Entertainers - A senior concert by Gabriel DeSanto

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When I first began the Music Department at Bard I was primarily working in the realm of electronically induced compositions, heavily reliant on digital software as means to dictate my music's sonic qualities. Like many millennials with access to computers, I was seduced by the infinite possibilities that this could provide. I became reliant on the abundance of digital effects that digital music programs provide, allowing my craft to become dependent on what was living on the other side of the screen. While these electronic based musical techniques can lead to many interesting sonic voyages and abstract compositions, I found that I lost meaning with the endless options for sound manipulation. I eventually became unattached to these sounds that were crafted through my computers keyboard, unable to truly feel there resonances and original origins. My compositions were often dense, leaving little space for the sounds to actually develop there own unique spacial relationship. Although I have strayed away from this technique of making music I believe that I learned many important ideas about from this method and it has led me to the work I am producing currently.

While I was making more abstract and experiential compositions, I always found great emotional power in the structure of pop music. I began by returning to compositions written for acoustic instruments, allowing my pieces to become more reliant on my choices as a composer, ultimately being more cathartic and feeling more attached to me. Although sonically the pieces I have been writing are experimental, they often contain pop sensibilities. With my senior project concert “Entertainers” I
wanted to deconstruct the pop music structure, expanding on these familiar elements while incorporating experimental and abstract musical ideas. My project revolves around the idea of entertainment and how it has the ability to transport its audience to another place through the performers craft itself. My project is dedicated to all of the entertainers who provide an escape from our everyday mundane lives, bringing us to a new world, even if just for that brief moment. The experience of creating a senior project has been a huge learning experience, giving me the confidence to feel like I can be in full control of a creative endeavor and ultimately be in charge of directing its final outcome. While my senior project is coming to a close, I feel like I am just beginning to reach a place where I am becoming more developed in expanding the pop music format and bringing it to new places.