

Percussion Ensemble

Saturday, November 12, 2022 at 7:30pm
Lagerquist Concert Hall, Mary Baker Russell Music Center

Pacific Lutheran University
College of Professional Studies / Department of Music presents

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Welcome to Lagerquist Concert Hall.
Please disable the audible signal on all watches and cellular phones for the duration of the concert.
Use of cameras, recording equipment and all digital devices is not permitted in the concert hall.

PROGRAM

Steilacoom High School Percussion Ensemble
Matt Vegh, *director*

Diego Arias • Laura Bahrt • Aidan Booth • Victoria Bryant • Benjamin Hegge • Azariah Horne
Robert Kramer • Jacob Lim • Kyte Martinez • Mitch Myers • Davion Pae
Adrian Ragil • Konrad Roach • Danielle Ross • Taj Taimanglo • Douglas Weaver

Gunga Galunga **Chris Brooks (b. 1957)**

Beethoven's Fantasy **Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)**
from *Piano Sonata No. 13, op. 27, no. 1* arr. Brian Slawson

The Final Pursuit **Chris Brooks**

PLU Percussion Ensemble
Miho Takekawa, *director*

Quinn Rasmussen • Cole Strichertz • Ben Helgeson • Gabriela Vera-Kavanaugh • Joel Barkman
Haley Miguel • Evan Nakanishi • Evan Fry • Owen Dumas • Andrew Sims

Repair in Progress..... **Kyle H. Peters**

Mariana Trench **Nozomi Omote**

Ragtime Robin..... **George Hamilton Green (1893-1970)**
arr. Bob Brecker

Quinn Rasmussen, *solo xylophone*

Four African Dances..... **Wes Stephens (b. 1983)**

Kalabash **Nigel Westlake (b. 1958)**
James Doyle, *guest speaker*

Still Waters **Brian Pfeifer**

Schelomozade **Brian Pfeifer**
James Doyle, Brian Pfeifer, and Miho Takekawa

Program Notes

Mariana Trench was written by Nozomi Omote and depicts the unique depth and sounds of the ocean. Located 200 kilometers east of the Mariana islands in the Pacific Ocean, the Mariana Trench is the deepest trench in the world (10,984 meters), further away from sea level than the highest point of Mt. Everest (8,848 meters). This piece was premiered October 16, 2019 in Ian Hanger Hall at Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, by the resident percussion group Ba Da Boom Percussion.

Nozomi Omote is a percussionist and educator based in Brisbane, Australia. She has a Bachelor of Education degree from Kanazawa University in Japan, and a Master of Music from Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University. She has formed a unique duo called Shugorei with electronics composer Thomas Green, and released their first album in 2021. Her collaborative works also involve the jazz trio Trichotomy. She also performs with professional and chamber ensembles. She has taught at Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, The University of Queensland, Melbourne University, Queensland College of Music, Queensland Youth Orchestra, and local high schools.

Ragtime Robin was published by George Hamilton Green as a xylophone solo with piano accompaniment in 1924, and is from a series of six novelty fox-trots grouped under the title *George Hamilton Green's Jazz Classis for the Xylophone*. My original arrangement was done in 1973 and was among the first of George Green's compositions that I arranged for Nexus using the hour marimba/xylophone solo format. As with most of these early arrangements, my aim was to simply translate the piano part of the marimba idiom in a way that would sound clear and strong. The present publication is a revision of the original arrangement, but the basic idea is still the same. The xylophone solo part in this arrangement remains almost identical to Green's original published version. For the most part, the only changes are additions of dynamic, slurs, and accents. Green subtitled *The Ragtime Robin* "Jazz Fox-Trot." The piece is somewhat programmatic in nature. As its promotional ad states, "You have all heard the robin's call. Get this solo and see if you can distinguish his call in ragtime." Clearly it is the second strain that contains the birdcall reference, and characteristically the warbling melody is set in Green's favorite "trick rhythm" syncopation.

