

ABOUT

State University, Queens College, Queensborough Community College, William Paterson University and has also been featured at the 2015 Ohio and Tennessee PAS Days of Percussion and 2016 Ontario Day of Percussion. He is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theater & Dance where he serves as a director of the University's famed percussion ensemble, director of the Latin Jazz Ensemble and director of the MPulse Summer Percussion Institute. He is also proud artist/endorser with Pearl/Adams, Zildjian, Remo, and Innovative Percussion.

NEERAJ MEHTA

Neeraj Mehta is an active performer and educator, having presented concerts, clinics and master classes in North America, Europe, and Asia. An artist whose work spans contemporary art, jazz and world percussion music, he recently performed and recorded with saxophonist and MacArthur Genius Steve Coleman as part of his month-long residency at The Stone, and is a leading performer, researcher and advocate of Danish composer Per Nørgård's music. He was a featured concerto soloist and guest lecturer as part of the Nørgård in New York Festival in 2016 at the American-Scandinavian Foundation, and received a Fulbright Fellowship to Denmark where he studied with percussionist Gert Mortensen at the Royal Danish Academy of Music, and gave the premiere performance and recording of Per Nørgård's A Light Hour. In addition to his contemporary music work, he has received multiple grants to research the Afro-Cuban folkloric music of Cuba, and is a founding member of Ensemble Duniya, a group that explores the intersection between contemporary art music and percussion music traditions from around the world. He frequently gives performances, lectures and masterclasses at colleges and universities throughout the country and maintains an active performance schedule in New York City where he is currently Assistant Professor of Music at City University of New York–Queensborough Community College. Dr. Mehta is a proud artist/endorser with Innovative Percussion, Inc., Remo Drumheads and Pearl/Adams.

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Season 116, Program 3



UNIVERSITY OF
OREGON

SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND DANCE

The PERCUNOVA Percussion Duo

Jonathan Ovalle & Neeraj Mehta

Beall Concert Hall
Thursday, Oct. 13, 2016 | 7:30 p.m.



Red (2008) Marc Mellits
 II. fast, aggressive, vicious (b. 1966)

Music for Four Congas (2016) Jonathan Ovalle/Neeraj Mehta

Gather and Sh(r)ed (2016) Andrea Mazzariello
 (b. 1978)

Improvisation No. 1 for Vibraphone Jonathan Ovalle/Neeraj Mehta

QBARAMA (2014) Jonathan Ovalle/Neeraj Mehta

INTERMISSION

Continuum (1968) György Ligeti
 (1923-2006)

Rumba Clave (1989) Roberto Vizcaino Guillot
 (b. 1959)

Improvisation No. 2 for Vibraphone Jonathan Ovalle/Neeraj Mehta

Gyro (2005) Tomer Yariv
 (b. 1976)

The PERCUNOVA Percussion Duo (Jonathan Ovalle & Neeraj Mehta) strives to bring contemporary art music and global percussion rhythms together through diverse repertoire and virtuosic performance. The duo made their international debut at the 2014 Mahidol University Brass and Percussion Conference in Bangkok, Thailand where they performed a full recital, gave educational clinics & workshops, and appeared with the Mahidol University Wind Ensemble as concerto soloists while in residence. Following their Thailand debut, the duo toured India, where they presented performance workshops at seven international schools in the cities of Mumbai and Pune. More recently, the duo has been active performing and giving workshops at universities in the U.S. including William Paterson University, Queens College, Colorado State University, University of Colorado-Denver, and University of Denver.

With a collaboration history of ten years in a wide variety of musical genres, Jonathan Ovalle & Neeraj Mehta have appeared together and independently throughout North America, Europe and Asia. Their experience includes performances at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, The Midwest Clinic, Detroit International Jazz Festival, Art Tatum Heritage Jazz Festival, as well as numerous guest artist residencies including the Juilliard School, Northern Illinois University, the University of Texas A&M-Commerce, Baylor University, Butler University, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Their current work together as PERCUNOVA includes concertizing and developing repertoire which features contemporary duo percussion works, new commissions, transcriptions, and original co-composed and improvised music. Jonathan Ovalle and Neeraj Mehta are sponsored by Pearl/Adams, Innovative Percussion, Remo, and Zildjian.

JONATHAN OVALLE

As a committed performer of contemporary art music as well as an inspired jazz/world percussionist and drummer, Jonathan Ovalle is equally comfortable in the concert hall, on the jazz stage, or freely improvising in a public space. He draws continued inspiration seeking creative ways to explore and engage the percussive art in every manner and shape possible. He has performed and presented masterclasses in North America and Asia, has been a featured artist at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, and has served as a judge for the Thailand Drumline Competition. Most recently, he has participated in concerts and workshops at Baylor University, University of Tennessee, University of Tennessee -Martin, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Middle Tennessee