Music means many different things to many different people. As for myself, I see music as a form of expression or a form of communication; a way to express the feelings that cannot be put into words. This afternoon, I would like to introduce myself to you and communicate with you through the pieces I will be performing.

To The Gods of Rhythm – Nebojsa Jovan Zivkovic

"If there is a rhythm section in Heaven, the realm of the Gods, then surely the people of Africa and the Balkans have the say there. 'To the Gods of rhythm' is a mixture of the music tradition of those two cultures. The sound of rhythm and chant from the Balkans, whose melody is based on a Serbian orthodox church song, are the essence of this piece. The extreme energy comes from probably the most fascinating African drum – djembe."

-Nebojsa Jovan Zivkovic

The word djembe in Bamanankan translates to gather (djem) everyone (be). I thought this piece to be the best way to introduce myself to you and to get things started this afternoon.

Fluctus – Nebojsa Jovan Zivkovic

"The listener is introduced to this passionately raging composition, based on a 27-note progression, which immediately opens with 'fortissimo e furioso' in a rapid velocity. The fluctuating progression appears in differing variations; the actual 'progression' however, remains unchanged. A masterly ebullition of energy frames a section of rhythmic frenzy in which a firm but unperceived batutte is played as undertone. The composition has been conceived as a concert piece for marimba with two mallets technique."

-Nebojsa Jovan Zivkovic

I consider myself to be a very loving and caring individual. Even if there are people that I may not necessarily get along with, I would still help them in a time of need. There is one person that I cannot stand though. This person has caused a great deal of pain to those whom I love and care for the most. This piece expresses my feelings towards this person.
Cold Pressed – Dave Hollinden

"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."

-Dave Hollinden

I was introduced to this composer near the end of 2007. Hollinden writes for rather large percussion set ups, even in his ensemble pieces. Some people will see his works for 11 or more percussionists, each player with literally over a dozen instruments in their set ups, and will only hear a bunch of noise. Though, after analyzing some of his works, I started to understand what it was that Hollinden was trying to say through his music. It fascinates me to find a composer who can express themselves with non-pitched instruments which is why I am performing this rather abstract themed, yet exhilarating piece.

Flight of the Lovers – Leo Brouwer (arr. Daniel Alameda)

I seem to have some interesting luck with the ladies. Whenever I find someone that I am very interested in, we will socialize a few times and we will seem to have a lot of things going for us. After a short while though, I will never hear from this person again. This piece depicts finding someone, the initial ‘flight’ and then the mysterious disappearance of this individual.

True Colours – John Throver

"True Colours is an apppellation to everyone to recognize your own true colours, but at the same time, respect the individuality and characteristics of others. There are two basic motives with a third motive, which are all symbolic of the process of either conflict or healing. The first motive, intolerance, is a downward spiraling rhythmic motif that is shortly after followed by the 'true colours' motive which is a simple eight measure minor theme symbolic of the discovery of your own individuality. The third motive (major) is the theme for 'healing and forgiveness'. These three motives are at odds throughout the piece until the coda, which is the unification of the experience only now, we are not the victim, but have united our powers in true strength."

-John Throver

Within the last two years, I have experienced an incomprehensible amount of hardships that have required me to find my true colours. Knowing my true colours and being able to live my true colours have allowed me to face these hardships and have allowed me to move on without having to put a giant halt on my life.

Toccata – Anders Koppel

Daniel Staff – Marimba

As with any duet, communication is a very important part of a successful performance. For this particular piece, a firm sense of communication must be held between the two performers for about 10 minutes straight. It is very important to me to play pieces like this with people that I am very fond of. I feel that if one cannot stand being in the same room with someone for more than 5 minutes, how can they perform efficiently together? I have looked up to this individual for quite some time now and I was very privileged when he approached me with this piece.

Alone – Koike Abe

I have this desire for what I do; a love that I cannot describe. Music is the reason why I have made it as far in life as I have. It has helped me through all of the hardships and struggles that I have ever faced. The messages that can be sent through music can be life changing. I have a hard time trying to express this love, passion, and dedication with others though. People say they understand how I feel, but I am unsure if it is on the same level. This piece expresses me reaching out to someone who I can share this love with, but not being able to find anyone on the other end.