

Memory Maze Premiere Show December 7th, 2016



Argentina

1. Medialuna
2. Floralis
3. Balada de Buenos Aires
4. Memory Maze
5. Laberinto



Spain

6. La Puerta de Segura
7. Olivos
8. Barcelona Tango-Rag

Intermission

9. Ojos de Ballena
10. Regreso



Colorado

11. Memory Haze
12. Kyeone
13. Rhapsody in Love



My Memory Maze compositions can be described as a musical journal detailing pivotal life experiences. Much like mazes, my pieces have twists and turns throughout intricate passages. Many of my songs are designed like a puzzle, becoming increasingly challenging throughout, but with a solution at the end.

The journey of Memory Maze begins in Buenos Aires, where I recorded my first album, *Tango y Folklore Argentino*, a project that delved into traditional Argentine music. I have incorporated many of those beautiful influences in my music for this second album.

Medialuna, a move where two tango dancers switch places with each other, is reminiscent of the Milongas, or tango clubs, of Buenos Aires. **Floralis** is named after the *Floralis Genérica*, a giant mechanical flower sculpture in Buenos Aires that breathtakingly opens its six petals at sunrise, and closes them at sunset. The next song, **Balada de Buenos Aires**, opens with a passionate bandoneón solo, often leaving me with goose bumps as this wind instrument fades away to the contrasting entrance of the strings: violin, cello and double bass.

The theme song, **Memory Maze**, explores different stages of my grief process when my close friend died, leaving me with an indescribable emptiness. **Laberinto** explores an African-influenced left hand rhythm, and represents my journey out of grief.

Venturing to the south of Spain, the song, **La Puerta de Segura**, is the name of a small town that is a sparkling gem of energy - that is, before and after the daily afternoon siesta. This region of Spain is famous for their manufacturing of olive oil. **Olivos**, played on an electric piano, depicts the dreamy sensation of witnessing endless lines of olive trees coating the Sierra de Segura mountain range of southern Spain.

My time spent in northern Spain welcomes new musical influences, such as Spanish classical composer Isaac Albéniz, in a fusion with Scott Joplin's genre of ragtime. **Barcelona Tango-Rag** is upbeat and lively, telling the adventure of a day in the life of an international coastal city where Gaudi's magical architecture truly inspires the creative thinker.

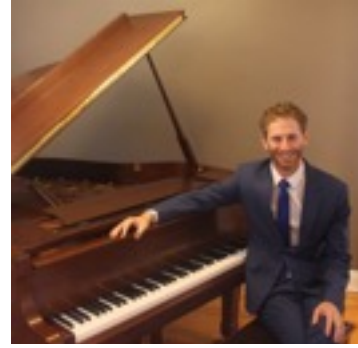
In **Ojos de Ballena**, I tell the story of my own heart mending from the tumultuous adventures of my early twenties, and the calming sensation of being able to reflect on my past. **Regreso**, or the "return", tells the universal story of that bittersweet moment in life when one chapter has ended and another has begun. The music shifts often between key signatures, and between major and minor, depicting the ups and downs of our sentiments through change.

My return home to Colorado includes **Memory Haze**, where I envision snowflakes lightly falling across the Rocky Mountains, as the right hand plays staccato over a sustaining pedal. **Kyeone**, the middle name of my fiancé Shawn, tells the story of our relationship, and **Rhapsody in Love** expresses the fluttering of the heart as it begins to fall in love - an experience deserving of its own song indeed.

I believe only half of my music is composed, while the other half is simply relayed from my heart to the piano. This project began on weeknight evenings, decompressing from my long days of work in the field of education. I composed all of these pieces over a four-year period until one day I decided I wanted to share these musical stories with the world.

If I can declare only one goal, it is that my music gives you the opportunity to reflect on your own memories. I hope that you, too, will give life to your cherished moments and share them in your own form of expression.

-Ben Raznick



Ben Raznick composed *Memory Maze* over a four year period before recording his album in Barcelona, Spain with international artists. The music reflects where Ben has lived in his 20s, telling a story of his own memories that are musically influenced by the regions he lived in.



Dorian Kincaid has been a member of the Colorado Symphony since 1995. She holds degrees from Indiana University School of Music and the Cleveland Institute of Music, where she was awarded the Jerome C. Gross Prize in Violin.



Jeremy Kincaid has been a member of the Colorado Symphony bass section since 2001. Jeremy received his Bachelor's degree in music performance from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, where he won the prestigious double bass concerto competition.



Dianne Betkowski plays cello regularly as a guest musician for the Colorado Symphony. At Boston University, she and the other members of her string quartet were featured in a composition masterclass presented by Leonard Bernstein, playing her "Movement for String Quartet."



Evan Orman has studied tango music and the bandoneón in Buenos Aires through a grant from Tango Colorado and plays in his Denver-based group, Extasis. Evan has performed as a soloist for the Colorado Symphony, among many other national symphonies.