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Artist's Statement
SAFA Summer Fellowship

Furman's Autumn

Music has an emotion, whether someone may use their god given instruments or man-made instruments. Whatever the case may be, there is a distinct sound that comes from that person to express that this is you. As I Researched Gabriel Furman's diaries concerning nature, I came across Gabriel furmans passion for autumn. Some insightful words used by Furman to describe autumn were sweet, bitter, subtle, grand, and humble. He also uses phrases such as "the spell of autumn" and "the delight of life" to give an interpretation of autumn to readers. While reading his views I took counsel within myself saying, "what if his words were to be transferred musically how does his autumn sounds?" Then in that moment I realized that there is no other song that can give a better representation of Furman's autumn then the famous jazz tune "Autumn leaves" translated by Johnny mercer in 1947. Musicians such as Erroll Garner, Nat "king" Cole, and Bill Evans gave renditions of this song either singing or playing it while they added their own interpretation and musical feel so that they created their autumn. You had Erroll garner giving autumn its grand and humble feel by starting of as a soft ballad while bill Evans had given autumn a cool "bop" feel. In the jazz musical world in the 40s& 50s, there was a major transition in music from jazz swing to bop &modern jazz; similar to Gabriel Furmans experiencing industrial transition going on in Brooklyn in his time. I agree with Furmans views on autumn. Autumn is a funny transitional season dividing the hot enjoyable summer and the cold &drifty winter. Just as there are so many musical styles that influence interpretations of autumn, the season has different styles of weather. For Furman's excitement of autumn, I have decided to give my interpretation of autumn musically by playing my rendition of autumn leaves. The best way in my opinion is to play as a ballad just so that and understanding of the medley and the autumn feel can sink

in to the ears of the audience. The grand and humble style can help to speak to autumn as if it were physical. This also represents more so of Furman time period with a little modern jazz chords to show a middle ground between the ending classical style in Furman's time and the entrance of bop.