

basic harmony with some non-functional harmony mixed in. There are a couple catchy tunes in the first and third movements that might get stuck in your head.

I wrote *Lost & Miracles* as a commission by Rayann Rowland for her degree recital. This is a two-movement work (slow-fast). The first movement plays around with the mode (between major and minor) underneath the melody and changing the melody at times. The melody is rarely fractured and is stated almost completely whole throughout the entire movement. Then, the second movement incorporates an odd meter, but still joyful rhythmically, melodically, and harmonically. When listening to this movement, watch out for new melodies, yes, but the listener may be able to hear some reoccurring melodies from the previous movement.



Oceanic Dreams is a work I used to experiment with using different polyphonic and homophonic textures. The melodic material came from ideas I had written down over the past year or so, and I felt they blended nicely. Listen for the melodies being performed separately at first then together near the end. There are points of imitation

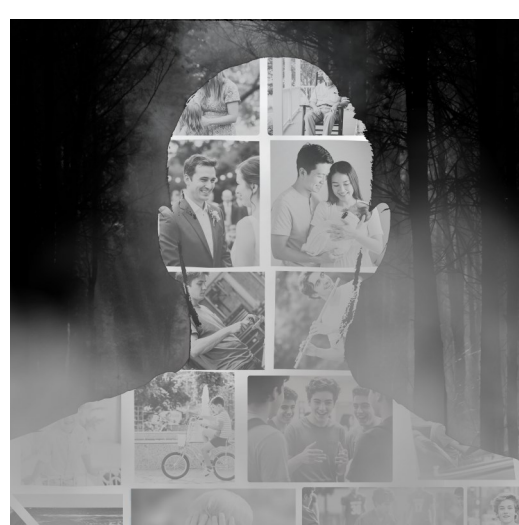
and contrapuntal lines to add to the polyphonic textures throughout the work, and glissandi are used to modulate.

The overall work is supposed to depict the ocean and its many different atmospheres – harsh and large waves, versus calm and small waves. Depicted in the melodies, the wide intervals depict those waves, and the other lines depict the context or the scene of the waves, whether dramatic or calm.

Adventures of Dreams was written for a friend of mine, Collin Hill, as we graduated with our associate's degrees. Although he was not in the premiering ensemble, he was ultimately the one who asked for the work. This was my first composition that a person asked me to write, and my enthusiasm for this situation inspired my writing.



The opening statements are not melodic, but rhythmic, and they set the mood for the work. Fast and technical was what was requested, and I did just that – showing off various voicings throughout the work, but ultimately keeping the enthusiasm going, even though the slow, more lyrical



Reminiscent Memories was written for The University of Texas at Tyler Trumpet Ensemble. Written as a concert opener or closer, I wanted to write a work that had traditional fanfare textures and functions, but with my own harmonic and tuneful twists. There are two main melodies that are prominent, and these are excerpted, reharmonized, and retextured. Throughout this work I build the momentum, and, near the

end a rich, and homogenous trumpet sound with fast moving flugel-horn sounds provide a satisfactory climax as the end of the work, ending with a softer, mellow chord.

Children's Playground was written for Sue Bugg (former professor of flute at The University of Texas at Tyler) and the UT Tyler Flute Studio in the Fall of 2022. In this work, it has two distinct melodies that fit in with the uneven meter of the work. The work incorporates a couple of sections that simply have a wash of sound that are used as a palette cleanser but also help to transition between the slower sections. Throughout this work, both melodies weave in and out of the texture which give melodic variation.



One thing to recognize as well, at the end of the work: the piccolo starts a round of sorts. That first melody is played in each of the voices, but as each voice adds, the previous voice plays the next melody, and so on and so forth. By the time all five voices are playing, both melodies with their harmonic counterparts, along with the moving part from the slow section, are played simultaneously, concluding the composition with a majestic and satisfying end.



Dancing Wolves was written for the University of Texas at Tyler Trombone Choir in the Fall of 2023. This work has a repeating ostinato in the lower trombones to keep the tempo moving forward while also reinforcing the emphasis of the downbeat. This entire work always lands on the downbeat giving relief that the end of

the measure or phrase is coming. The phrasing is standard, and the harmony is simple. This work is mainly written just to have fun. I tend to write challenging music but thought this could be not necessarily a simple work, but a super fun work that everyone would enjoy performing, but also have the performer practice their technical capabilities as an ensemble.

BIOGRAPHY

Christopher L. Rahn is an American Composer/Arranger from the heart of East Texas. He has composed and arranged works for Chamber Ensembles and Wind Ensemble and is enthusiastic in his writing. He is currently working toward a B.M. in Composition, studying with Dr. Kyle Gullings at the University of Texas at Tyler



(UTT). He earned his Associates in Music at Tyler Junior College (TJC) while studying with Dr. Eddie Airheart and studied with Dr. Paul Dickinson while he attended the University of Central Arkansas (UCA).

Christopher has had works added to the Texas Prescribed Music List. Also, has had works performed at several conferences and festivals such as the Helen Elbert Collaborative Music Festival, the Texas Music Educators Association Convention, the College Music Society Central-South Conference, and the International Trombone Festival.

Christopher is a Brother of Kappa Kappa Psi. He is an alum of the Zeta Xi (TJC) and Epsilon Beta (UCA) Chapters. Also, Christopher is a member of The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), the College Music Society (CMS), The Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA), and The Young Band Directors of Texas (YBDT).

Besides composing, Christopher also owns his own publishing company and is the Head Director of a New Music Ensemble in East Texas. He has many aspirations to begin other business endeavors and is very active in the East Texas Business Community.

*For more information and music
visit chrisrahnmusic.com*

Spring 2025 School of Performing Arts Events

DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Sat	Apr 19	12 pm	BRH	Mitchell Gilbert & Zak McCain Joint Recital
Sat	Apr 19	2 pm	BRH	Jadon Cherry Recital
Sat	Apr 19	3:30 pm	BRH	Cordell Taylor Recital
Sat	Apr 19	7 pm	BRH	Musical Theatre Performance
Mon	Apr 21	7:30 pm	BRH	Jazz Combo Concert
Tue	Apr 22	12:30 pm	BRH	Student Recital
Tue	Apr 22	6 pm	BRH	String & Guitar Studio Recital
Tue	Apr 22	7:30 pm	Cowan	Jazz Concert
Wed	Apr 23	6 pm	BRH	Lauren Taylor Recital
Wed	Apr 23	7:30 pm	BRH	Jasper Scharp Recital
Thu	Apr 24	6 pm	BRH	Bridget Gutierrez Recital
Thu	Apr 24	7 pm	Cowan	UT Tyler Bands Concert
Fri	Apr 25	7:30 pm	BRH	Sydney Moseley Recital

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