Ryan Shaffer, percussion

with

Joey Hennigan, percussion
Tyler Lozier, percussion
Paul Schmidt, percussion
Stephen Ferradino, percussion

Ryan Shaffer is a student of Dr. Tim Jones. Today’s recital is offered in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Bachelor of Music degree in Performance.

Thursday, 8 May 2008
7:00 pm
Beam Music Center
Doc Rando Recital Hall
Merlin (1985) Andrew Thomas  
(b. 1939)
1. Movement I
2. Movement II

(b. 1952)

Ilijas (1995 ca 6) Nebojsa Zivkovic  
(b. 1962)

Cold Pressed (1990) Dave Hollinden  
(b. 1958)

Third Construction (1941) John Cage  
(1912-1992)


~ Program Notes ~

Merlin (1985) Andrew Thomas  
b. 1939
Merlin was composed for and is dedicated to William Moersch. The poem Merlin by Edwin Arlington Robinson is a long narrative retelling of the King Arthur legend and the destruction of his court. The composer used two quotes from the poem to set the tone of the two movements of the score.

- Movement I
  "Gawaine, Gawaine, what ye for to see, So far beyond the faint edge of the world? D'ye look to see the lady Vivian, Pursued by divers ominous vile demons, That have another king more fierce than ours? Or think ye that if ye look far enough And hard enough into the feathery west, Ye'll have a glimmer of the Grail itself? And if ye look for neither Grail nor lady, What look ye for to see, Gawaine, Gawaine?"

- Movement II
  ".....Time's way with you and me is our way, in that we are out of Time and out of tune with Time."

b. 1952
Composed in 1988 in Santa Maria for the birth of the composer's son, Ricardo, this piece requires a very high level of technical and musical maturity for its interpretation and also introduces the technique of playing with five mallets. The first theme that is presented in the opening section is developed in several variations throughout the piece and is usually accompanied by a rhythmic, polytonal ostinato. In the final section, two other small motives appear with the same rhythmic, polytonal ostinato: the first in the style of the Bachianas Brasileiras from Brazilian composer Heitor Villa Lobos, and the second is a quote of a melody from the gauchos of Southern Brazil, referring to the birthplace of Ricardo.
Iljas (1995 ca 6) Nebojsa Zivkovic
b. 1962
Iljas is a rhapsodic composition, titled after a small town in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia. It has a clear association with folk tunes of that picturesque Balkan area, as well as mixed rhythms and tonal scales whose roots could be found even further East. In the introduction of the piece, Zivkovic calls for a very unusual marimba technique that produces sounds that remind us of a Franz Liszt grand piano sound. The middle part, however, uses typical marimbistic patterns, masterly composed in a number of various odd meters with melody in the octaves played by the right hand. The varied repetition of the opening part leads for a moment in major keys, but after that short “light of hope” the music goes back to the melancholic mood and ends tranquillo, zmorendo...

Cold Pressed (1990) Dave Hollinden
b. 1958
The term “cold pressed” refers to the method of extracting olive oil which results in the most robust and full-bodied flavor. Syncopation, contrasting timbres and rock-influenced style are blended together in music which is vivid, spicy and obsessively persistent.

Third Construction (1941) John Cage
1912-1992
Dedicated to Xenia Kashevaroff-Cage, to whom Cage was then married and who played in his percussion orchestra. Scored for four percussionists. There are 24 sections of 24 bars each, and the rhythmic structure is rotated between the players: 8, 2, 4, 5, 3, 2 for the fourth, 2, 8, 2, 4, 5, 3 for the first, etc. Guest Performers: Ben Stiers, Peter Rice, Anthony King

Fade to Black (1984) Metallica
Trans. Ryan Shaffer
This song was written after almost all of their equipment was stolen after a gig. The lyrics suggest the story of a man contemplating, and eventually committing, suicide. It begins with an acoustic guitar introduction and becomes progressively heavier as the song goes on. (This case orchestrated for a marimba band)

Guest Performers:
Joey Hennigan, Tyler Lozier, Paul Schmidt, Stephen Ferradino