



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS  
FULBRIGHT COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

PRESENT

**A DAY OF PERCUSSION**  
**“MARIMBA IN THE AMERICAS”**

MARCH 8, 2025

THE JIM AND JOYCE FAULKNER  
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER AND  
EPLEY BAND HALL

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS  
FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS

FEATURING CLINICIANS

**JOHN CURREY AND MARIMBA SOL DE CHIAPAS**  
**HECTOR TASCÓN**  
**WILSON TOVAR**

AND ENSEMBLES FROM

FAYETTEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL  
HAR-BER HIGH SCHOOL  
SILOAM SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL  
THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, FAYETTEVILLE

HOSTED BY

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS COLLEGIATE PERCUSSIVE ARTS SOCIETY,  
AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL

The University of Arkansas Community Music School  
and the U of A Collegiate Chapter of the  
Percussive Arts Society (CPAS)

Present

**A Day of Percussion**  
**“Marimba In the Americas”**

Saturday, March 8, 2025

Jim and Joyce Faulkner Performing Arts Center (FPAC)  
UA Band Building

**Convention Program**

9:15 am – 10 Registration, Faulkner Performing Arts Center (FPAC) Lobby

10:00 – 10:30 Fayetteville High School Percussion Ensemble (FPAC Auditorium)  
Matt Brusca, Director

10:40-11:10 *Origins of the Marimba* (UA Band Building)  
U of A Percussion Graduate Assistant students

11:20-11:50 Har-Ber High School Percussion Ensemble (FPAC Auditorium)  
CJ Morris, Director

Lunch Break

1 pm-1:30 Siloam Springs High School Percussion Ensemble (FPAC Auditorium)  
Taylor Cotroneo, Director

1:40-2:10 *Marimba Sol de Chiapas Clinic* (FPAC Auditorium)  
John Currey, Conference Clinician

2:20-2:50 *Marimba de Chonta from Colombia-South America* (UA Band Building)  
Hector Tascón, Conference Clinician

3:00-3:30 *Marimba Sol de Chiapas*, accompanied by members of UAPE (FPAC)  
John Currey, Director

3:40-4:10 *PerCombia Trio*, w/members of UAPE (FPAC Auditorium)  
Hector Tascón, Wilson Tovar and Fernando Valencia

4:20-5:00 University of Arkansas Percussion Ensemble  
Chal Ragsdale, Fernando Valencia, Chris Scherer, Directors

## ABOUT OUR CLINICIANS



It is the dawning of a new day for the first professional folkloric music ensemble of its kind, permanently based within the United States and calling Kansas City home since 1991. The June 1, 2004, rising of **Marimba Sol de Chiapas** is the evolution of the group started by Dr. Laurence Kaptain in 1988 as Marimba Yajalón. Committed to the authentic performance practice and spirit of the marimba heard throughout Mesoamerica, Marimba Sol de Chiapas (which translates as The Chiapan Sun Marimba Group) maintains an active schedule of performances, recordings, and multi-cultural workshops. More than thirty years of ensemble highlights range from a feature on National Public Radio's Morning Edition and a cameo appearance on ABC's Good Morning America, to performing at the art world's premier event of the Americas-Art Basel Miami. From performances at three International Festivals of the Marimba, to several Compact Disc recordings-including Sol's upcoming release "Sunrise". So authentic is their interpretation and approach that the ensemble has toured Mexico on numerous occasions as guests of the Mexican Government. Dedicated to community as well as art, Marimba Sol de Chiapas is a teaching performance ensemble for Kansas City Young Audiences with well over thirty years combined in-school presentation experience. The group's emphasis on enriching as well as entertaining their audiences in a variety of local, national, and international venues and formats brings the music of the Mexican marimba to thousands of listeners and furthers the reputation of Marimba Sol de Chiapas as North America's premiere professional Mexican marimba ensemble.



