

A NIGHT OF PERCUSSION

featuring the

UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Bill Schlitt, director

Thursday, November 7, 2019 - 8 p.m.

UNIVERSITY HALL

Ritual Music David Skidmore
(b. 1982)

Graceful Ghost William Bolcom
(b. 1938)
Arr. Terry Smith

Nordic Peace Tobias Broström
(b. 1978)

Cloud Forest Blake Tyson
(b. 1954)

Danilo Virata, marimba

- INTERMISSION -

Splendid Wood Jennifer Higdon
(b. 1962)

Tin Play Per Andreasson
(b. 1981)

Portico Thomas Gauger
(b. 1935)

PROGRAM NOTES

Ritual Music

David Skidmore

David Skidmore received his BM degree from Northwestern University and his MM degree from Yale University. He taught for four years at the Peabody Conservatory and is currently Executive Director with Third Coast Percussion Ensemble. *Ritual Music* (variations on the numbers 2 and 4) was written for the Chicago Dance Company Raizel Performances and was premiered in collaboration with that group in the spring of 2005. Commenting on the piece Skidmore says, "As the title suggests, I used the numbers two and four to bring order to the primeval timbres and violent counterpoint of the piece. The pitches in the marimba, the rhythmic motifs and the structure of the phrases were all determined numerically. As such, a friction is created between the mechanical simplicity of the structural elements and the abandon with which the instruments shout, shriek, groan and wail."

Graceful Ghost

William Bolcom

William Bolcom received his MA from Mills College and DMAS from the University of Washington and Stanford University. As a composer he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize. Written as a "moderate rag", *Graceful Ghost* is a lyrical song with a soothing feel. Terry Smith arranged this work as a sextet utilizing bells, vibraphone, and marimbas.

Nordic Peace

Tobias Broström

Swedish composer Tobias Broström had four years of percussion studies from the Malmo Academy of Music behind him when he embarked on a course of studies in composition for Rolf Martinsson and subsequently the Italian composer Luca Francesconi. In 2003 he became a teacher of arrangement/composition and music theory at Sundsgarden Folk High School. *Nordic Peace* is a percussion quartet that takes ideas from a drumset fill. One of the set-ups calls for a drumset without toms. The other set-up uses toms, bongos, kickdrum, cowbells, woodblocks, opera gongs, and shaker. Traditional drum set ideas are presented from a different point of view.

Cloud Forest

Blake Tyson

Blake Tyson holds a Bachelor of Music from the University of Alabama, a Master of Music from Kent State University and a Doctor of Musical Arts from the Eastman School of Music. Mr. Tyson is a concert artist, clinician and composer. He is currently on the faculty at the University of Central Arkansas. Tyson says

this about the work. *Cloud Forest* was inspired by my visits to Ecuador where I performed an improvised work that I entitled *Journey to Esmeraldas*. The main themes in *Cloud Forest* were taken from this improvisation. The original version in 2005 was for percussion trio and soloist. In 2008 I revised the work for marimba soloist and percussion quartet.”

Splendid Wood

Jennifer Higdon

Jennifer Higdon is a major figure in contemporary classical music, receiving a Pulitzer Prize in 2010 for her *Violin Concerto* and a Grammy for her *Percussion Concerto*. Her works have been recorded on over four dozen CD's. She holds the Rock Chair in Composition at the Curtis Institute of Music. *Splendid Wood* is a joyous celebration of the sound of wood, one of nature's most basic materials, a part of all sorts of things in our world, but used most thrillingly and gloriously in instruments. Wood is the material that gives the marimba its unique sound, with a “round” sort of attack and a tone that blossoms out. This work reflects the evolving patterns inside a piece of wood, always shifting, and yet every part is related and contributes to the magnificence of the whole. This is a celebration of the splendor of the marimba.”

Tin Play

Per Andreasson

Tin Play by Per Andreasson is written for percussion quartet and is all about funk and funk beats. Even in the most dense and complex sections, there always seems to be an underlying polyrhythmic motive that is funk inspired. At the start of the piece, there are many motivic fragments that are presented and later repeated, but never repeated just straight forward. These motives are manipulated and distorted before being played again. Also, included are ever-changing time signatures. Per Andreasson studies music at the Malmö Academy of Music in Sweden. He is a drummer, rock singer and songwriter, and co-founder of the Swedish rock band Royal Republic.

Portico

Thomas Gauger

Thomas Gauger received his BM in percussion and composition from the University of Illinois. He recently retired after a distinguished 40 year career as percussionist with the famed Boston Symphony and Boston Pops Orchestras. From 1965 until 1997 he was also on the faculty at Boston University and the Boston University Tanglewood Institute. Commissioned by the University of Oklahoma Percussion Ensemble, *Portico* is a one-movement work which features six keyboard players. Instrumentation includes four marimbas, two vibraphones, timpani (four drums), chimes, bells, and miscellaneous percussion. Mr. Gauger has a talent for composition displaying the instruments in a manner which is rich in quality and rhythmically interesting.

BIOGRAPHY

Bill Schlitt, director

Bill Schlitt has been an instructor at University of Redlands for 20 years teaching percussion and directing the Percussion Ensemble. He received his B.A. degree in Music and his B.S. degree in Communications from California State Polytechnic University. Bill has performed for twelve years as a free-lance recording percussionist for various motion picture and television films as well as numerous audio recordings. He has performed for 43 years as a free-lance percussionist in various ensembles and orchestras throughout Southern California, including stage productions, concerts, commercial music and numerous church productions. He served as Principal Percussionist with Music Theater of Southern California for 10 years. Bill has retired from the faculty at the Idyllwild Arts Academy and Summer Program after 26 years. He has performed as an extra percussionist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra and is currently the Principal Timpanist with the Redlands Symphony Orchestra. He is an accomplished percussion educator, clinician, and author of the drumset method book *Rock Connection*. Bill is currently on the faculty at Azusa Pacific University, Vanguard University, California State Polytechnic University-Pomona, and Concordia University-Irvine. He is also a member of Pi Kappa Lambda, Phi Mu Alpha, and the Percussive Arts Society.

UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Kevin Bellefeuille

Tate Kinsella

Noah Parady

Skyler Cain

Julian Kley*

Curtis Pettygrove

Eric Fortson

Tim Laguna*

Zachary Salmeron

Adam Joseph

Abigail Mellado

Danilo Virata

* Graduate Assistant

UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS SCHOOL OF MUSIC

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are gathered on the land of the Serrano and Cahuilla peoples, and we acknowledge the important contributions of this community, their elders both past and present, as well as future generations. The University of Redlands School of Music is committed to continuing to learn about the land we inhabit, the people who have been displaced from this land, and building community with its original caretakers.

For a complete calendar of School of Music events visit

www.redlands.edu/music