Mason Percussion

New Literature Showcase Concert

Percussive Arts Society International Convention

Thursday November 10th, 2016

4PM Indianapolis Convention Center

John Kilkenny, Director of Percussion Studies

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

presents:

Mason Percussion

New Literature Session
2016 Percussive Arts Society International Convention
Thursday November 10th, 2016 4PM
Indianapolis Convention Center

**Burst……Michael Burritt

* Triangles in the shape of a square……Matthew McBane

^ Aqua Vitae……Stephen Gorbos

Knocking on Wood……Tyler Eshendal

**Second Wind……Victor Provost

+Forest who Speaks in Dreams……Ruben Ramirez Diaz

**Prime……Kays Ishaq

Pulses, Cycles, Clouds……Nico Muhly

* excerpt performed - for a full recording visit Mason percussion on FB
** world premiere, composed for Mason Percussion
+US Premiere
^consortium premiere, commissioned by Mason Percussion

Program

All notes provided by the composers. Personal notes provided in italics

Burst

Burst is based on material that I toyed with for a potential solo work. I thought the nature of the music would create a virtuosic platform for the ensemble and evoke a canvas of brilliant and colorful sounds. The title says it all, an infusion of energy from start to finish. It was an honor to write for John and his terrific percussion ensemble from George Mason University.

Michael Burritt is Artist in Residence at George Mason University for the 2016-2017 academic year. When discussing our PASIC program, I thought it would be great to get a short, quick piece to start the program. Something exciting, energetic, dynamic….Kind of like Michael. I am thrilled with how it came out - the work itself serves as a technical and musical showpiece, with great audience appeal.

Triangle in the shape of a square

McBane calls for four slightly differently sized triangles, one to a player. *His exploration was so clever and delightful that I could have easily listened to 10 minutes more." -Christian Hertzog, San Diego Union Tribune*. A new piece for triangle quartet (not a joke!) 'Triangles in the Shape of a Square' written for the So Percussion Summer Institute and premiered by Austin Ferguson, Tony Kirk, Adriano Macciocchi and Lindsay Vasko on July 17, 2016. West Coast premiere by Los Angeles Percussion Quartet took place on August 27, 2016.

Aqua Vitae

I first met percussionist Colin Hill when he was a graduate student at the University of Kentucky, conducting their percussion group in my ensemble piece *Push*. I of course could not resist touring a few of my favorite bourbon distilleries while spending time around Lexington and Louisville. Thinking back on that trip while beginning this new piece, I developed a timbral palette that was inspired by the bourbon distillation and aging process: copper pipes and other ringing metals, water, and wood all found their way into my choices of instruments. Even the chemistry of distillation proved to be useful fodder: the presentation and exchange of oxygen, carbon, and hydrogen atoms at various stages in bourbon making helped me to generate pitches, harmonies, and chord sequences. *Aqua Vitae*, Latin for water *of life*, was a term broadly applied across the Roman Empire to any locally produced distilled spirit. Much like one telling a story while imbibing, I make no claims to presenting a straightforward narrative. My piece is intended merely as a meditation on this centuries-old tradition

Knocking on Wood

A Percussion quartet for resonant wood slats and blocks, featuring two common elements of my music: a constant driving pulse and the additive/subtractive process. The quartet was originally written in 2013, and revised the following year for a choreographer showcase at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music with live performers sharing the stage with four dancers. This rhythmic dance music navigates through various layered passages and explores different timbres of wood, with the purpose of giving choreographers and lighting designers the freedom to explore both soloistic and unified movements.

Second Wind

This composition for percussion quartet (2 marimbas, 2 vibraphones) and steelpan soloist is idiomatic, largely tonal, and based heavily on a single melodic shape, derived from a wind chime at my parent's home in St. John. The piece can be divided into 5 sections each with a distinct color and character, and showcases the timbral versatility of the "Low G Tenor Pan" by utilizing multiple parts of the playing surface, extended performance techniques, novel implements, and multiple mallets.

