# Liberty University School of Music

*presents*

## *Student Recital Series*

# Junior Recital

## Mason Lancaster, *guitar*

**December 10, 2026**
**Macel Falwell Recital Hall**
**MUSIC 305**
**5:30 PM**

# STUDENT RECITAL SERIES: JUNIOR RECITAL

Mason Lancaster, *guitar*
Charlie Vandebark, *drum set*
Jacob Charles, *electric bass*
Colby Bennett, *supporting guitar*

## *Program*

| | |
|---|---|
| Gravity | John Mayer<br>(b. 1977) |
| Queen Of California | John Mayer<br>(b. 1977) |
| Autumn Leaves | Joseph Kosma<br>(1927-1994) |
| Jersey Bounce | Tiny Bradshaw<br>(1905-1958) |
| All Of Me | Gerald Marks<br>(1900-1997) |
| Slow Dancing In A Burning Room | John Mayer<br>(b. 1977) |
| Purple Rain | Prince<br>(1958-2016) |

# - PROGRAM NOTES -

**Gravity**

"Gravity" was written and composed by John Mayer, who was born in 1977 and is still living. Mayer is an American singer, songwriter, and guitarist who is strongly influenced by blues, rock, and soul. He wrote both the music and lyrics for "Gravity." The lyrics are about feeling pulled toward negative things in life and trying to stay grounded. The John Mayer Trio first performed the song, and it appeared on their 2005 live album Try! It was later recorded for Mayer's 2006 album Continuum. Mayer's blues influences can be heard in his guitar playing, slow groove, and emotional vocals. The song blends blues, rock, and soul.

**Queen of California**

"Queen of California" by John Mayer is a laid-back, reflective song about leaving behind a familiar place and moving toward something new. The song follows a narrator who seems caught between nostalgia and excitement about starting over, using California as a symbol of freedom, change, and a fresh beginning. Its mellow acoustic sound, relaxed groove, and soulful guitar work create a warm, almost dreamlike feeling that matches the song's themes of travel, growth, and searching for something better. Overall, the song feels like a personal journey of letting go of what is comfortable and embracing whatever comes next.

**Autumn Leaves**

"Autumn Leaves" originally began as a French song called "Les Feuilles mortes." Joseph Kosma (1905–1969) composed the music, while Jacques Prévert (1900–1977) wrote the original French lyrics. Johnny Mercer (1909–1976) later wrote the English lyrics. The song was first connected to the 1946 French film Les Portes de la nuit and was performed by artists including Yves Montand. The English version became popular in the United States and was recorded by many jazz musicians. Influenced by French classical and European music, the song became an important jazz standard. Famous recordings include versions by Frank Sinatra, Miles Davis, Cannonball Adderley, and Eva Cassidy. Its style blends jazz ballad and French chanson.

**All of Me**

The jazz standard "All of Me" was written in 1931 by Gerald Marks (1900–1997) and Seymour Simons (1896–1949). Both writers were American songwriters and composers. Belle Baker first performed the song in 1931. Baker had recently lost her husband, which made the emotional lyrics especially meaningful to her during the performance. The lyrics are about giving yourself completely to someone you love, even after a painful breakup. The song comes from early 1930s jazz and popular music and uses a common song structure from that period. Important recordings include versions by Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday, Frank Sinatra, and Willie Nelson. Today, "All of Me" is considered a classic jazz standard and swing-era song.

# - PROGRAM NOTES (CONT.) -

**Jersey Bounce**

"Jersey Bounce" is an upbeat 1941 jazz standard with a lively swing feel and a strong, danceable rhythm. The song centers on a catchy melody and energetic horn parts, giving it a fun, playful character that fits the big band style of the time. It became especially popular through recordings by artists like Benny Goodman and other swing-era musicians. Overall, the song captures the excitement of the swing era with its fast-moving rhythm, memorable melody, and energetic ensemble sound.

**Slow Dancing in a Burning Room**

"Slow Dancing in a Burning Room" was written and composed by John Mayer, born in 1977 and still living. Mayer wrote both the music and lyrics for the song, which was released on his 2006 album Continuum. The lyrics use the image of two people slow-dancing in a burning room to describe a relationship falling apart. The song draws on blues and classic rock, especially in Mayer's electric guitar playing. The original recording appeared on Continuum, and Mayer has also performed the song live many times. His live versions often give him more room to show his guitar skills. The song is mainly a blues-rock and soft-rock ballad.

**Purple Rain**

"Purple Rain" was written and composed by Prince Rogers Nelson (1958–2016). Prince was an American singer, songwriter, guitarist, and producer who mixed many styles, including rock, funk, soul, and R&B. He wrote both the music and lyrics for the song, which was created for the 1984 movie and album Purple Rain. The lyrics are emotional and explore love, loss, and the desire to make things right. Prince first performed the song publicly at a benefit concert in Minneapolis in 1983. That performance helped shape the version later used in the movie and on the album. The song combines rock, soul, R&B, and gospel influences, especially through its powerful guitar solo and emotional vocals. It became one of Prince's most famous songs and is considered a signature performance.



First and foremost, thank you, Jesus, for placing the calling of music on my life; thank you for always taking me exactly where I need to go and for getting me there, right on time; thank you for making me earn it. A big thank you to my family, who have been incredibly supportive and encouraging through this journey. Thank you to my friends for playing this show and for making it one to remember. Thank you, Dr. Cooper, for tirelessly working with me over the past four years; you have always believed in me, and I have not taken that for granted.

Mason Lancaster is a student of Dr. Keith Cooper.

*This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Music in Commercial Music: Recording Engineering and Producing Concentration degree.*

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

Dr. Dondi Costin, President
Dr. Scott Hicks, Provost and Chief Academic Officer
Dr. Stephen Müller, Dean, School of Music
The School of Music Administration, Faculty, and Staff

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