

RUTGERS

Mason Gross School
of the Arts

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Rutgers Percussion Ensemble

Joseph Tompkins, Director

Sunday, April 14, 2024 | 2:00 p.m.

Nicholas Music Center
Mason Gross Performing Arts Center
Douglass Campus

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

PROGRAM

Trances I (2020) Ivan Trevino (b. 1983)
Graham Harris, Zack Rickabaugh,
Adriana Facusse, Jenna Manalastas

Mudra (2003) Bob Becker (b. 1947)
Joseph Tompkins, soloist
Matt Nelson, Liang Dong, Graham Harris, Siyoung Lee

Conservatory Garden (2013) Daniel Levitan (b. 1953)
Zack Rickabaugh, Spencer White,
Matt Nelson, Jenna Manalastas

little magics (2023) Emma O'Halloran (b. 1985)
VIII
I
II
X
III
Sophie McNeal and Luke Waitkus, malletstations
Josh Persad, Siyoung Lee,
Liang Dong, Jenna Manalastas, keyboards

Marimba Spiritual (1984) Minoru Miki (b. 1930)
Liang Dong, marimba soloist
Josh Persad, Graham Harris, Sophie McNeal

NOTES ON THE PROGRAM

Trevino: *Trances I* (2020)

Trances I is written for mixing bowls and smartphones. Played with dim concert lighting, the goal is to use the bowls to cover and uncover the bright screens of each phone, producing various visual lighting patterns from player to player. The performers create rhythmic interplay by striking the bowls with sticks as they are raised and lowered. The smartphones also produce a pre-composed audio drone, which is manipulated via the movement of the bowls, creating a hypnotic pedal effect.

Becker: *Mudra* (2003)

Mudra consists of music which was originally composed to accompany the dance *UrbhanaMudra* by choreographer Joan Phillips. Commissioned by INDE' 90 and premiered in Toronto in March, 1990, the piece was awarded the national arts center award in Canada for best collaboration between composer and choreographer. The music was subsequently edited and re-orchestrated as a concert piece for the Percussion group Nexus. The intervallic relationships of the Indian raga *Chandrakauns* were used to determine both melodic and harmonic content throughout the work. *Mudra* is scored for marimba, vibraphone, songbells, glockenspiel, crotales, prepared drum and bass drum.

Levitan: *Conservatory Garden* (2013)

This work is centered around the Songo, a genre of popular Cuban music that was created by the group Los Van Van in the early 1970's. Songo incorporates music from folkloric traditions, particularly Rumba. It is based on the rhythmic pattern known as *clave*. Here it is scored for four players, who essentially divide the drums of a normal kit into various parts.

O'Halloran: *little magics* (2023)

VIII

I

II

X

III

Note from the composer:

Sometimes it feels like our world thinks that bigger is always better but, for as long as I can remember, I've been more interested in the small things. As a child, coming home from school each day I would find myself completely absorbed in noticing the ever-changing color of the sky and the shape of the

NOTES CONTINUED

clouds (cumulus, stratus, cirrus, altocumulus...) and these details that no one else seemed to notice filled my life with a sense of magic and possibility. A flower growing in a crack in the pavement, a gentle breeze making a curtain dance and sway, rainbows in soap bubbles, dandelion seeds floating in the air, frost patterns on windows, a particularly funny laugh...every day is full of the beauty and mystery of these little magics that often go unnoticed. I believe that the more you love the little things, the more you fall in love with life.

Miki: *Marimba Spiritual* (1984)

This challenging solo was written for Japanese marimbist Keiko Abe and was first performed with the Amsterdam New Percussion Group in 1984. The composer, Minoru Miki, was influenced by the famine and starvation occurring in Africa in the 1980's. The first part of the piece is a static requiem, and the second is a lively resurrection. The rhythmic patterns are taken from the festival drumming of the Chichibu area northwest of Tokyo, Japan.

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