Personal note: Victor Provost may be one of the smartest musicians I've ever met. I am honored that he wrote for Mason Percussion, I hope he will consider doing so again. ***Check him out in performance with his own band on Saturday November 12th in room 120***

Forest who speaks in Dreams

This piece is the story of the nature, and the forest itself, told it's own eyes. The beginning offers an atmosphere that simulates some sounds of nature. The beginning sections emulate the birth of the forest, and various melodic percussion themes emerging from the opening texture. The opening section culminates in the forest showing all of its forms, and being fully "born". Next, the forest is invaded by humans and cries out in anguish. Sounds of machines and destruction permeate this section of the work. After a calm interlude (highlighted by melodic writing in the bells and vibes), the forest begins to rebuild. The singing is meant to be hopeful, and lead to the eventual rebirth of the forest.

I heard this piece while on tour in Costa Rica, doing site visits for the International teaching Scholars program at George Mason University. One of my goals for this program was to bring new music from other parts of the world, and I cannot think of a better work to showcase a developing percussion ensemble.

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Prime

The Collatz conjecture states that for any given positive integer, repeating a certain process will always result in a sequence reaching the number 1. The process is relatively simple; if the number is even, divide by two, and if the number is odd, multiply by three and add one. No counter-examples have been found to prove the conjecture false, but no one has been able to prove that it holds true for all integers.

Prime graphs this process as a musical score; each measure corresponds to a spoken number, with each syllable mapped to an instrument. Sequences are mapped out for all starting numbers up to 100; even though the starting values are relatively small, the piece reaches numbers as high as 9,232. Two or more players can start from arbitrary, distinct points in the score (in this performance determined by dice roll from 1 to 100) and will take coinciding journeys to the same destination as disparate sequences merge onto the same paths, and as linguistic patterns make themselves apparent through the repetitive rhythms of numbers.

Pulses, Cycles, Clouds

Nico Muhly's latest percussion work, Pulses, Cycles, Clouds, is a piece for large mixed percussion ensemble written for the 50th anniversary of the Boston University Tanglewood Institute. At its core is a group of four marimbas, surrounded by various bells and other mallet instruments; unpitched instruments here are primarily played by an ensemble of amateur percussionists, namely, composers. The piece obsesses over a cycle of eleven chords, introduced slowly through the beginning of the piece. Each chord is announced by a large vertical moment with bells, vibraphone, and a sudden shift in tonality. The four marimbas then relax into a series of soft interlocking patterns, over which an ensemble of glockenspiels and crotales plays a simple rhythm in a complex relationship to the other instruments. Eventually, the pulse disintegrates entirely, into a vision of a night sky: insects, unexpected interruptions — a walk around a quiet landscape. Eventually, the pulse returns, but nocturnally subdued. The piece is meant to echo, in its way, the thrill of community music-making, the joy of sharing a pulse, and the various connections both rhythmic and interpersonal I made at BUTI two decades ago.

Mason Percussion

Kanako Chikami (*Osaka, Japan*) began studying marimba at the age of three and has won many awards in international competitions. Kanako is also a passionate chamber musician, and has collaborated and studied with some of the most prestigious performers in the field. She has attended the Cortona Sessions for New Music (Tuscany, Italy) in 2015, Neue Eutiner Festspiele (Eutin, Germany) in 2013, and So Percussion Summer Institute and Chosen Vale in 2011. She earned a B.M. degree from Osaka College of Music in 2008, a M.M. degree at the University of Kansas, and she is currently working towards a DMA degree at the George Mason University, where she serves as the assistant director of Mason Percussion and teaches percussion methods for music education students. Kanako is also the newly appointed professor of percussion at the Sunderman Conservatory of Music in Gettysburg College.

Dakota Kaylor (*Blairsville, PA*) Dakota Kaylor is Graduate Music performance major. He received his BM in music education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Now based in Northern Virginia, He teaches at Mclean high school and is the assistant director for the Vienna Jammers percussion ensemble. He is an active performer with various groups in the DC area. Outside of music, he is an amateur runner.

Hayden Busby (*Virginia Beach, VA*) is a freshman music performance major. He enjoys running and eating Indian food (not that the same time) and aspires to be a professional timpanist.

Phil Drembus (Fairfax, VA**)** is a freshman music performance major. When he is not practicing he enjoy playing music with my brother and father.

Cory Hailey (*Stafford, VA*) is a freshman music education major. Through both music, and photography, he is able convey the feelings that my words cannot.

