**Water and Time: Contemplating environmental change through music, art and geology**

This collaborative project, a May day celebration undertaken by the departments of piano, art, and geology with students of Catherine Kautsky, Rob Neilson and Marcia Bjornerud, began at Bjorklunden, right on the shores of Lake Michigan. There we were able to contemplate the intersections of our respective fields, particularly in their implications for the passage of time. The visual artists made sculptures on the beach that vanished in the next gust of wind, the geologists explained a landscape that evolved over billions of years, and we, the musicians, mulled the paradox of our music, which strives to evoke eternity and is yet so utterly ephemeral in its performance.

As we tried to grapple with all these intangibles, ultimately impossible to comprehend, we also enjoyed the more concrete pleasure of being in an environment far from cities and urban distractions, far closer to the sounds and sights that directly inspired the composers whose music we were playing. The lakes of Liszt, the waves of Debussy, and the birds and butterflies of Bolcom all seemed more comprehensible as we looked around us at both the setting of Bjorklunden and at our colleagues’ sculptures, crafted solely from the materials which nature presented. It felt important to realize that precisely the environment our century is so blithely destroying gave birth to the music we were performing. The weekend was a timely reminder of the landscape’s transience and fragility. Notes by Catherine Kautsky

May 1, 2018

Harper Hall, 8:00 pm

***Primeval Time:*** Juliana Olsen-Valdez

“Primeval Sounds” from *Makrokosmos*, *Vol. I* (1972) George Crumb (b. 1929)

Isabella Andries

***Oceans*:** Erica Craddock

“Une barque sur l’ocean” from *Miroirs* (1904-1905) Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

Noah Vazquez

Etude op. 25, no. 12, “Ocean” (1832-36) Frédérik Chopin (1810-1849)

Aboris De Jesus

***Rain and Rivers***: Schuyler Borges

“Wasserclavier” from *Six Encores for Piano* (1965) Luciano Berio (1925-2003)

Taylor Hallman

“Butterflies, Hummingbirds” from *Twelve New Etudes* (1984) William Bolcom (b. 1938)

Xiaoya Gao

“The Prophet Bird” from *Waldszenen, Op. 82* Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

Anna Nowland

***Glaciers***: Lily Atkinson

Prelude No. 2 “Chant d’extase dans un paysage triste” (1928- 29) Oliver Messiaen (1908-1992)

Maria Santos

***Groundwater***: Abbey Miranda

“Jeux d’eau à la villa d’este” from *Années de Pèlerinage* (1835-38) Franz Liszt

 (1811-188 )

Hung Nguyen

***Lakes*:** Mia Wu

Barcarolle no. 4 in Ab, Op. 44 (1886) Gabriel Faure (1845-1924)

Ethan Mellema

“Au lac de Wallenstadt” from *Années de Pèlerinage* (1835-38) Franz Liszt

Xiaoya Gao

La Mer

 I. De l’aube à midi sur la mer (1903-1905) Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Craig Jordan and Nick Suminski