

Student Recital

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GRADUATE PERCUSSION RECITAL

Christian Leon, percussion

Juan Manuel Santos-Sierra, percussion

with

Cori Matney, Brett Myers, Yoshio Yamashita, percussion

Sarah Reed, clarinet

7:30pm, Sunday, March 5, 2023

Jim and Joyce Faulkner Performing Art Center

University of Arkansas

PROGRAM

Etude Op. 6, #10 (C Major)

Clair Omar Musser (1901-1998)

Christian Leon, Marimba

Rumble Strips

Gordon Stout (b. 1952)

Juan Manuel Santos- Sierra, Marimba

Esch s/ Sure

Alfred Fissinger (b. 1925)

Christian Leon, Marimba

French Suite for Percussion Solo

William Kraft (1923-2022)

I. Allemande

II. Courante

III. Saraban

IV. Gigue

Juan Manuel Santos-Sierra, Multi-percussion

Into the Air

Ivan Treviño (b. 1983)

Marimba Duet, Christian Leon, Brett Myers

Eight Pieces for Four Timpani

Elliot Carter (1908-2012)

VII. Canaries

Juan Manuel Santos-Sierra, Timpani

INTERMISSION

Impromptu

William A.R. May (b. 1988)

Christian Leon, Marimba

Sarah Reed, Clarinet

Chamber Symphony in C minor, Mvt. 1 and 2

Dimitri Shostakovich (1906-1975)

arr. Yoshio Yamashita (b. 2000)

with *Chopstakovich*

by Jesse Sieff (b. 1990)

Brett Myers, Snare Drum

Marimba Quartet

Christian Leon

Juan Manuel Santos-Sierra

Cori Matney

Yoshio Yamashita

Duet 3 For Timbales and Congas

Fernando Valencia (b. 1974)

Christian Leon, Timbales

Juan Manuel Santos-Sierra, Congas

PROGRAM NOTES

Musser's solo compositions and transcriptions and his ensemble arrangements have enjoyed great popularity. His Etudes have remained a staple in marimba repertoire and they continue to be performed daily all over the world. The study and mastery of Clair Omar Musser's Etudes is considered by teachers and performers to be a type of "right of passages" into technical competence. Almost all marimbists study at least one of them, and most professionals have learned them all.

Rumble Strips was completed in September of 2000, and is one of Gordon Stout's more recent works for solo marimba. It was composed specifically for his solo marimba CD Astral Projections (Rosewood Records). The title refers to the warning bumps or grooves that are often encountered on our roadways, which produce a sudden and unexpected rumbling when driven over. These rumble strips are depicted musically throughout the composition. Rumble Strips was premiered by She-e Wu at PASIC-2000 in Dallas, TX.

"Suite for Marimba" was composed in 1950, making it one of the early "classics" of the original marimba repertoire. Consisting of four movements, each depicting a specific incident experienced by Alfred Fissinger while serving as an infantryman in Europe during World War II, "Suite" is the first polyphonic work for unaccompanied marimba, combining both traditional tertian and quartal/quintal harmonies to evoke introspection, anticipation, panic and serenity.

William Kraft's French Suite is a classic collection of dances for solo percussion (multi-percussion). The score contains a suggested set up as well as performance notes. French Suite is one of the most famous and most commonly performed multi-percussion solos and is very appropriate for recitals and juries.

The punning title "Canaries" refers not to tiny birds with their high-pitched chirps, but to the dances native to the Canary Islands. The piece begins with a simple dotted dance rhythm that soon goes off the rails—speeding up dramatically like an out-of-control machine— and this pattern becomes thematic. In the middle of the piece, the music divides into two contrapuntal lines, one of which stays steady while the other gradually speeds up. The piece winds down towards the end; the dance rhythm makes a last attempt to start up again before being definitively silenced by the final gesture.

Originally written for marching snare drum and audio recording, Chopstakovich is now a complete percussive experience, both as an ensemble as well as an advanced snare drum ram. Beginning with only the quartet, the warmth of Chamber Symphony in C Minor Mvt 1 eludes greatly in its melodies, to the more fast-paced, white-knuckle Mvt 2 (Allegro Molto). This arrangement by Yoshio Yamashita captures the excitement of Dimitri Shostakovich's writing, and paired with the extreme writing of Jesse Sieff, this piece will ensure that the ensemble is challenged to their peak.

*Christian Leon and Juan Manuel Santos- Sierra are students of Chalon Ragsdale and Fernando Valecena
This recital is given in partial fulfillment of the Master of Music in Percussion Performance*