Kendell Haywood (*Fairfax, VA*) is a sophomore music performance major. An active performer and educator in the NOVA area, he enjoys playing in his own rock band, gigging in town, and playing PS4.

Kays Ishaq (*Chantilly, VA***)** Kays Ishaq is a third year music performance major. Outside of the university, he teaches percussion ensembles, drumlines, and bands at several local high schools. In the future, Kays hopes to teach at the collegiate level and continue performing chamber music.

Matthew Krystopik (*Stafford, VA***)** is a junior music education major. He is on the staff for West Potomac High School and aspires to be a music educator and high school band director in Northern Virginia

Carla Lackey (*Bassett, VA*) is a junior majoring in percussion performance. Carla spent 3 years in the front ensemble of the Cadets, including summer 2016 as section leader. She aspires to perform in a professional military band and teach percussion.

Chad Riley (*Powhatan, VA*) Chad has performed as a member of the front ensemble with Carolina Crown and the Santa Clara Vanguard. He hopes to continue his education in graduate school and ultimately pursue a career in teaching. He is in his final year as a music education major at Mason

Colson Meeks (*Haymarket, VA*) is a sophomore music education major. He marched this past summer in the Caballeros and plans on finishing a music education degree and moving right into the workforce. He also is an aspiring drum builder and mallet maker.

Joe Pazanowski (*Leesburg, VA*) Joe has been an active performer throughout the George Mason School of Music alongside his friends, professors, and even his twin brother. In addition to his work at Mason, he has performed at the Sewanee Summer Music Festival and participated in the inaugural year of the Sandbox Percussion Seminar in New York.

Zach Strickland (*Virginia Beach, VA)* is a freshman percussion performance major. He attended the BUTI Tanglewood Institute in the summer of 2016, and currently performs with the Mason percussion group and symphony orchestra. Whenever he is not hitting things with other things, I'm usually running, playing tennis, practicing aural skills, or playing League of Legends.

Andrew String (*Fairfax, VA*) is a sophomore performance major from Burke, Virginia. Besides percussion, Andrew also enjoys pole vaulting and running in his free time. He was, at one time, a famous meme. Andrew is a 2016 participant in the Stevens Marimba Seminar and the Washburgh Timpani Seminar.

Morgan Sutherland (*Chesapeake, VA***)** is a sophomore performance major who wishes to one day teach at the college level. She is a 2016 participant in the Stevens Marimba Seminar and the Washburgh Timpani Seminar.

Paul Zybak (Chesapeake*, VA*) is a freshman music education major. After completing his B.M. in Music Education, he plans to earn a M.M in Wind Conducting before beginning my professional career as a secondary music educator.

John Kilkenny enjoys a unique career in the music world as a performer, educator and conductor. Hailed as a "particularly fine timpanist" by the Washington Post, John's active performance schedule in the 2016-2017 season includes multiple performances of the Michael Daugherty Raise the Roof: Concerto for timpani and wind ensemble, solo and duet recitals, master classes, orchestral performances and multiple guest conducting engagements. In 2014 he participated in the Washington DC premiere of John Luther Adams most recent large scale work, *Sila: Breath of the World* with the United States Air Force Band Throughout his career, he has had the privilege to perform with a range of ensembles, including the National Symphony, Washington National Opera and Ballet, American Symphony, Washington Concert Opera, National Philharmonic, The Wolf Trap Center for the performing Arts Orchestra, 21st Century Consort, the Washington Bach Consort, National Gallery New Music Ensemble, Verge Ensemble, and many others. Recent commissions and premieres include multiple works by Alejandro Vinao, a collection of 32 duets for keyboard percussion by Nathan Daughtrey and Brett Dietz, ensemble works by Stephen Gorbos, Donald McCullough, Peter Erskine, Peter Klatzow, Victor Provost, Avner Dorman, John Luther Adams, and Nico Muhly. He has been privileged to share the stage with an array of artists, including Michael Burritt, Robert van Sice, She e Wu, John Tafoya, Chris Deviney, Jonathan Haas, clarinetist Chad burrow, cellists Joshua Roman and Tobias Werner, flautist Karen Johnson and pianists Garry Hammond, Carlos Rodriguez, Steven Beck and Eric Huebner.

