

College of Fine Arts

presents the

UNLV Percussion Ensemble

Directed by Dean Gronemeier and Timothy Jones

UNLV Steel Band

Directed by Luc Brust

PROGRAM

UNLV Steel Band

Ivan Lins, Vitor Martins
(b. 1945) (b. 1944)

Leva e Traz

Dave Matthews
(b. 1967)

Satellites

The Mighty Sparrow
(b. 1935)
arr. by Shelly Irvine (b. 1965)

Both of Them

UNLV Percussion Ensemble

Paul Buyer
(b. 1969)

Kid at Heart

Bela Fleck
(b. 1958)
arr. by David Steinquest (b. 1955)

Metric Lips

James Campbell
(b. 1953)

Terra Cotta Warriors

Anders Koppel
(b. 1947)

Mechanical Ballet

World Premiere

John Mackey
(b. 1973)

Mass

Caleb Pickering, conductor

Ivan Trevino
(b. 1983)

Catching Shadows

Monday, November 3, 2014

5:00 p.m.

**Dr. Arturo Rando-Grillot Recital Hall
Lee and Thomas Beam Music Center
University of Nevada, Las Vegas**

PROGRAM NOTES

Kid at Heart - Paul Buyer

"*Kid at Heart* was written as a tribute to my son, Jackson. The piece is written in three parts:

1) Tube Groove, which calls for 3 different timbres we discovered while playing boom whackers together: striking the palm on the end of the tube, using index fingers on the side of the tube, and playing them like drumsticks on the floor. The solo section is influenced by Mark Ford's *Head Talk*, featuring several childlike and humorous disruptions to the groove. The players are encouraged to be creative with this section!

2) Better than Toys features a variety of recyclables that a child can turn into music. As any parent knows, these recyclables are very popular with kids and are often better than toys. This section features a "STOMP-like" groove followed by a call and response. The foundation of the groove is a Cascara pattern played on a metal garbage can, and a 2:3 Son Clave played with spoons.

3) Time for Bed features a lullaby with the sound of white noise, the ocean, and rushing air found in a child's sound machine. This final section represents a child winding down from a long day and finally going to sleep.

Kid at Heart is a tribute to how much fun it is to play percussion, bringing out the kid in all of us."

-Paul Buyer

Metric Lips - Bela Fleck, arr. by David Steinquest

Named after composer Bela Bartok, banjo virtuoso Bela Fleck has performed world wide in a wide array of musical genres, and is most well known for being the frontman of his ensemble *Bela Fleck and the Flecktones*. In this tasteful arrangement of Fleck's original bluegrass composition, vibraphonist David Steinquest captures the essence of Fleck's style and moves it into the percussion idiom to create a challenging piece that is fun for both the audience and the performers.

-Caleb Pickering

Terra Cotta Warriors (The Ghost Army of Emperor Qin) - James Campbell

"While digging a well in 1974, Chinese farmers unearthed a vast 2,200 year-old archeological treasure. This stunning discovery in the Shaanxi province, southwest of Beijing was a terra-cotta army that served as guards for the tomb of the first Emperor of China, Qin Shi Huangdi. Buried in three pits amid the reddish soil of the Yellow River valley were more than 8,000 armed warriors, servants, and horses pulling manned chariots; each life-size terra-cotta statue unique. The tyrannical Emperor Qin is credited with centralizing power, building the Great Wall, constructing vast highways, and unifying weights and measures, currency, and written script throughout his empire. Qin was obsessed with achieving immortality and ordered that a massive clay army be created to protect his tomb in the afterlife. My inspiration for this percussion work is an image of the terra-cotta warriors as a ghost army that gradually becomes mortal as they carry out their duty to protect Emperor Qin from his many enemies."

-James Campbell

Mechanical Ballet - Anders Koppel

Anders Koppel is to a rare degree a composer of his time. With one foot firmly planted in the classical European musical tradition and the other in world music, rock and jazz, Anders Koppel's career as a composer can be seen as one long continuous mission to unite these cultures in a contemporary musical idiom. This has resulted in a long succession of original works, all bearing the mark of a special ability to communicate emotions and energy, powerfully and straightforwardly, between musicians and audience.

Mechanical Ballet was a part of a 2014 keyboard quartet commission consortium led by Brian Zator, and contributed to by the University of Nevada - Las Vegas Percussion Area.

Mass - John Mackey

"My latest collaboration with Robert Battle, Mass is for six percussionists -- 3 mallet players and 3 "drummers" (bass drum, timpani, etc.). It was my first whole-hearted attempt at writing a minimalist piece, and I learned that it's a difficult style to do well! (Try to write a 14-minute piece with extremely limited materials, but keep it interesting, and develop some kind of overarching drama!) It starts extremely slowly and quietly, and builds to one final explosion at the end. Robert's choreography was, I think, his best yet."

-John Mackey

Catching Shadows - Ivan Trevino

Catching Shadows (2013) is a mallet and percussion sextet commissioned by Michael Burritt and the Eastman School of Music percussion studio. The work's instrumentation includes one 5.0 marimba, one 4.5 marimba (which can be substituted with a 4.3 octave marimba), two vibraphones, and two percussion parts. The middle section of the piece also includes optional vocal parts for the players to sing.

Michael Burritt and I have become good friends and collaborators over the years, and on a recent road trip to a gig, he said, "I'm in charge of the tunes!"

Honestly, I didn't know what to expect!

He plugged in his iPod, and the first thing to play: Radiohead, then Dave Matthews, then Earth, Wind & Fire. That's when I discovered something cool about Mike: he's as much rock musician as classical musician. It just so happens he plays marimba. Sometimes, I feel the same way.

With *Catching Shadows*, I thought about our road trip and decided to write a rock tune inspired by Mike's playlist."

-Ivan Trevino

UNLV STEEL BAND PERSONNEL

Kyle Bissantz
Luc Brust
Ben Butterfield
Brandon Davis
Paul De La Torre
Max Feld
Sam Friend

Angela Hall
Ryan Harrison
Michael Hoffman
Luigi Ng
Caleb Pickering
Alex Tomlinson
Eddie Yervinyan