

# SENIOR RECITAL

Chris Dorner, Composer

WITH:

Ben Cartwright, Horn

Angel Duron, Viola

Katie Ethington, Keyboard/Piano

Landon Geitzenauer, Horn

Charlie Grady, Flute

Dr. Katelyn Jahnke, Horn

Jonathan Lea, Violoncello

Sam Messick, Narrator

Hudson Worley, Horn

Dr. Xiting Yang, Piano

7:30 pm, Saturday, November 22nd

Faulkner Performing Arts Center

University of Arkansas

## PROGRAM

**CONTENT WARNING:** This program contains imagery of cruelty and abuse towards animals that some viewers may find disturbing.

### **Hong Kong (2020-2021) (2025)** *(Duration: approx. 3:00)*

for Fixed Electronics

Chris Dorner (b. 2004)

*World Premiere*

### **Microtonal Preludes** *(Duration: approx. 2:00)*

for Piano Duo

Chris Dorner (b. 2004)

I. Largissimo (2020;2025)

*World Premiere*

Dr. Xiting Yang, Piano

Katie Ethington, Keyboard

## PROGRAM (Cont.)

### Three Settings for Birds (2023;2024) (Duration: approx. 6:15)

for Narrator, Flute, Viola, Violoncello, and Piano

Chris Dorner (b. 2004)

- I. The Backyard
- II. The Beach
- III. On the Bayou

*World Premiere*

Sam Messick, Narrator

Charlie Grady, Flute

Angel Duron, Viola

Jonathan Lea, Violoncello

Katie Ethington, Piano

Chris Dorner, Conductor

### Consider the Lobster (2025) (Duration: 3:21)

for Multimedia

Chris Dorner (b. 2004)

*World Premiere*

**CONTENT WARNING:** This video contains imagery of cruelty and abuse and animals that some viewers may find disturbing.

Consider the Lobster

For practical purposes, everyone knows what a lobster is

...lobsters are basically giant sea insects.

...cruel and unusual...

[Please know that it's not my fault.]

...chewable fuel

Lobster meat has fewer calories, less cholesterol, and less saturated fat than chicken (*Of course, the common practice of dipping the lobster meat in melted butter torpedoed all these happy fat-specs...*)

Cracking and chewing and dribbling.

...the suppers come in Styrofoam trays, and the soft drinks are iceless and flat, and the coffee is convenience-store coffee in more Styrofoam, and the utensils are plastic (there are none of the special long skinny forks for pushing out the tail meat, though a few savvy diners bring their own).

It's not for everyone.

*(As a tourist, you become economically significant but existentially loathsome, an insect on a dead thing.)*

As an à la carte entrée, lobster can be baked, broiled, steamed, grilled, sautéed, stir-fried, or microwaved.

...the animals' claws are pegged or banded to keep them from tearing one another up under the stresses of captivity

## PROGRAM (Cont.)

A detail so obvious that most recipes don't even bother to mention it is that each lobster is supposed to be alive when you put it in the kettle.

Is it possible that future generations will regard our own present agribusiness and eating practices in much the same way we now view Nero's entertainments, or Mengele's experiments?

...the MLF [Maine Lobster Festival] begins to take on the aspect of something like a Roman circus or medieval torture-fest.

Does that comparison seem a bit much? If so, exactly why?

Is it all right to boil a sentient creature alive just for our gustatory pleasure?

- David Foster Wallace (2004)

## Short Pieces for Four Horns *(Duration: approx. 2:30)*

for Horn Quartet

Chris Dorner (b. 2004)

III. Rondo Naturel (2023)

*World Premiere*

Hudson Worley, Chris Dorner, Ben Cartwright, Landon Geitzenauer—Horns

## The Three B's (2023) *(Duration: approx. 7:15)*

for Horn and Piano

Chris Dorner (b. 2004)

I. Blues

II. Boogie-Woogie

III. Bebop

*World Premiere*

Dr. Katelyn Jahnke, Horn

Dr. Xiting Yang, Piano

*Chris Dorner is a student of Professor Marco-Adrián Ramos*

*This recital is given in partial fulfillment of the Bachelor of Music, Music Composition Concentration*

## ABOUT THE PIECES

### **Hong Kong (2020-2021) (2025)** Chris Dorner (b. 2004)

for Fixed Electronics

*Hong Kong (2020-2021) (2025)* is inspired by Christopher Button's photography series, "The Labyrinth", capturing Hong Kong's underground metro in its most quiet and desolate hours, creating the effect of a liminal space—a space familiar and nostalgic, but also uncanny and eerie to the viewer.

### **Microtonal Preludes** Chris Dorner (b. 2004)

for Piano Duo

#### I. *Largissimo* (2020;2025)

*Microtonal Preludes* is a current Work-In-Progress project for two pianos, with the second piano being detuned from a standard piano, allowing new possibilities in harmony. Each etude is an experiment and a challenge in various musical styles; each prelude is based on a piece or musical style, finding a way to mimic the original using this expanded layer of harmony. Prelude No. 1 (*Largissimo*) is based on Ivan Wyschnegradsky's (1893-1979) *24 Preludes in Quarter-tone System: Prelude No. 3*. In 2022, Prelude No. 1 won the 2022 Penn State Ballora-Wang Young Composers Competition.

