Christopher Whyte: Percussion Symphony

Brian Gardiner: Vibraphone

Aaron Jester: Xylophone

Brenda Trowbridge: Vibraphone

Melissa Davis: Xylophone

W. Sean Wagoner: (Principal Percussion) Timpani

Charles Dowd: Conductor, Squeeze Drum (African Talking Drum), Vocals

Extended Play

Album presented by Permanent Press

Program Notes - Oregon Percussion Ensemble

written and/or compiled by C. Dowd

December 1, 2003 • 8 p.m., Beall Hall

Extended Play

"for Charles Dowd and the University of Oregon Percussion Ensemble"

Allen Strange

published by Permanent Press

Brian Gardiner: Marimba

Chris Whyte: Glockenspiel

Aaron Jester: Xylophone

Erika Drake: Marimba

Melissa Davis: Marimba

This music is based on Satie's miniature masterpieces, Sports et Divertissements, which were composed for solo piano in 1914. The complete set of 20 movements were commissioned and published by Lucien Vogel as a luxury portfolio accompanying color illustrations by Charles Martin. Over the years I have orchestrated many of these movements for a variety of ensembles ranging from a "virtual" computer orchestra to duets for clarinet and horn to a bassoon quartet. This present "incarnation" is set for an ensemble of five percussionists and is perhaps the most controversial departure from Satie's original music. After completing the bassoon quartet version, Sports et Divertissements-Extended Play, I was left with several "left-over" ideas which simply did not work for the double reed instruments but did seem ripe for mallet timbres. This version, yet another extension of Satie's ideas could then be called a form of "recycled music" or perhaps a sonic Frankenstein. This present "borrowing" of Satie's music will hopefully excite my fascination with these works.

-- Allen Strange

August 21, 2003 Bainbridge Island, WA

American composer and performer Allen Strange studied composition with Erickson, Partch, Gabri and Oliveros at the University of California, San Diego and with Michalky at State University, Fullerton. He received two grants from the San Jose State University Foundation for research into electronic music, and in 1970 became professor of music and director of the electronic music studios at San Jose State University. He attended Chowning's music seminar at Stanford University Artificial Intelligence Center, Strange is one of the leading authorities on analogue electronic music. Allen Strange co-founded two performance groups, Biome (1987) and the Electronic Wessel Ensemble (1974). He was president of the International Computer Music Association and has appeared as a guest artist-lecturer throughout the world. With his wife, Patricia, they have recently published The Contemporary Violin: Extended Performance Techniques (UC Press). Strange's music has been recorded and performed in Germany, Italy, Mexico, Canada, South Africa, Japan, South America, Europe and throughout the United States.

Divertimento for Marimba and Alto Saxophone

Akira Yuyama

World premiere: October 4, 1968, Iino Hall, Tokyo Japan:

Keiko Abe, marimba; Motoe Miyajima, alto saxophone

"Being commissioned by Ms. (Keiko) Abe to compose a piece for the marimba provided me with the ideal opportunity to work together with her in exploring the possibilities of the instrument. I immediately sat down to paper and became engrossed in composing a work which combined the marimba, an instrument with a rich overtone structure, with the saxophone, an instrument which also has a rich overtone structure together with a fluent and lyrical nature, in an attempt to bring forth the effervescent, burning energy of the marimba."

-- Akira Yuyama

Composer Akira Yuyama is one of Japan's foremost contemporary composers. He studied at the Tokyo University of Art in 1955 with Tomojiro Ikenouchi and has composed many works. This Divertimento is a classic in the repertory.
Rip-Off
Richard Kvistad
arr. C. Dowd
Published by Rick Kvistad

Erica Drake: Multiple Percussion Setup including (but not limited to):
- Snare Drum
- High Tom-tom
- Medium Tom-tom
- Low Tom-tom
- Bass Drum

Josh Hakanson: Multiple Percussion Setup including (but not limited to):
- Snare Drum
- High Tom-tom
- Medium Tom-tom
- Low Tom-tom
- Bass Drum

Brenda Lauffenberger: Multiple Percussion Setup including (but not limited to):
- Snare Drum
- High Tom-tom
- Medium Tom-tom
- Low Tom-tom
- Bass Drum