A committed educator, John is Director of Percussion Studies and Assistant Director of Concert Bands at George Mason University. Under his leadership, "Mason Percussion" has become the leading university percussion program in the state of Virginia and a destination school for serious study of classical percussion. Recent and upcoming highlights include collaborations with the Mason School of Dance, two feature performances *the 2016 Percussive Arts Society International Convention* (New Literature Showcase and Focus Day performance) the *2016 New York State Music Educators Conference*, the *2014 Virginia Music Educators Conference*, the *2011 Western International Band Conference, 2012 College Music Society Mid Atlantic Conference*, the Sitar Arts Center and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Students from the program regularly appear at summer festivals (Aspen, Eastern, Sewanee, Hot Springs, Texas), world class DCI drum corps (The Cadets, Carolina Crown, Santa Clara Vanguard, Raiders) and participate actively in the artistic community of Washington DC.

John is founder and faculty advisor for the George Mason University's International Teaching Scholars: Costa Rica. The International Teaching Scholars (ITS) Costa Rica program is comprised of two key elements - community outreaching and performance. Students selected for participation have the opportunity to perform, teach and connect with their peers at the National Conservatory and in the SiNEM (System for National Music Education) programs in and around San Jose, Costa Rica. The ITS program also allows Mason students to learn real world entrepreneurial skills, participating fully in the conception, planning and implementation.

During the summer months, John is Artist-Faculty of the internationally acclaimed *Sewanee Summer Music Festival,* where he teaches a select number of private students, coaches chamber music and performs with his faculty colleagues. He is deeply involved in the Music for All organization - first becoming involved with MFA as an ensemble director in 2003. For the past several years, he has served on the panel for the Sandy Feldstein National Percussion Festival and as a faculty member for the MFA Summer Symposium. He was founder and co-director of the University of Maryland Summer Percussion Workshop (2005-2007) and the Indiana University Percussion Academy (2008-2010). Since 2013 he has been the percussion advisor for the Northern Virginia Youth Winds.

John studied conducting with Anthony Maiello and began early percussion training with Jonathan Haas and William Richards. He went on to receive his bachelor's degree at the Juilliard School under the tutelage of Greg Zuber and Daniel Druckman. He completed a Masters Degree at Temple University, where he studied with legendary percussionist Alan Abel. He is sponsored by Vic Firth Mallets, Zildjian cymbals, Remo percussion products and is a proud Yamaha Performing Artist.

For more information please visit www.johnkilkennypercussion.com

THE UNIVERSITY
Dr. Angel Cabrera, President

As Virginia's largest public research university, George Mason University is a vibrant and dynamic community of scholars with 34,000 students from all 50 states and 130 countries and a residential population of more than 6,000 students. Mason has three campuses in Virginia, in Fairfax, Arlington and Prince William Counties, and an international campus in Songdo, South Korea. In addition, Mason operates a site in Loudoun County and has partnered with the Smithsonian Institution to offer a global conservation studies program at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute in Front Royal, Virginia.

The Fairfax Campus consists of 677 wooded acres and is the principal center for undergraduate residence and life. The Fairfax Campus is also home to the Center for the Arts and the Eagle Bank Arena where numerous sporting and entertainment events take place year round.

Our most urban campus is in Arlington. It consists of three main buildings and is where the School of Law, the School of Policy, Government and International Affairs, and the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution are located. Most of the programs offered are at the graduate and professional levels.

Serving all of Northern Virginia, the George Mason University Science and Technology Campus in Prince William County primarily focuses on research and academic programs in the life sciences, including bioscience, biotechnology and bioinformatics. The campus features a state-of-the-art Biomedical Research Laboratory and the recently launched Institute for Advanced Biomedical Research, a multidisciplinary facility that will pursue some of the toughest medical questions facing society. In addition, the beautiful Hylton Center for the Performing Arts is located on Mason’s Science and Technology Campus in Manassas.