- Program notes by the composer

### **Three Settings for Birds (2023;2024)** Chris Dorner (b. 2004)

for Narrator, Flute, Viola, Violoncello, and Piano

- I. The Backyard
- II. The Beach
- III. On the Bayou

I have always had a fascination with birds; ever since I was young remember every time I moved to a new state, I would make my parents buy me field guides of birds in the state, and from there I would try and identify the birds in my area based on their appearance and the time of the year.

*Setting I - The Backyard*, depicts a backyard with various species of birds coexisting—or at least an attempt—in a suburban setting; *Setting II - The Beach*,

## ABOUT THE PIECES (Cont.)

depicts a cold, grey beach, at night with a lone seagull, exploring the vast night; and *Setting III – On the Bayou*, depicts the tumultuous journey of the common loon.

- Program notes by the composer

### **Consider the Lobster (2025)** Chris Dorner (b. 2004)

for Multimedia

David Foster Wallace (1962-2008) was an author known for maximalist writing, expanding a sentence to the fullest potential with a depth of context being provided, having elaborate details, descriptions, and the frequent use of figurative and complex language. In 2004, *Gourmet* food magazine published Wallace's essay entitled "Consider the Lobster", which recounts Wallace's visit to the 2003 Maine Lobster Festival (MLF). Wallace's essay challenges the reader to consider the (a)morality of agribusiness, and the (lack of) ethics they (as a consumer) typically hold when using these products, with the case of the humble lobster—"Is it all right to boil a sentient creature alive just for our gustatory pleasure?" *Consider the Lobster* (2025) was written in January 2025 in a period of 24-hours as I taught myself how to use a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) for the first time. All speaking audio excerpts used are of David Foster Wallace reading this essay.

- Program notes by the composer

For a PDF of Wallace's full text, please visit:

[https://faculty.etsu.edu/odonnell/readings/lobster\\_dfwallace.pdf](https://faculty.etsu.edu/odonnell/readings/lobster_dfwallace.pdf).

### **Short Pieces for Four Horns** Chris Dorner (b. 2004)

for Horn Quartet

#### III. Rondo Naturel (2023)

*Short Pieces for Four Horns* is an ongoing collection of pieces for horn quartet exploring different musical styles, genres, and techniques. Piece III: *Rondo Naturel* (2023) alludes to the piece's structure and the type of horns the piece should be performed on (or mimicking the types of horns). The horn's range is large, and it sits perfectly within the harmonic series, allowing players access to a multitude of harmonics. Taking advantage of this, I decided to focus an entire piece on the horn's capabilities within the harmonic series. Each horn is assigned a key/fundamental

## ABOUT THE PIECES (Cont.)

(either to be played on a natural horn of the respective key or using the valve combination to mimic the natural horn of said key) and confined to the harmonic series of that fundamental—hence “Naturel” or “Natural” within

the title, in reference to both the types of horns used, as well as the fact that the harmonic series is naturally occurring. Using the harmonic series, an A-material is formed and always contrasted by an opposing material, with all the materials gradually becoming more varied with each repetition—the quintessential rondo form.

- Program notes by the composer

### **The Three B's (2023)** Chris Dorner (b. 2004)

for Horn and Piano

*The Three B's* (2023) is dedicated to Dr. Katelyn J. Jahnke, Assistant Professor of Horn at the University of Arkansas (Fayetteville, AR). The inspiration for this piece began after her faculty recital, given in January 2023, on the program included Richard Bissel's *Song of a New World* (2014), which she described as the dichotomy of two underrepresented aspects of horn playing: Utilizing the low range of the horn and the sound and language of jazz applied to the horn. With these two aspects in mind, writing for “The Three B's” began, intending to fill a gap in horn repertoire. The title references three styles/eras of jazz: Blues; Boogie-woogie; and Bebop. Three different styles—each with unique features—present a challenge to the preparation of this piece, along with the emphasis placed on the lower range of the horn.

- Program notes by the composer

## ABOUT THE COMPOSER

**Chris Dorner (b. 2004)** is a composer who represents an intersection between contemporary classical music, rock, and jazz. Chris first explored composition by transcribing his favorite metal songs and gradually began writing his own music. Chris is a student at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Arkansas, pursuing degrees in Music Education and Music Composition—studying under Marco-Adrián Ramos. Former teachers include Robert K. Mueller, Jeremy Lynn Allen, and Rick Salonen. Additional teachers include Jennifer Jolley, Sara Carina Graef, and Karen Walwyn. At the U of A, Chris has collaborated with several ensembles, ranging from commissions and premiering original works to performing transcriptions and arrangements. Chris has also had his music performed across the United States. Chris has been a selected composer for the 2019 Aspiring Artists of Texas Call for Scores, the 2021 Evan Erickson Call for Scores, an awarded winner of the 2022 Penn State Ballora-Wang Young Composers Competition, and a presenter at the 6th-annual Research On Contemporary Composition Music Festival (ROCC-6) at the University of North Georgia.