Liberty University School *of* Music

presents

Commercial Music Showcase

November 17, 2026
Center for Music and the Worship Arts Concert Hall
MUSIC 050
7:30 PM

Commercial Music Showcase

Program

Unbreakable Smile — Tori Kelly

Greta Knight
Camille Owens, Mya Barlow, and Sarai Hanna; *vocals*
Wayne Fry, *synth bass*

Vienna — Billy Joel

Marlee Lawhon
Matthew Torres, *saxophone*
Sam Herbig, *trumpet*

Cry Pretty — Carrie Underwood, Hillary Lindsay, Liz Rose, & Lori McKenna

Caitlyn Nail

Assignment — Noah Zelem

Noah Zelem

Patrick Shorts, Musical Director, *keys*
Quinn Spesshardt, *electric guitar*
Charlie Vandemark, *drum set*
Mark McDowell, *bass*

Only Hope — Jon Foreman

Crissa Davis

Use Somebody — Caleb Followill, Nathan Followill, Jarod Followill & Matthew Followill

Isaiah Rock

You're the Inspiration — Peter Cetera & David Foster

Morgan McCorvey
AJ Cantrell & Sydney Kittrell, *vocals*

Heads Carolina, Tails California — Tim Nichols & Mark D. Sanders

Maddox Slyman

Reilly Stenstrom, Musical Director, *keys*
Felipe Alvarez, *electric & acoustic guitar*
Anthony Ostrander, *electric guitar*
Alan Jiminez, *drum set*
Jacob Charles, *bass*

How Great Thou Art — Stuart K. Hine, *arr*. Andrew Valentine

Andrew Valentine, *piano*

As — Stevie Wonder

Aaron Webster
Marlee Lawhon, Morgan McCorvey, and AJ Cantrell; *vocals*

Program (cont.)

Want a Man — Casey Neher

Casey Neher

In Jesus' Name (God of Possible) — Katy Nichole, Ethan Hulse, Jeff Pardo & David Spencer

Olivia Lehman

Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child — Spiritual, *arr.* Keith Getty

Elijah Goble
Bob Bowen, *double bass*

Patrick Shorts, Musical Director, *keys*
Quinn Spesshardt, *electric guitar*
Charlie Vandemark, *drum set*
Mark McDowell, *bass*

Flesh and Bone — Samantha Rae Bowers

Kastien Chambliss

Rise up — Andra Day & Jennifer Decilveo

Timeea Iercan
Dakota Belcher & Caitlyn Nail, *vocals*

The Heart Won't Lie — Kim Carnes, Donna Weiss

Ava Piland & Jonah Barrow

Defying Gravity — Stephen Schwartz

Emma Byrd

Reilly Stenstrom, Musical Director, *keys*
Felipe Alvarez, *electric & acoustic guitar*
Anthony Ostrander, *electric guitar*
Alan Jiminez, *drum set*
Jacob Charles, *bass*

I'm Forgiven — Bruce Hibbard, Hadley Hockensmith, & Michael Omartian

Penrod Vocal Band
Zach Penrod
Elijah Goble
Brock Kluver
Aaron Webster

- PROGRAM NOTES -

Unbreakable Smile
Have you ever let people rob you of your joy? Has your smile ever faded in the wake of the actions of others? "Unbreakable Smile" describes what it means to be happy even when in times like these. Being yourself, knowing who you are, and choosing to be positive even in negative seasons is only part of the remedy for the loss of joy – the most important element is knowing where the joy comes from in the first place – Christ. We know this from God's word, "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy at your right hand are pleasures forevermore", Psalm 16:11.

Vienna
There are so many blessings we all experience in life, some that we already have, and so much more that we have yet to receive. But there are also many seasons of our lives that require us to slow down and learn lessons that aren't always the most fun to learn. A very wise man (or Ferris Bueller) once said "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it." This is such a great reminder to us that the sweetest bits of life will pass us by if we are too focused on getting to the next good thing. So let this song be a gentle reminder to not put so much pressure on the future that we forget to take in everything, good and bad, about right now.