THE COLLEGE OF VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

Dr. Rick Davis, Dean

The College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) is a community of artists in music, theatre, dance, visual art, arts management, film and video studies, and computer game design. Our faculty are dedicated artist-teachers who practice what they teach - performing, exhibiting, and working at renowned venues and companies across the region, the nation, and the world. Mason students enjoy the intense professional training of an arts conservatory along with the vast resources of a liberal arts research university. At Mason, students, stretch, grow, learn, and experiment. CVPA alumni are successful artists, musicians, actors, dancers, directors, producers, choreographers, writers, technicians, designers, teachers, entrepreneurs, and administrators working in 47 states and 15 countries.

CVPA serves over 8,000 students including 1,450 majors pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees from the B.A. to the Ph.D. The college includes four Schools: Art, Dance, Music, and Theater, as well as programs in Computer Game Design, Film and Video Studies, and Arts Management. For many in the community, the Center for the Arts on the Fairfax campus is the public face of the arts at Mason. Through the Great Performances at Mason season, which attracts over 80,000 patrons annually, CVPA and Mason present a varied program of music, dance, theater, and opera.

THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Dr. Linda Apple Monson, Director

Our School of Music provides an extraordinary musical education for our talented and creative students. We are proud of the musical depth, academic rigor, and diversity of performance and academic opportunities we offer our students, music majors and non-music majors alike. The combined experience of our outstanding faculty in solo, chamber, symphonic, jazz, operatic, contemporary, and world music is extensive. Our faculty includes published composers and recognized scholars in musicology, theory, music education, pedagogy, and ethnomusicology. Our nationally accredited School of Music has recently received accolades from the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) for our outstanding programs. We are proud to be an All-Steinway School with beautiful Steinway grand pianos in our spacious practice rooms and teaching studios.

Our School of Music offerings are comprehensive with Bachelor of Music degrees in performance, music education, jazz studies, composition, music technology, as well as the Bachelor of Arts in Music and Music Technology. In addition, we offer Master of Music degrees, graduate Artist Certificates, Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in performance, conducting, and composition, and the Ph.D. degree in Music Education. Our School of Music currently has a student population of approximately 360 music majors, including 255 undergraduates, 75 master's degree students, and 30 doctoral students. Our highly respected academic and performance faculty include approximately 25 full-time faculty and 75 adjunct faculty members.

Our students have the opportunity to perform in a wide range of instrumental and vocal ensembles within our School of Music, including Symphony Orchestra, Wind Symphony, Jazz Ensemble, Symphonic Band, University Singers, Opera, University Chorale, Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Vocal Ensemble, Afro-Cuban Ensemble, Steel Pan Ensemble, Baroque Chamber Ensemble, Contemporary Music Ensemble, Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble, Healing Arts Ensemble, and many more! In addition, our students perform with the Green Machine, voted the #1 Pep Band in America by the NCAA!

Mason School of Music graduates are performing and teaching throughout the world. Our graduates have been selected for highly prestigious performance positions in the nation's premiere military ensembles, regional opera companies, and regional orchestras. Our music education graduates are teaching music in public and private schools throughout Virginia and the United States. Our doctoral graduates are teaching and performing in universities throughout the country. Mason School of Music graduates are in demand for jobs in music education, performance, music technology, composition, conducting, and jazz studies.

Mason Percussion Faculty

John Kilkenny, Director of Percussion Studies
Jonathan Bisesi, The President's Own United States Marine Band
Jonathan Rance, Principal Timpanist, Washington National Opera
John Spirtas, Principal Percussionist, Washington National Opera
Joe McCarthy, Afro Bop Alliance, percussionist (ret) Naval Academy Band
Victor Provost, Steel pannist, composer, educator, recording artist
Shane Nichols, Army Fife and Drum Corps, Marching Percussion
Dr. Matthew Halligan, former member, Commandant's own Marine drum and Bugle Corps

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

AUDITION DAYS

NOVEMBER 5TH, 2016
DECEMBER 3RD, 2016
JANUARY 28TH, 2017
FEBRUARY 18TH, 2017
MARCH 4TH, 2017

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Potomac Arts Academy
Community Arts
Acting For Young People

SUMMER MUSIC AT MASON

Summer Music Intensive Week | Ages 13-18 | July 31-August 4, 2017*
Featuring Clarinet, Trumpet, Percussion and Composition

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Offering Certification, Recertification Points and Graduate Credit

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www.PotomacAcademy.org

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For more information about George Mason University and the School of Music, please visit

www.gmu.edu

music.gmu.edu

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