### **Héctor Javier Tascón H.**

Born in Cali, Colombia in 1980, Héctor has focused his work on the study of percussion and on the traditional music of the South Pacific region of Colombia. The marimbas, currulao rhythm, traditional Colombian legends, and Afro-Colombian dances are at the center of his interests as an artist and researcher. Héctor graduated cum laude with a bachelor's from the Conservatorio Antonio María Valencia, and then he completed a masters in musicology from the Universidad de la Rioja. He has won first place in several competitions including best marimba de chonta player at the 2023 International Festival Petronio Álvarez, best instrumental soloist in the Mono Núñez Festival of Andean music, best instrumental soloist in the National Festival of the Colombian Pasillo, and best soloist in the Filarmónica del Valle competition. As an educator, he has been recognized by the Red iberoamericana de pedagogía for his work with the traditional musicians of the south pacific of Colombia, the Instituto Departamental de Bellas Artes, the Universidad del Cauca, and for his research works. In 2022, he was recognized as professor of the year by the organization Sidesco. Héctor also serves as junior researcher with Colciencias. Héctor has conducted traditional south pacific Colombian music field research in Buenaventura, El charco, Tumaco, Guapi, and López de Micay. He has written several method books including: "A Marimbear: oío method to play the marimba de chonta" (2008), "Qué te pasa' vo" (2009), and "Colombia music for symphonic marimba" (2014). He has published several research

articles, created an app called "Marimbiar," and a video game called "Oí Marimbí." He is also a composer, writing several pieces for percussion, composing the music for the show "Currulao Cuántico" and the animated short "El pájaro Cubo," which won first prize as best animated short in Bogotá in 2020. Héctor is co-founder of *PerCombia*, a research collective dedicated to creating musical literature based on Colombian regional music. Currently, Héctor is a professor of percussion at the Universidad del Cauca and at the Antonio María Valencia Conservatory, where he also serves as chair of percussion.



### Wilson Tovar

Born in Bogotá, Wilson holds a master's degree in composition with new technologies from the University of La Rioja (Spain). He has served as principal timpanist and section leader with the Orquesta Sinfónica de Bolívar and is currently a Professor of Percussion at the Conservatorio Adolfo Mejía, where he leads research projects and curricular reforms in the percussion area. As a member of the Percussive Arts Society (PAS) and regional director of COLPAS for the Bolívar zone, he has collaborated with the Orquesta Filarmonía de Madrid (Spain) and has recently participated in the *Trombón Costeño Vol. 2* project as part of a research initiative from the Universidad del Atlántico, contributing a composition based on the rhythms of Colombia's Caribbean region.

Throughout his career, he has been part of several ensembles in genres such as symphonic music, contemporary music, jazz, rock, and Colombian folk music. He has performed with *The Tripas Corazón*, *The Independents Jazz Quintet*, *Connell Ensemble*, *Radiantes*, *Ensamble PEAX*, *Ensamble de Percusión Conv3rgence*, and is a co-founder of *PerCambia*, a research collective dedicated to creating musical literature based on Colombian regional music, working with Héctor Tascón (Universidad de Bellas Artes del Valle) and Fernando Valencia (University of

Arkansas).

In 2023, he served as the artistic director for the Cartagena International Percussion Festival. He has been invited as adjudicator for the VIII Australian Marimba Competition and as a guest artist at the Encuentro Internacional de Percusión Del Atlántico and the *Uniendo Culturas* International Percussion Festival in Uruguay.

Currently, he is a member of the CIMCAM research group at the Conservatorio Adolfo Mejía and collaborates with the RAÍZ group, focusing on performance, creation, and musical management in the context of Colombian music research.



### PerCambia Trio

PerCambia Trio is a research collective that focuses on highlighting the work of the educator as a composer-performer and, in that way, contributing to build audiences and learning communities. An important pillar of PerCambia is the creation of music literature for percussion based on the folk music of Colombia, popularly known as the "Land of a Thousand Rhythms".

PerCambia is also a lab that combines traditional performance practices and instruments of some of the different regions of Colombia with contemporary sounds and electronics, always having their student's development in mind. The trio is comprised of Professors Hector Tascón, Wilson Tovar and Fernando Valencia.

Current projects include the elaboration of CIMCAM's "*Perspectivas Sonoras*", the expansion of the Colombian music repertoire for percussion trio, compositions for trio and string orchestra, and implementations of clinics and workshops.

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