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COLLEGE OF MUSIC 2025-26 EVENTS



College of Music

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

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*Photo credit: Owen Zhou.*

# Faculty Tuesdays

## Stratøs: Live at Grusin Hall

**Stratøs**, tenor saxophone, EWI 4000s and effects

Julia Moffa, vocals and effects

Solomon Chapman, piano and keys

Will Gaines, electric bass

Matt Cambell, drums

Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026, 7:30 p.m.

Grusin Music Hall

## PROGRAM

### Character Select

Stratøs (b. 1996)

### Primordial

Stratøs

### II. Heavenly Virtues

Stratøs

### MmmHmm

Flying Lotus (b. 1983)

*Julia Moffa, vocals and effects*

### Point Nemo

Stratøs

*Julia Moffa, vocals and effects*

# Wretched Egg

Stratøs

*Julia Moffa, vocals and effects*

## PROGRAM NOTES

### Character Select

Stratøs (b. 1996)

*Character Select* (2021) is a short piece that explores the feelings of nostalgia and liminality felt in between the matches of an early-2000's fighting game for the PlayStation 2. Before downloadable content was a normal component found in most video games, players built culture around examining and investigating all angles and possibilities that could be found in-game. The relationship between developer and the elements players interacted with during gameplay was rooted in spontaneity and mystery. One could immerse themselves within the world of the game even by letting it run idly. The soundtrack, animation loops of the characters, their designs—all contributed to creating these liminal moments that leave a subtle, but unshakeable impression on the mind.

### Primordial

Stratøs

“Primordial,” (2023) the opening movement of Stratøs’ forthcoming studio release *Challenger Deep*—a 10-movement work for electronic chamber orchestra—immediately foreshadows the project’s heavily oceanic themes with its reference to our early beginnings as organisms migrating from our aquatic homes to dry land. As somewhat of a response to his space-themed debut LP *Planets*, *Challenger Deep* investigates some of the deeper issues

modern society faces through a particular lens. The composer's late grandfather Edward Codrington was a fisherman from Barbados in the early 20th century. His unique status as a master of his craft with a rare motorized vessel gave him access to waters that other fishermen couldn't venture into. In the vein of Dante Alighieri's *The Divine Comedy*, Stratøs intends to use this motif to tell a story where Codrington descends from the surface of the sea all the way down to the "Challenger Deep," the lowest part of Earth's deepest ocean, the Mariana Trench. His journey will be the catalyst for Stratøs to explore themes ranging from the effects of climate change, the mysterious contents of Earth's oceans, to the fates of enslaved African people whose bodies never made it to the Americas and beyond.

## II. Heavenly Virtues

Stratøs

From his 2022 chamber-jazz LP *Hohenheim Suites*, "II. Heavenly Virtues" sits as the second movement of the second suite from the work. The subject of the project, Van Hohenheim from Hiromu Arakawa's legendary graphic novel *Fullmetal Alchemist* (2001), is deeply intertwined with a being known as the Dwarf in the Flask, who is later simply called "Father." The tragic fate that initially brought them together is the same fate that plagues Hohenheim 500 years later, now a reluctant god incapable of death.

Because of Father, the only other being who shares his immortal perspective, Hohenheim's small but resonant presence in the story focuses on the internal struggle one endures when discovering harmfully taught traits they may carry and the path needed to advance past them.

## MmmHmm

Flying Lotus (b. 1983)

*MmmHmm* is the 9th track from the legendary 2010 LP *Cosmogramma* by critically acclaimed American producer and composer Flying Lotus. The greater canon of repertoire from the book of Black American Music has grown to include Hip Hop in the past 50 years, thus giving a new perspective on what “standard jazz repertoire” is and can be. As the first and second generations of producer/instrumentalists enter the purview of the Black American Music scene, new stories with new textures and aesthetics completely unique to them emerge, just as it was with previous generations. Flying Lotus sits as one of the progenitors heralding the evolution from the classic Kung Fu film-inspired artists from the Wu-Tang Clan generation to the current manga/anime inspired generation.

## Point Nemo

Stratøs

“Point Nemo” (2024) is the 8th movement of Stratøs’ forthcoming studio release *Challenger Deep*. The piece is a reference to the real-world latitudinal/longitudinal coordinate “Point nemo” found in the South Pacific Ocean. Known as the most remote location on Earth, Point Nemo serves as a graveyard for space crafts due to the fact that it is 1,670 miles from its nearest island, making it closer in distance to the International Space Station. The profound fear and anxiety one might feel from experiencing isolation at this level mirrors Black peoples’ historically violent relationship with water. From the Black American neighborhoods that still reside buried underneath public lakes and rivers to the laws that barred them from public pools, “Point Nemo” and *Challenger Deep* invite

the listener to explore the idea that deeper levels of subjugation have and currently exist, and could be the very elements that make up large parts of our culture.

## **Wretched Egg**

*Wretched Egg* (2021) is from Stratøs' collection of works as a producer and beatmaker. With the title being a reference to the 2007 manga series *Deadman Wonderland*, and the lyrics being a quote from pianist and composer Thelonious Monk, this piece exists as one of the starting points Stratøs made when beginning to define his world-building compositional style. Finding a space for all of his interests to exist developed itself as a rich sonic and visual ecosystem where style and impression become tangible elements the audience can deeply engage with.

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The Drowsy Chaperone (2023).  
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