– Program note by Bob Becker

Guest composer and percussionist **Brian Pfeifer** is Teaching Assistant Professor at the University of North Dakota, where he teaches percussion, drumline, and the 12 O'Clock Jazz Band. He has previously taught percussion ensembles, drumlines, private lessons, and percussion methods classes in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Washington. Brian has been active as a performer of new music, playing with groups such as the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber Orchestra, The Box is Empty, Thalia Symphony, Twin Ports Wind Orchestra, and the Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra. In addition, he is a founding member of the Sundog Percussion Trio, a group dedicated to commissioning and performing new works for percussion. He has also collaborated with composers to bring new works to audiences. These include Jason Wells, Shih Wei Lo, Andrew Angell, Robert Brooks, Mike Wittgraf, and Chris Gable. He earned Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from the University of North Dakota in 2008 and 2010. In 2014 he was awarded the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Washington. His primary percussion teachers are Michael Blake, Tom Collier, and Michael Crusoe. Brian is an avid whitewater kayaker who spends his free time sharing adventures with his wife, Carrie and sons, Michael (8), Collin (6), and Henry (3).

Guest artist and speaker **James Doyle** is a percussionist and educator new to the Pacific Northwest. He is a member of the Seattle-based percussion group, Striking Music, is on the faculty at the University of Puget Sound, the graduate faculty at Adams State University, and teaches world music and percussion at Pierce College and Saint Martin's University. James has performed throughout North America, Europe, Australia, Africa, and Asia, and has recorded for Austin, Nashville, and Southwest-based artists. He has presented and performed at several Percussive Arts Society International Conventions and is an annual artist-in-residence at Gunma University in Maebashi, Japan. James served for fifteen years as Professor of Music at Adams State University in Colorado, where he taught percussion and music business, directed the percussion ensembles, and founded the Music of the Americas Project, an ensemble dedicated to the performance of music from throughout the Caribbean, Brazil, and North America. Prior to his tenure in Colorado, James was principal percussionist with the United States Air Force Band of the Golden West where he toured, recorded, and performed throughout the United States while maintaining an active freelance schedule in the San Francisco Bay area. He then served with the Air National Guard Band of the Southwest in Ft. Worth, Texas, and the US Air Force Band in Doha, Qatar. He earned a Doctor of Musical Arts in percussion performance from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and is a Marimba One, Black Swamp Percussion, Beetle Percussion, and Vic Firth artist.

About the Guest Ensemble

The Steilacoom High School Percussion Ensemble, under the direction of Matt Vegh, is one of the premier ensembles of its category in the greater Tacoma area. Formally established in 2017, it routinely receives regional awards at regional solo and ensemble, and has been selected to perform at the Washington State Ensemble Contest every year since the group's inception. Members of the ensemble learn basic and advanced percussion skills, as well as concert percussion and drumline repertoire. These students also perform with the Jazz Band, Wind Ensemble, and Symphonic Bands at Steilacoom High School.

About the Director

Miho Takekawa was raised in Tokyo and currently resides in Seattle. She teaches at Pacific Lutheran University, where she heads the percussion studio and directs the school's percussion and steel pan ensembles. During the 2010-2011 school year, she was an interim professor of percussion at the University of Washington School of Music. Miho began piano at age three and took up percussion at thirteen, ultimately graduating from Tokyo's prestigious Kunitachi School of Music. She earned both master's and doctoral degrees in percussion performance from the University of Washington School of Music in Seattle, where she was awarded the coveted Boeing Scholarship, among other honors. She is a sought-after performer in many styles of music, working with groups ranging from classical music (such as the Seattle Modern Orchestra) to Mexican banda music to steel band and West African drumming. She performs with Diego Coy Musica Colombiana, Pan Duo, and many other groups, and is a founding member of the Miho & Diego Duo (www.mihodiego.com). Significant awards include a Washington State Arts Commission Fellowship and grants from King County 4Culture, and National Endowment for the Arts. In addition to her own performance career, Miho directed the North Rainbow Steel Drum Group (Sapporo, Japan) and served as an arranger for the Hirosaki University Steel Pan Group. Inspired to share her passion for music with others, and especially younger musicians, she has worked to foster cultural exchange between Japanese and American youth groups, leading or coordinating tours by the University of Washington Husky Marching Band and the University of Washington Wind Ensemble (Seattle), Musica Grato Himi (Toyama, Japan), the Tamana Girls High School Band (Japan), the Graham-Kapowsin High School Band (Washington State), the Left Coast Brass Quintet (Seattle), and Seattle percussionist Tom Collier. Many of Miho's past activities can be found at www.tymusicexchange.com.