Mark Lighthiser: Multiple Percussion Setup including (but not limited to):
- Snare Drum
- High Tom-tom
- Medium Tom-tom
- Low Tom-tom
- Bass Drum

Rip-Off has been a staple of the famed Blackearth Percussion Group over the years. It can be performed on drum sets, or timpani/tom toms, using either two or four players. Kvistad states in his performance notes: “This piece has been performed as a “strip-tease” with players removing articles of clothing...” and The Oregon Percussion Ensemble performed “the Oregon quartet version” at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention in Los Angeles several years ago. In this composition, Kvistad borrows, steals (or “rips off”) drum licks from two previous pieces: Lift-Off by Russell Peck, and Take That! by William Albright, in a game of one-upmanship. This piece mixes classical percussion improvisatory material with strictly written music, allowing a creative outlet for each player.

Richard Kvistad is the co-founder of The Blackearth Percussion Group, the first classical percussion quartet to “quit their day jobs” with top USA symphony orchestras to concertize as a classical percussion quartet. Kvistad now lives in San Francisco and is a principal percussionist with the San Francisco Opera, while performing and composing avant-garde music worldwide. Richard Kvistad’s brother, Garry Kvistad, is also a co-founder of Blackearth and is owner/inventor of the Woodstock Chimes company. Garry Kvistad now plays percussion with the Nexus percussion group.

Shaken Not Stirred
Michael Daugherty
Published by Peer Music Classical

Brian Gardiner: Vibraphone
- Tambourine I
- Plastic Maraca I
- Wood Maraca I
- Glass Water Goblets
- Vocals

Melissa Davis: Marimba (“Low A”)
- Two Crystal Glasses (filled with water)
- Plastic Maraca II
- Wooden Maraca II
- Vocals

Mark Lighthiser: Splash Cymbal
- Hi-hat
- Rongos
- Plastic Maracas III (pair)
- Cowbell (large)
- Woodblock (large)
- Claves
- Castanets
- Gong (small)
- Triangle (large)
- Crotale ("D")
- Vocals

Chris Whyte: Bass Marimba (“Low C”)
- Plastic Maracas IV
- Vocals

“Shaken Not Stirred (1994) is my tribute to Bond, James Bond, British Agent 007, on Her Majesty’s Secret Service. Four different actors played the role of Bond in sixteen films from 1962 to 1994: Sean Connery, Roger Moore, George Lazenby, and Timothy Dalton. But over the years, Bond’s preferred drink has remained the same – a medium dry martini with lemon peel, “shaken, not stirred.”

Like the four different versions of Bond, the four musicians in the ensemble dryly reiterate this phrase, creating an intricate compositional structure for repetition and variation. Various sixties “secret agent” motives are heard in the bass alongside lively vibraphone and marimba riffs, counterpoised with the stirring and shaking of maracas and tambourine. In a suave succession of tymbres and rhythms tinged with cocktail – lounge overtones, the effect of this composition is retro – futuristic music that looks good in a dinner jacket, licensed to thrill.

Shaken Not Stirred is divided into nine sections to be performed without pause: Dr. No Allegro, Moonraker Cha-Cha, Thunderball Vivace, Goldfinger Andantino, You Only Live Twice Allegro, Moonraker Adagissimo, Casino Royale Rumba, Diamonds Are Forever Vivo, and Never Say Never Andante. It is scored for a wide range of percussion instruments, and (of course) crystal glasses.”

– Michael Daugherty

Tonight’s skit was not written by Daugherty.

Michael Daugherty is a renowned living American composer who has created a niche in the music world that is uniquely his own, composing concert music inspired by contemporary American popular culture. Some of his works include: Snap! - Blue Like an Orange (1987) (Kennedy Center Friedheim Award), Metropolis Symphony (1988-93), Bizarro (1990), Desi (1991), Dance Mix (Baltimore Symphony on Argo), Elvis Everywhere (1993), Sings Sings! Edgar Hoover (1992) (Kronos Quartet on Nonesuch), Jackie O (1997) (Houston Grand Opera on Argo), Sinfonietta, and Dogs of Desire (London Sinfonietta on Argo). Daugherty has won many prestigious awards in the field of classical music.