Cry Pretty
One of the hardest things we can do is be honest about how we're really feeling. It's easy to put on a smile and convince ourselves that everything is fine when it isn't. There's often an unspoken pressure to keep our emotions hidden, as though being vulnerable makes us weak. "Cry Pretty" challenges that idea by reminding us that there is strength in allowing ourselves to feel things honestly. We don't always have to have everything together, and we shouldn't feel ashamed of the moments when we don't. Sometimes, true strength can come from letting go of appearances and having the courage to be honest with ourselves and with the people around us.

Assignment
We each have a unique calling that God has put on our lives. It is easy to go through life haphazardly without acknowledging that we have a mission from the Lord every day He wakes us up. We must live to give back to God for all He's given us until our assignment is complete and we spend eternity with Him. I hope you enjoy this original piece, "Assignment".

Only Hope
Everything, from the breath in my lungs to the voice God gave me, is a reflection of His creation and His love. No matter what I face, how uncertain life becomes or what I walk through, I can always place my hope in Him. Singing this song feels like offering my voice back to the One who gave it to me in the first place. "Only Hope" reminds me that Jesus IS my hope. Romans 5:2–5 reminds us, "Through Jesus we have access to grace and "rejoice in hope of the glory of God," knowing that endurance through suffering produces a hope that does not put us to shame."

Use Somebody
This anthem performed by *Kings of Leon* explores the idea that we can be surrounded by people yet still feel isolated. Our culture facilitates self-promotion, but it can leave us struggling to find hope and happiness. This song unintentionally describes the need to find something more than just relationships with other people. When I think of someone that I need in my life, I think of my comforter, healer and the one that has extended grace and forgiveness to me, Jesus Christ. He is the "somebody" that everybody needs. Philippians 4:19 declares, "And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

You're the Inspiration
"You're The Inspiration" explores the deep devotion that comes with being in love with someone. It highlights that true loves lasts forever and loving someone means carrying them with you in every stage of life. Released in 1984, the on the album Chicago 17, the track was written by Peter Cetera and David Foster. It became one of the band's signature soft rock ballads, reaching No. 3 on the US Billboard Hot 100.

Heads Carolina, Tails California
Flipping a coin to decide where to go means being that you are open to whatever comes next. The destination is almost secondary because what really matters is having someone beside you who is willing to take the journey. Some of the best parts of life happen when you stop worrying so much about where you're headed and start appreciating who's beside you. Sometimes the most meaningful thing isn't knowing where life will take you. It's having someone who makes you excited to find out.

- PROGRAM NOTES (CONT.) -

How Great Thou Art

Psalm 150:2 reads "Praise Him for His mighty deeds; Praise Him according to the abundance of His greatness." God is not great just because He's done something for us, but is great simply because of who He is, and yet has demonstrated that greatness towards us. We could try and fathom the fact that our world and ourselves are crafted so precisely that if one variable was off-center, we would cease to exist. We could also fathom the nature of the earth, art, emotions, even music and the way it can change people. And yet the greatest piece of art we see, is the story between a God who loved his created people so much, that he would dare humble himself from His infinite splendor and majesty to the extent of dying for a people least deserving of it. The hymn, "How Great Thou Art" is just such a small, yet appropriate praise, to the God who not only gave Himself up for you, but has a plan for you, after this life soon fades away.

As

"As", by Stevie Wonder, focuses on love that is thought to be never-ending; however, even the strongest earthly bonds of love cannot compare to the agape love of our Heavenly Father. His love is an unconditional love that surpasses all understanding.

Want a Man

"Want a Man" is a piece that was written about the personal standards I have when it comes to a settling down with a man one day, and about the road that led me to raise these standards. Wanting one that pursues me and loves his momma, but most importantly, who loves Jesus above all else…that is the standard!

