

Ensemble Concert:

2020-11-08 – Iowa Percussion and Iowa Steel Band



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School of Music



FALL CONCERT

Iowa Percussion — Iowa Steel Band

Dan Moore, *director*

Peter Grubisich, *assistant director*

Jordan McFarland, *assistant director*

Nick Miller, *assistant director*

Sunday, November 8, 2020 at 3:00pm
Voxman Music Building Concert Hall

Iowa Percussion – Iowa Steel Band
Fall Concert

PROGRAM

Fifth Simfony I. Vigorous	Lou Silver Harrison (1917–2003) Nick Miller, <i>conductor</i>
Hook	Graham Fitkin (b. 1963)
The Songlines	Andy Narell (b. 1954) arr. MSgt Shaw
Ember II	Alyssa Weinberg (b. 1988)
Mud Creek Premiere Performance	Peter Naughton (b. 1991)
	Iowa Percussion
Suzie	Ray Holman (b. 1944) transcr. Jeannine Remy
Sand Point Reggae	Ray Holman
My Band	Ray Holman
	Iowa Steel Band

PROGRAM NOTES

Fifth Symphony for percussion quartet was composed by Lou Silver Harrison in March 1939 in San Francisco, California. The three movement work features instruments from Harrison's Asian influenced sound palate including Javanese Gamelan and various Chinese cymbals and drums. Today we will hear the first movement, *Vigorous*. Lou Silver Harrison was an American composer and a student of Henry Cowell and Arnold Schoenberg as well as a close colleague of John Cage. An anonymous blogger noted that Harrison's music was "filtered through a love for beauty and melody which was deeply unfashionable in contemporary Western serious music of the time. His work is aging brilliantly, by the way, accessible and simple on the surface but deeply complex at the same time." Iowa Percussion certainly agrees with this assessment.



Hook for percussion quartet was commissioned by the U.K. based percussion group, Ensemble Bash, in 1991. It features a blend of marimba and drums in a driving and groovy composition that is as much fun to play as it is to hear. Composer Graham Fitkin says, "I compose for live performance, for recordings, dance, media, and installations. I work with acoustic instruments, electronic instruments, and audio recordings." He has been a composer in residence with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and the London Chamber Orchestra and has received commissions from the Halle, BBC Philharmonic, Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, RSNO, Athens Camerata, BBC Symphony Orchestra, and the BBC Concert Orchestra.



The Songlines was recorded by legendary Steel Pan artist and composer Andy Narell on his 1989 album *Little Secrets*. It is an incredibly challenging work for a large steel band that the Iowa Steel Band has performed in previous concerts, but this afternoon we present a slightly different arrangement of this epic work in the form of a percussion trio. The arrangement was done by Iowa Percussion alumnus Master Sergeant Timothy G. Shaw of the Air Force Band of the Golden West, who has reduced this beautiful composition to its musical essence. Andy Narell is no stranger to Iowa Percussion audiences. His music is regularly performed by the Iowa Steel Band and he has been a guest performer with the group as well. In 2018, Andy produced and performed on the Iowa Steel Band's latest recording *Jungle Music* which features his most popular compositions.



Ember II is a quartet for prepared snare drums that was composed for the percussion group, SŌ Percussion. It is a delicate composition for four percussionists utilizing the ubiquitous snare drum in some unusual ways. The effect is beautiful and haunting. Composer Alyssa Weinberg is best known for crafting visceral, communicative scores, which have been lauded for their "frenetic yet cohesive musical language" (icareifyoulisten) and "heavyweight emotional dimensions" (bachtrack). Alyssa finds collaboration deeply inspiring, and her music pulls concepts from her work with writers, dancers, and visual



artists. Her website describes her as “[a] natural organizer and thought-leader in her field.” Alyssa founded a performance series for experimental dance in Philadelphia called Duende, along with cellist Gabriel Cabezas and dancer/choreographer Chloe Perkes. Duende presents events in a variety of settings and alternative venues, emphasizing equality between movement and music, with a deep exploration into the intersection of those two disciplines.

Mud Creek is a track from Peter Naughton’s debut recording titled *Southern Gothic*. On the original recording, Peter performed each part individually. He then transcribed his performances and arranged them for a percussion quintet. We are pleased to be able to present the premiere of *Mud Creek for Percussion Quintet*. A percussionist, composer, and educator, Peter Naughton currently resides in Iowa City, where he regularly performs with the Pandelirium Quartet and The Naughton McFarland Duo. He is a versatile performer, specializing in jazz keyboard improvisation, contemporary chamber music, and steel pan. Peter holds degrees from the University of Iowa (B.M. – 2014, D.M.A. – 2020) and The University of Tennessee, Knoxville (M.M. – 2016). Dr. Naughton is currently adjunct professor of percussion at Monmouth College and Iowa Wesleyan University. Since June 2016, Peter has served as a percussion faculty member for Birch Creek Music Performance Center.

Ray Holman, composer

The music of Ray Holman can be heard around the world. Beginning in the 1960s, Holman became known as one of the most musically progressive steel band arrangers as he was the first arranger to compose an original composition for the National Steelband Panorama competition. Traditionally, arrangers would select an existing Calypso tune from which to create their Panorama arrangement. He has since arranged for many top steel bands, including Pandemonium, Carib Tokyo, Exodus, Phase II Pan Groove, and Hummingbirds Pan Groove.

Ray has also arranged and recorded with steel bands and artists in the United States, Canada, Latin America, Japan, and Europe, including televised performances with the German National Orchestra which showcased his compositions.

Caribbean arts and culture writer Lilian Sten wrote that, “[Ray Holman,] one of Trinidad’s foremost steel pan arrangers and composers, has been involved with the instrument since he was a child. After four decades as a musical trailblazer, he is one of pan’s many contradictions: a gentle revolutionary.”

It is our privilege today to present three of Ray Holman’s unique compositions for steel Band.



PERSONNEL

Iowa Percussion

Gabe Albertus
Phil Bueche
Jilly Cooke
Tom Corbridge
Peter Grubisich
Michael Hill
Connor LaPage
Kraig Leahy
Jordan McFarland
Nick Miller
Logan Newhouse
John O'Shaughnessy
Hannah Oberhoffer
Charli Otto
Trevor Smith
Ben Stone
Tony Thach
Patrick Vecera
Wil Voelker

Iowa Steel Band

Gabe Albertus
Phil Bueche
Tom Corbridge
Elizabeth Gosztola
Peter Grubisich
Michael Hill
Connor LaPage
Kraig Leahy
Megan McCrary
Nick Miller
Logan Newhouse
Hannah Oberhoffer
Charli Otto
Jaelyn Potvin
Laura Beth Reznicek
Trevor Smith
Ben Stone
Tony Thach
Patrick Vecera
Wil Voelker

UPCOMING EVENTS

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NOVEMBER			2020
08	7:30 p.m.	CNM Season 55: CNM Ensemble II	Livestream
09	7:30 p.m.	Latin Jazz Ensemble	Livestream
10	7:30 p.m.	Jazz Repertory Ensemble	Livestream
11	7:30 p.m.	CNM Season 55: 24+24 Composers Project	Livestream
12	7:30 p.m.	Johnson County Landmark	Livestream
15	1:30 p.m.	Emily Airhart, <i>cello</i>	Livestream
15	5:30 p.m.	DMA Recital: Jordan McFarland, <i>percussion</i>	Livestream
15	7:30 p.m.	DMA Recital: Peter Grubisich, <i>percussion</i>	Livestream
18	7:30 p.m.	Jazz Combo Concert	Livestream
18	8:30 p.m.	Jazz Combo Concert	Livestream