

**The University of Iowa
School of Music**

Nick Miller, DMA Chamber Percussion Recital

assisted by:

Laura Beth Reznicek, Ben Stone, Peter Grubisich, Shelby Tipling

Sunday, May 9th, 2021 1:30 PM

Voxman Music Building - Stark Opera Studio

Solo #1 - Vol. 3 (2020)

Joseph Tompkins (1970)

Marimba Four Hands (2009)

Daniel Levitan (b. 1953)

1. In the Night Kitchen

5. Goodnight Moon

Laura Beth Reznicek, marimba

Game of the Century (2010)

C. Snow (b. 1992)

Ben Stone, percussion

Renfro (2018)

Paul Rennick (b. 1964)

Mark Ford (b. 1958)

Peter Grubisich, percussion

- pause -

Sky Songs (2013)

Gene Koshinski (b. 1980)

1. Child Moon

2. Summer Stars

3. Sunsets

Shelby Tipling, voice

In the Wee Small Hours of the Morning (1955)

David Mann (1916 - 2002)

arr. Miller

Nick is a student of Dr. Daniel Moore. This program is being presented in partial fulfillment of the Doctorate of Musical Arts Degree in Percussion Performance.

Program Notes

Etude #1 - Vol. 3 is the first etude from Joseph Tompkins' newest collection of *French-American Rudimental Solos*. These solos were inspired by the highly respected tambour-major de la batterie (head drummer) for the Musique de l'Air (Air Force Band) of Paris, Robert Goute (1919-2014). This etude features a steady bass drum pulse that provides context for the rhythmic complexity of the snare drum. **Joseph Tompkins** is head of the percussion department at Rutgers University, and also freelances in the New York City area. Tompkins has performed with ensembles such as the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, the New York Opera and Ballet Orchestras, and many more.

Daniel Levitan has numerous compositions for both percussion and the string area. Some of his most noble works include *Marimba Quartet*, and *Concerto for Marimba with Percussion Orchestra* which won first prize in the 1978 Percussive Arts Society composition contest. **Marimba Four Hands** is a multi-movement work for two performers on one marimba. The first movement has a bounce-like quality that is explored through the use of interlocking lines, trading off ideas, and various time signatures. The fifth movement is a chorale that is full of tension and release with cascading lines and dense harmonies. The work was inspired by, and dedicated to the composers' two children.

Game of the Century is a retelling of the famous 1956 chess game between Donald Byrne (white) and 13-year-old Bobby Fischer (black). Heralded as *The Game of the Century* in *Chess Review* by Hans Kmoch, the game features a brilliant trap set by Fischer, who would eventually become the chess world champion. The sequence of moves within the piece are entirely accurate to the original game, and the rhythms used coincide with the flow and strategy employed by Byrne and Fischer. **C. Snow** is the pen name of composer and multi-instrumentalist Connor Shafranis who is based in Germany. He is currently a master's student at the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin, where he's studying electroacoustic music composition.

Mark Ford is an active performer and composer of music for marimba and percussion. He is the Percussion Coordinator at the University of North Texas, and is a past president of the Percussive Arts Society. **Paul Rennick** is also on the faculty at the University of North Texas and is the percussion arranger and the music coordinator for the Santa Clara Vanguard Drum and Bugle Corps. He was recently inducted in to the DCI Hall of Fame, and has won the *Fred Sanford High Percussion* award at DCI for four years in a row (2016-2019).

Renfro is an exciting, yet quirky collaboration between colleagues Rennick and Ford. The interplay between performers on both marimba and snare drum provides a variety of feels and textures. The title of the work is a play on words using the last names of the composers—sort of.

Sky Songs is a duet for soprano and percussion. Each movement is set to one of Carl Sandburg's poems from his collection *Sky Poems*. Both the music and text are crafted to depict different elements of the sky: the moon, the stars, and summer sunsets. The settings reflect the mood and feelings of each poem. **Gene Koshinski** is widely recognized as one of the most prolific and virtuosic performers and composers in the percussion world today. He has recently joined the faculty of the University of Delaware where he is head of the percussion department. *Sky Songs* was recorded in 2015 on Kosinski's album *Currents* with vocalist Rachel Inselman.

1. *Child Moon*

The child's wonder
At the old moon
Comes back nightly.
She points her finger
To the far silent yellow thing
Shining through the branches
Filtering on the leaves a golden sand,
Crying with her little tongue, "See the moon!"
And in her bed fading to sleep
With babblings of the moon on her little mouth.

2. *Summer Stars*

Bend low again, night of summer stars.
So near you are, sky of summer stars,
So near, a long-arm man can pick off stars,
Pick off what he wants in the sky bowl,
So near you are, summer stars,
So near, strumming, strumming,
So lazy and hum-strumming.

3. *Sunsets*

There are sunsets that whisper a good-by.
There is a short dusk and a way for stars.
Prairie and sea rim they go level and even
And the sleep is easy.
There are sunsets that dance good-by.
They fling scarves half to the arc,
To the arc then and over the arc.
Ribbons at the ears, sashes at the hips,
Dancing, dancing good-by. And here sleep
Tosses a little with dreams.

In the Wee Small Hours by David Mann was made popular by Frank Sinatra in 1955. Since then, there has been a plethora of covers of the tune by artists like Ella Fitzgerald, Oscar Peterson, Keith Jarrett, and many more. The lyrics were written by Bob Hilliard to illustrate Sinatra's loneliness throughout his personal life during the time of the recording of this album. **David Mann** was an American song-writer. He learned to play piano by ear at an early age and went on to study at the Curtis Institute of Music. After serving in the army, he was fortunate enough to serve as President Truman's personal pianist. I hope you enjoy my arrangement for vibraphone.

I would like to thank all of the collaborators on this recital: Laura Beth, Ben, Peter, and Shelby. Without their talent, commitment, and dedication, this recital could not have happened. Thank You!