**Sarah Heath Program Notes and Song Descriptions**

**“Comparison”**

I wrote “Comparison” over the course of a month, writing a verse whenever my insecurities would flare up, trying to process the complex emotions of growing up and pursuing a highly competitive and uncertain occupation. I recognized that my insecurities and doubts were holding me in a metaphorical grave, keeping me from walking in the freedom of the gifts and opportunities the Lord has placed in front of me. I wanted to keep the song very simple instrumentally and keep the focus on the complexity of the feelings in the lyrics. I wanted to invite Christ into the conversation with the lyrical shift at the bridge, because it felt false to close the song with a resolution to the story since I was not living one but did not want to leave it completely hopeless either. The song ends inviting Christ to move the stone holding me in the grave, referencing the angel’s actions in Matthew 28:2-4, and the accompaniment ends on the 4, not quite resolving but not quite holding dissonance, simply resting in between.

**“Songs I Didn’t Write”**

 “Songs I Didn’t Write” is a song I wrote about two years ago, when I was really struggling with mental illness, and was having difficulty putting my emotions into words. Most of the music I had written up to that point was mainly “bubblegum pop,” or musical theater, and this was one of my first attempts to really incorporate more complex chords into my writing to communicate the complex thoughts I wanted to convey. With lots of mixed seventh chords and other extensions, unexpected minors, and delayed resolutions, this piece musically reflects the tension of that season of life as well as the text and creates that longing for some sort of relief from the push and pull of the progression. The lyrics of the bridge are my favorite part of the song, because if the audience listens closely, part of each lyrical line has been pulled from one of the “songs I didn’t write” in that season that I held onto, pieced together into what the song is trying to say. There is a depth to the text and the music, and it offers the opportunity for the audience to connect in a way they did not expect if they listen closely.