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Senior Music Project Proposal

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Abstract

My project is called “Dream Soup.” Dream Soup is a group of ten people. The core of the group is only six people, this group will play acoustic jazz. The rest are involved in the bigger group we will play more electric jazz with that group. The purpose of my project is three-fold: to create new music with good friends, to record said music after it is created and rehearsed, and to perform our music in the spring semester for an audience of my peers, faculty, and whomever else wishes to listen. Throughout the project I will reflect on the music as how it affects me emotionally, spiritually, academically, and musically.

Project Overview

I have formed two groups, known as Dream Soup, comprised of the same people: Arlo Townsley, Chloe Halsted, Chris Dey, Devon Olson, Eric Nicholson, Julian Sun, Justin Kerobo, Paolo Evans, Simon Keefer, and Sulay Ranjit. The larger group will include all of these players, the repertoire we will incorporate in this group will be all originals. The large group will play 3 or 4 songs. This group will be largely electrified. The instrumentation for this group will vary depending on the piece. The other group will include only 6 people from the larger group. The instrumentation for this group is Saxophone, trumpet, drums, percussion, upright bass, and piano. This group will be acoustic, and the repertoire will be largely originals I also want to do a Beatles song.

Funding will include a pick up for the upright bass. There will be some tech needs, for performances especially. I will need help finding the right people to talk to. My project is to make a record, I have people, Simon and Sulay, who are willing to help in this process. This could look like recording the final performance as a live recording and finishing it well, or recording everything separately from the performance. For recording we will need subsequent recording tools and someone to record us and produce, Simon and others. By having the music recorded we will all be able to take it forward as an example of music we have created through this project. It will also help this project live on after it is done, nothing is being written down as an exercise in impermanence.

Part of my project will include recording rehearsals for a few reasons, so we can more easily look back on good musical ideas that we had collectively or otherwise. These recordings can also be a way that my advisors can hear progress. I also would like to have the final concert video recorded, I can find people to do this, but will need help from whoever is normally in charge of this, as well as permission to use the nice cameras that are used for the school performances.

I would like the final performance for my project to be in Lingle. So our music can be experienced physically as well as aurally I would like to be set up so there is some dance space. This performance may well last longer than an hour. I expect it to be as long as one to two hours, closer to one and a half hours. Along with the final performance, I plan to have my group perform at Kathmandu, the open mic hosted by Music House, Music? an event in town that was started by Charles Ramsey, perform live on WECI, a Brown Bag recital if it fits into Eric's Friday Schedule, and at an upcoming convocation in December. These extra performances would act primarily to help with performance anxiety.

Time Line

Thursday November 15: Have all the repertoire for both groups

Thursday December 13: Last rehearsal for Fall Semester

Second week of Spring Semester: Have Scheduled rehearsal times

Friday March 1 or Saturday March 2: Final Performance

Saturday April 13: Recording Finished and ready to listen to

Goals

Showcase what I have learned about music throughout my college career: performance ability on bass, percussion, etc. . Highlight the abilities and songs of my peers, as well as myself. Create a well-produced recording. Help my band mates and myself become well rounded musicians: by increased abilities improvising, becoming more comfortable performing for people, learning how to create melodies, becoming more comfortable being a band leader, learning how to better drive music from one position whether it's bass piano or drums/percussion. There are going to be areas in this process where everyone struggles, part of the goal is to work through those things and become better musicians. Showing clear evidence of our musical progress as a group. Composing one song based off of a piece my mom wrote for me to play on marimba. To explore the spiritual significance of collective music making, and music in general. This is something that will evolve throughout the project, something I will be able to talk about in more depth at the final performance. And above all else have fun creating something meaningful to myself and those involved.