

Fall 2022

Things I Never Told You

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Bard College

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Recommended Citation

Battle, Ayanna, "Things I Never Told You" (2022). *Senior Projects Fall 2022*. 21.
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Things I Never Told You

Senior Project submitted to

The Division of Arts

of Bard College

by

Ayanna Battle

Annandale-on-Hudson, New York

December 2022

Artist Statement

I had a very interesting experience studying composition at Bard. The year that I was supposed to moderate into composition was the year that COVID hit; and because of COVID, I spent the next two of my four years at Bard studying remotely, 15 hours away in Atlanta, Ga. Though I was still able to study composition with Joan Tower through weekly virtual meetings, I never experienced the “rites of passage” that a typical young composer experiences. I never had to search for musicians to play my pieces for a moderation concert; I never had to analyze the different schedules of musicians to be able to find a rehearsal time that works for everyone; I just added all of my scores and their relative MIDI versions to an organized google folder named “MODERATION” and pressed send. And for the next semester, I just continued to study composition with Joan while taking all of my classes online. When I returned to Bard for my fourth year- after studying remotely for 3 semesters and taking a semester off- I had no idea what I was supposed to be doing in the community as a student composer.

This concert, “*Things I Never Told You*”, is the first project that I have had such a hands-on role in creating since making my return to the real world, or at least the world that is Bard College. The collection of pieces that were performed in my concert are pieces that were either composed during my time studying in Atlanta or during my first semester back at Bard when I may as well have still been studying in Atlanta considering the lack of human interaction I experienced with other people in the music department outside of my weekly meetings with my advisor, Kyle. Because this was the first time I was putting on a concert of my own, I was just hoping to get a group of people to play my pieces at a certain place at a certain time. Studying remotely robbed me of the opportunity of attending or participating in student showcases, so

when it was time to organize a showcase of my own, I didn't know where to start. I just figured that if music was being played, then my job was done.

I eventually settled on the concert title "*Things I Never Told You*" because a lot of the pieces on the program were never performed live or in a concert where I played an active role since I was so far away; so this "debut" of my music is more of like a catching up of things I never got to put out there, things I never said.

Things I Never Told You

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3RD, 2022 AT 5 PM
CONSERVATORY PERFORMANCE SPACE (CPS)

INSTRUMENTALISTS

CLEMENS HENNING	FLUTE
ANGEL RUIZ ARAUJO	TRUMPET
VIGIL BRANDON	TRUMPET
AMEYA NATARAJAN	TROMBONE
ALBERTO FLORES	FRENCH HORN
ZANDER GRIER	TUBA
NALIN MYOUNG	VIOLIN
YIDA AN	VIOLIN
ROWAN SWAIN	VIOLA
SARAH MARTIN	CELLO
MOISES ARTEAGA	BASS
NIELSON CHEN	PIANO

PROGRAM

SOMETHING ABOUT A CHASE (2021)

INTRODUCTION, MOVEMENT I

VIGIL BRANDON, ANGEL RUIZ ARAUJO, ALBERTO FLORES,
AMEYA NATARAJAN, ZANDER GRIER

ANXIETY (2021)

NALIN MYOUNG, YIDA AN, ROWAN SWAIN, SARAH MARTIN, MOISES ARTEAGA

TREACHERY (2021)

CLEMENS HENNING, ROWAN SWAIN, NALIN MYOUNG,
SARAH MARTIN, NEILSON CHEN

GLIMPSE OF US ARR. (2022)

SONG BY JOJI (2022)

YIDA AN, SARAH MARTIN, NEILSON CHEN

SAFETY BLANKET (2021)

NALIN MYOUNG, YIDA AN, ROWAN SWAIN, SARAH MARTIN, MOISES ARTEAGA

PROGRAM NOTES

SOMETHING ABOUT A CHASE

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN A SITUATION WHERE YOU TRULY HAD NO IDEA WHAT THE REALITY OF A SITUATION WAS? WHERE EVERY ANSWER TO EVERY QUESTION YOU ASKED LED TO EVEN MORE QUESTIONS? LIKE YOU'RE ALWAYS GOING TO BE SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS? YEAH...

ANXIETY

THIS IS WHAT MY BRAIN AND STOMACH FEEL LIKE EVERY DAY AS SOMEONE WITH ANXIETY.

TREACHERY

THIS PIECE IS ABOUT BEING BETRAYED BY A CLOSE FRIEND.

GLIMPSE OF US BY JOJI

"GLIMPSE OF US" IS A SONG BY JAPANESE ARTIST JOJI. ON THE TRACK, JOJI COMPARES HIS CURRENT RELATIONSHIP TO THE CONNECTION HE FELT WITH A PAST LOVER, UNABLE TO FORGET THE FEELINGS HE HAD IN HIS PAST WHILE WITH HIS CURRENT PARTNER.

SAFETY BLANKET

WE ALL HAVE HAD (OR STILL HAVE) A BLANKIE OR STUFFED ANIMAL FROM OUR CHILDHOOD THAT BROUGHT US IMMENSE COMFORT GROWING UP. I STILL HAVE A STUFFED ANIMAL THAT MY DAD GAVE ME ON A ROADTRIP WHEN I WAS 8, AND I REFUSE TO GET RID OF IT BECAUSE OF HOW SAFE IT MAKES ME FEEL. I FEEL THE SAME SAFETY WITH A NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT I MET AND FRIENDS THAT I MADE HERE AT BARD. THIS PIECE IS INSPIRED BY THEM.

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

AYANNA BATTLE (B. 2000) IS A BASSOONIST AND COMPOSER FROM ATLANTA, GEORGIA. SHE IS A POSSE SCHOLAR CURRENTLY WORKING TO EARN HER BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN MUSIC COMPOSITION AT BARD COLLEGE, STUDYING BASSOON WITH CORNELIA MCGIVER AND COMPOSITION WITH KYLE GANN, JOAN TOWER, GEORGE TSONTAKIS. SHE HAS PERFORMED ON SEVERAL STAGES INCLUDING THOSE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA'S JANFEST, THE GEORGIA MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE, AND TROYFEST, THE TROY MUSICAL FESTIVAL.

IN ATLANTA, AYANNA VOLUNTEERS TO WORK WITH YOUNG BASSOONISTS AND FLUTISTS IN THE JEAN CHILDS YOUNG MIDDLE SCHOOL SYMPHONIC BAND AND BENJAMIN E. MAYS HIGH SCHOOL WIND SYMPHONY. SHE HOPES TO GET HER MASTER'S DEGREE IN EDUCATION SO THAT SHE CAN CONTINUE COMPOSING WHILE ALSO GIVING PEOPLE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE MUSIC SHAPE THEIR LIVES AS MUCH AS IT HAS HERS.