In Jesus Name

We live in a broken world, a place where there is suffering and hardship. As humans, there are limitations to changing our circumstances and because of this life often feels hopeless. But we serve an all-powerful God, one who is in the storm with us. "In Jesus Name" (God of Possible) is a song that truly encompasses the mighty works of prayer in our walks with the Lord. It is a song that prays over the lives of anyone going through a trial, begging the Lord for a breakthrough. Allow this song to encourage you; He is working for His glory and your good. Proverbs 18:10 brings this assurance, "The name of the Lord is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe."

Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child

At first listen, "Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child" is bleak – and it is, but there is much power in that repeated "sometimes." In the midst of a tragic fallen world, especially given the dark historic roots of the song, how is it that one can find respite from desolation and mournfulness when it feels the end is nowhere in sight? How is it that this feeling is only "sometimes?" That sounds like peace that transcends all understanding, and we know where that comes from. This song is not one of hopelessness. It is a song that recognizes tragedy but does not bow to it. It is a song that knows there is peace despite circumstance, even if it sometimes feels otherwise. Philippians 4:6-7 states, *"And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

Flesh and Bone

When the Lord called me to study music in college, I was convinced I wasn't good enough. But He reminded me that He does not call the equipped. He equips the called. That does not mean we automatically avoid failure, though! I've been reminded of that firsthand this year, especially while learning the techniques I'll be sharing with you tonight. God faithfully strengthens us during failure though so we can keep growing and running onward into His calling on our lives. This is Flesh and Bone by Sammy Rae. This is an important truth, *"*No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us." Philippians 3:13-14.

Rise Up

If you have lived through hard times and seasons of discouragement, you are in good company. We all go through these moments, and they look different for each one of us; however, I believe God gives us the strength to keep going, even when we feel like we have nothing left. Romans 5:3-4 clarifies*, "*We also boast in our afflictions, because we know that affliction produces endurance, endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope."

The Heart Won't Lie

Come along and step back in time with me to enjoy this country ballad that climbed to #1 on Billboard Hot Country in 1993. "The Heart Won't Lie," recorded originally by Reba McEntire and Vince Gill, paints a picture that will pull on your heart strings a little as you witness the realization of feelings, yet not knowing exactly how to handle them. Some songs tell a story, while others speak straight to the heart. This one reminds us that the heart will always reveal how it truly feels.

- PROGRAM NOTES -

Defying Gravity

Everyone knows the song “Defying Gravity” and the story that comes with it. While the song mentions the main character believing in herself to accomplish great things -as believer, we put our confidence in the Lord. As believers, our everything is for the Lord and His for glory. Colossians 3:23 says “in everything you do, do it unto the Lord wholeheartedly and not unto man”. Now get ready as I take you along a reimagined pop rock version of the popular Broadway song, Defying Gravity.

Liberty University School of Music Upcoming Events

Honors Recital	*Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Concert Hall* Wed, Nov 18, 5:30 PM
Jazz Combos	*Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Instrumental Room M160* Thurs, Nov 19, 7:30 PM
***Christmas on the Boulevard: POPS**	*Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Concert Hall* Thurs, Dec 3, 7:30 PM
***Christmas on the Boulevard: CLASSIC**	*Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Concert Hall* Tues, Dec 8, 7:30 PM
Opera: L'elisir d'amore	*Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Concert Hall* January 28-30, 7:00 PM
Opera: L'elisir d'amore	*Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Concert Hall* Sun, Jan 31, 2:00 PM

****Ticketed Event.** Tickets can be purchased at **www.liberty.edu/tickets**.*

We would like to thank the
Liberty University Administration for
their faithful support of the School of Music.

Dr. Dondi Costin, President
Dr. Stephen Müller, Dean, School of Music
The School of Music Administration, Faculty, and Staff

LIBERTY
UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL *of* MUSIC