

The University of Mary Washington

Music Department

Presents:

***Sonic Depths:***

***The Layers of the Ocean, the Life Within Them, and their Methods of Communication***

An Original Composition and Lecture Recital

By: Levi Manuel

April 29th, 2017

Digital Auditorium, HCC (Hurley Convergence Center), University of Mary Washington

Presentation and *Sonic Depths*.....Levi Manuel

Alex Rodríguez, Double Bass, Bass Guitar

Levi Manuel, Guitar, Marimba

Michael Prime, Euphonium

Austin O'Rourke, Percussion

Luke Payne, Cello

Ryan Goodrich, Trumpet

Drake Dragone, Violin

Danny Arslan, Piano, Marimba

**NOTES:**

*Sonic Depths* is an original composition that musically depicts the descending layers of the ocean and attempts to recreate the sounds created by the life within those layers.

The ocean has five main layers. From surface to trenches, they are the Epipelagic, the Mesopelagic, the Bathypelagic, the Abyssopelagic, and the Hadopelagic. Descending through these layers you will find decreasing sunlight, increasing water pressure, and an abundance of unique species. I have musically reimagined this aquatic environment as well as some creatures' methods of communication and applied them to my composition. This original composition begins at the surface and sends the listener down to the trenches of the ocean. In the surface layer, the Epipelagic, you will hear the grunt of the toadfish on the double bass. In the Mesopelagic, you will hear the call of the humpback whale on violin.

### **PERFORMER BIOS:**

**Alex Rodríguez** currently plays bass in the University of Mary Washington Philharmonic and Jazz Ensemble. Along those ensembles, he performs in a horn band and a cover/fusion band. He has performed in concerts starring famous musicians like Itzhak Perlman and Michael Feinstein. Alex has worked for multiple guitar shops where he learned the basics of guitar and orchestral string maintenance and picked up many tricks of the trade.

**Levi Manuel** is a composer and multi-instrumentalist who plays guitar, bass guitar, violin, and piano. Throughout high school, he performed in a jazz ensemble and a series of hard rock and progressive metal bands in his hometown as a guitarist and a bass guitarist. He is currently a bass guitarist for the University of Mary Washington jazz ensemble, which has performed along groups such as the White House Band. Levi began composing original pieces in 2016 under the instruction of Dr. Mark Snyder. His performance debut was at the 2016 Electro-Acoustic Barn Dance, in which he debuted his piece *Rebirth*. His latest composition is titled *Sonic Depths*, which will be debuted during his senior thesis performance. Following graduation, Levi will be in a Master of Education program so that he may become a music teacher in Colorado.

**Michael Prime** is a composer and performer based in Oakton, Virginia. He aspires to compose soundtracks and his compositions have been described as “programmatic”, “mystical”, and “vivacious”. His compositions have been presented at Fairmont State University and the University of Mary Washington. Born in Grasse, France, Michael was raised in Northern Virginia, where he first learnt music, and is currently finishing studying composition and computer science at the University of Mary Washington. His primary instrument is euphonium, though he also knows keyboard and harp, and he is currently first chair euphist in the Mary Washington Concert Band. Michael made his composition premier in 2015 at the West Fork New Music Festival in Fairmont, West Virginia with his piece *Invocation*.

**Austin O'Rourke** is a composer, multi-instrumentalist, sound designer, electronic music producer and recipient of the ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composers Award in 2015. He was born in Culpeper, Virginia and is studying music composition with Mark Snyder at the University of Mary Washington.

**Luke Payne** is a junior at the University of Mary Washington where he is pursuing a double major in music and computer science. A resident of King George County, he has been involved in many orchestras and chamber ensembles in the Fredericksburg and Northern Virginia area. He currently plays with The University of Mary Washington Philharmonic, The University of Mary Washington String Quartet, The Rappahannock POPS and the Payne Quartet. He has studied cello with Christine Hartigan, Gerald Fowkes, James Forry, and Ken Law.

**Ryan Goodrich** is an intended Music major at the University of Mary Washington who is from Charlottesville, Virginia. Ryan is a composer, a performer, a multi-instrumentalist, and a vocalist.

**Drake Dragone** is a composer, performer, and multi-instrumentalist from Richmond, Virginia. Currently studying Music Composition at the University of Mary Washington, Drake is honing in his musical skills studying under Mark Snyder while living in Fredericksburg. His compositions have been called “transporting“, and “refreshing.”

**Danny Arslan**, a college student and aspiring musician, has been playing piano since the age of 3. A notable performance, the Hot Cross Buns concerto in A minor, can be found in links section of his website.