

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



**UT Tyler**<sup>TM</sup>  
**MUSIC**

*presents*

**KARRIGAN HEISER**

*in a*

**SENIOR RECITAL**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026**

**6 PM**

**BRAITHWAITE RECITAL HALL**

# PROGRAM

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**Sync**

Gene Koshinski

(b. 1980)

Karrigan Heiser, snare

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**Fear Cage**

Kirk J. Gay

(b. 1967)

Karrigan Heiser, timpani

Jordan Dunn, timpani

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**Polar Night**

Erik Texter

(b. 2000)

*Dedicated to Nova: May your beauty shine over us like the  
Northern Lights*

Karrigan Heiser, marimba  
Jordan Dunn, vibraphone  
Ethan Frederick, vibraphone  
Austin Vickers, wooden slats

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This recital is given in partial fulfillment of the Bachelor of Music degree with a concentration in Instrumental Education.

Karrigan Heiser is a student of Dr. Tyree Hastings.

# PROGRAM NOTES

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## **Sync**

Fun fact! This piece was commissioned by 42 percussionists!

This piece actually has a dual meaning. 1 is the expected “synchronization of multiple ideas” and the other is actually the Spanish term “cinco” or 5 which becomes the beat pattern seen throughout this piece. Now, despite this being a snare drum solo, drumsticks are not needed to play this piece. In fact, the point of this piece is to get out of the traditional role of a snare drum and explore what other ways you can make cool sounds with it. Without giving too much away, there’s a lot more that you can do with a snare drum than you think including making it sing!

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## **Fear Cage**

Kirk Gay wrote this piece around the real life term used by paranormal researchers which essentially is a confined space with a high EMF reading. These environments are conducive to feelings of paranoia, anxiety, and fear, but honestly to me its just a cool name and theme for a timpani duet. This piece starts off in a sort of backyard-thunderstorm scene with almost whale noises randomly throughout, which actually make it feel like the listener is a storm chaser. The elusiveness of the beginning is very much a “oh weird, what’s next” situation, and then throughout the rest of the piece you get to see how each player really bounces off the other in this caged dance around the timpani and its just so exciting to watch from beginning to end.

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## **Polar Night**

Erik Texter wrote this piece using his feelings around the Northern Lights and a settlement in Norway that has the privilege to experience them 24 hours a day. I chose this piece first because I love the northern lights and plan to visit Norway someday to see them, but also as a dedication to the experience I had with having and losing my daughter last year. The beginning of the piece is this calm, ethereal feel that develops into a chaotic groove full of tension and release and ends by drifting back into the calm ethereal feeling as the piece fades out. This is sort of how I felt during the past 6 months since losing Nova, I had the calm excitement of her almost being here, the chaotic mentality of processing her loss, and now I have the feeling of balancing out mentally and re-gaining my sanity and ability to enjoy my surroundings again with a, more recently discovered, feeling of hope for my future.

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## Spring 2026 School of Performing Arts Events

DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Tue	Apr 21	12:30 pm	BRH	Student Recital
Tue	Apr 21	7:30 pm	Cowan	Jazz Ensembles Concert
Thur	Apr 23	7:30 pm	Cowan	UT Tyler Bands Concert
Fri	Apr 24	6:30 pm	BRH	Percussion Studio Recital
Sat	Apr 25	7 pm	Chapel of St. Peter and Paul	Choral Spring Concert

Click [here](#) to find out more about the School of Performing Arts!