



College of Fine Arts

presents

Artist in Residence Recital

Morris Palter, percussion

Selections of Novelty Ragtime Tunes

Featuring

UNLV Ragtime Rebels Marimba Band

Dean Gronemeier and Timothy Jones, directors

PROGRAM

Mark Applebaum
(b. 1967)

Aphasia

Jean-Charles François
(b. 1942)

Fragments II

Brian Ferneyhough
(b. 1943)

Bone Alphabet

INTERMISSION

George Hamilton Green
(1893–1970)

Ragtime Robin

The Whistler

Jovial Jasper

Chromatic Foxtrot

George Hamilton Green
arr. by Bob Becker

States Medley

George Hamilton Green

Log Cabin Blues

Tuesday, October 28, 2014

6:00 p.m.

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

PROGRAM NOTES

Aphasia (2010) for performer and two-channel audio, consists of an idiosyncratic explosion of warped and mangled sounds. This audio is made up exclusively of vocal samples—all provided by Nicholas Isherwood and subsequently transformed digitally. Against the backdrop of this audio narrative, the live performer executes an elaborate set of hand gestures, an assiduously choreographed sign language of sorts. Each gesture is fastidiously synchronized to the audio in tight rhythmic coordination. There is no gesture tracking technology employed in the performance. It is decidedly 'old school': the performer simply must memorize the entire score and learn the micro-timing of the rhythms so that a sense of visual mimesis results.

Fragments II (1989) Jean-Charles François

The principle instrument of this work is the snare drum. In an interesting twist, however, the drum itself is rarely ever used in what could be considered a "traditional" manner. Instead, the performer utilizes a number of objects including a thimble, a plastic cup, a triangle, and a Chinese cymbal to help activate and create unique sounds from the drum. What attracted me most to this piece was its improvisational sensibility combined with very detailed instructions with respect to the work's execution. Consisting of 15 short movements that are seamlessly connected, the work unfolds as tightly harnessed improvisation.

Bone Alphabet (1992) is generally considered one of the most difficult works in the solo percussion repertoire. *Bone Alphabet* came about as the result of a request by Steven Schick for a solo work for a group of instruments small enough to be transportable as part of the performer's personal luggage when traveling by air. The precise instruments to be utilized are left unspecified, other than by requiring each of the seven sound sources selected to be capable of supporting a wide range of dynamics and of having closely similar attack and decay characteristics to the other instruments. An additional constraint was that no two adjacent instruments making up the gamut of possibilities were to be constructed of the same material (so that, for instance, a Chinese gong could not be located next to a cowbell).

The gestures that we hear, then, might be considered the 'letters' of Ferneyhough's alphabet. Sometimes they coalesce into 'words' or even poetic 'phrases.' More often, they claim our attention in and of themselves for their distinctive articulation of musical time and space. Like much of Ferneyhough's output, *Bone Alphabet* is a study in the unequal or "irrational" division of the rhythmic pulse. As important as these temporal relationships are to Ferneyhough's aesthetic, the most potent 'ratio' in *Bone Alphabet* is surely the 1:7 inherent in the solo percussionist's fearsomely balletic encounter with seven different instruments in an inevitably incredible choreography.

Ragtime

During the 1920s, a type of ragtime became popular in the United States; known as 'novelty ragtime', this music was highly technical, programmatic and speedier than previous rag music, and it was a perfect vehicle for the xylophone. Many of the tunes Becker performs were written by xylophone virtuoso George Hamilton Green and were arranged by Becker. These unique arrangements are scored for xylophone solo and marimba accompaniment.

PERSONNEL

Kyle Bissantz
Luc Brust
James Doyle
Max Feld

Ryan Harrison
Luigi Ng
Caleb Pickering