

WILLIAM PATERSON
UNIVERSITY

Department of Music

**The William Paterson University
Department of Music**

presents

New Music Series

Peter Jarvis, director

featuring the

**William Paterson University
Percussion Ensemble**

with guest group

New Jersey Percussion Ensemble

Monday, November 9, 2015, 7:00 PM

Shea Center for the Performing Arts

Program

Stridulations for the Good Luck Feast (1999)
Suite of Percussion Compositions

Billy Martin

WPU Percussion Ensemble

Christian Olivero, Elise McAloon, Alex Bernhardt,
Zach Strumeier, Jose Alemany, Payton MacDonald
Payton MacDonald - Coach

Skepticism and Imagination (2015)

Dorian Wallace

Machinery of Awe for Percussion Quartet

New Jersey Percussion Ensemble

Michael Aberback, Paul Carroll,
Peter Jarvis, Payton MacDonald

Thor II (2015)

For Percussion Quartet

Payton MacDonald

NJPE

The Calm Before. . . (2015)

For Percussion trio

Lukas Ligeti

NJPE

Akpe 3 (2015)

For Percussion Quartet

Milica Paranosic

NJPE

Ambition Blinds (2015)

For Percussion Quartet

Dan Cooper

NJPE

Toccata (1955)

Carlos Chávez

For Percussion Sextet

- I.
- II.
- III.

WPU Percussion Ensemble

**Ryan Ayres, Evan Chertok, Amanda Felten,
Jesse Gerbasi, Elise McAloon, Travis Salim
Peter Jarvis - Conductor**

Program Notes

Billy Martin, *Stridulations for the Good Luck Feast*

Stridulations for the Good Luck Feast is a suite of percussion compositions that could be considered a collaborative game, played not by opponents to win or lose, but by a team of individuals whose primary challenge is collective improvisation. The object of *Stridulations* is the formation of a self-governing ensemble acting as one 'organism' that produces unique arrangements each performance. Simply put, Martin's *Stridulations* are a study in rhythmic harmony, phrasing and improvisation.

- Billy Martin

Dorian Wallace, *Skepticism and Imagination (machinery of awe for percussion quartet)*

"We wish to find the truth, no matter where it lies. But to find the truth we need imagination and skepticism both. We will not be afraid to speculate, but we will be careful to distinguish speculation from fact." - Carl Sagan, *Cosmos*

Thor II, Payton MacDonald

I composed *Thor II* on request from New Jersey Percussion Ensemble and Composer's Concordance. Thor II is used large slap mallets to produce a percussive sound on the marimba. The intensity of the slap mallets reminded me of the mythical god Thor wielding his massive hammer. Actually, that's not really true. What is true is that I have a bearded dragon for a pet and his name is Thor and whenever I pull out the slap mallets he cocks his head and looks interested in what I'm doing. Or maybe he's just waiting for more grubs. He's a big guy and he likes to eat a lot.

- Payton MacDonald

The Calm Before . . . , Lukas Ligeti

"The Calm Before..." presents a new approach to polymetric interplay in an ensemble: musicians cue off each other, play in unison, and gradually shift accents until their perception of their own playing is "turned upside down" and they end up with differing notions of where within the music the beat is located. I have been working with relative beats (rather than the absolute ones found in nearly all Western music) for many years; this technique of gradual accent-shifting makes playing with relative beats much easier and introduces a different "feeling" to my polymetric music.

– Lukas Ligeti

Akpe 3, Milica Paranosic

Akpe 3 is the third incarnation of a piece inspired by a Gahu drumming-dancing piece from the Ewe region in Ghana, where I studied on a 'Give to Grow' residency. Akpe is 'thank you' in Ewe."

- Milica Paranosic

Ambition Blinds: Dan Cooper

This is a recent arrangement of a song I wrote years ago. In the intros, the chords derive from open-string harmonics idiomatic to the bass guitar. In the choruses, the chords ascend by major thirds. While each of the players is featured here, I particularly hoped to call attention to the extraordinary drumset playing of John Ferrari, with whom I've been fortunate to collaborate on numerous occasions.

– Dan Cooper

Carlos Chávez: Toccata

Toccata, for 6 players and in 3 movements, utilizes traditional orchestral percussion instruments. It was choreographed by Xavier Francis and performed as a ballet by the Toxcatl Academy of Mexican Dance in 1952. However, Chávez emphasized that this work is fundamentally abstract. The 3 movements are of contrasting timbres. The first and last movements share a sonata-like conception, and feature drums. This creates a certain symmetry. The first movement, in a rounded repetitive form, spotlights the drums. The different musical material assigned to each drum, combined with the voicing, creates a contrapuntal texture. This is an achievement: since drums lack pitch, it is difficult to let individual strands of rhythmic melody emerge. The second movement is for the metal instruments and xylophone. The drums return for the third movement and are joined by the glockenspiel.

- Jason Sundram

Biographical Information

Michael Aberback:

Percussionist Dr. **Michael Aberback** is an active performer and music educator. Michael has performed at Carnegie Hall, The Madison Square Garden Theatre, Symphony Space, The New Jersey Performing Arts Center, The Music Festival of the Hamptons, Merkin Concert Hall, The Count Basie Theatre, and many other New York area venues. He has played with The New Jersey Percussion Ensemble, Camerata Noturna, Cantori New York, The ISCM League of Composers, The New Music Consort, Music From China, and Newband, to name a few. He can be heard on recordings on the CRI and Naxos labels. Michael holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from SUNY Stony Brook, where he studied percussion with Raymond DesRoches and Eduardo Leandro. Michael has taught students at every level. In 2009, he received the WDHA 'Teachers Who Rock' award, and in 2014, he was named 'teacher of the year' in the Mount Arlington Public School District.

Paul Carroll:

Paul Carroll is a Hudson Valley based percussionist and educator, and has performed with many prestigious contemporary music groups in the New York area. Through a grant from the Beebe Foundation, Paul studied in Copenhagen, Denmark, where he performed with the Athelas Ensemble and the Ensemble Figura. Most recently, he has worked with a Hudson Valley based group called Madera Vox. Paul Carroll has worked with many composers and had solo works dedicated to him by Robert Pollock and Peter Zaporinuk. He can be heard on many recordings, including the 2008 release of Charles Wuorinen's *The Dante Trilogy*, on Naxos. Paul was honored to have studied with percussion pioneers Raymond DesRoches and Bent Lyloff, as well as the legendary jazz drummer, Joe Morello. He holds a Doctorate and Master in Music from SUNY at Stony Brook, and a Bachelor of Music degree from William Paterson University.

Carlos Chávez:

Carlos Antonio de Padua Chávez y Ramírez (June 13, 1899 – August 2, 1978) was a Mexican composer, conductor, teacher, journalist, and the founder and director of the Mexico Symphony Orchestra. He was influenced by native Mexican cultures. Of his six Symphonies, his *Symphony No. 2*, which uses native Yaqui percussion instruments, is probably the most popular.

After Arturo Toscanini left the NBC Radio Symphony Orchestra in 1938, Chávez conducted a series of concerts with that orchestra. In 1940 he produced concerts at New York's Museum of Modern Art. From 1947 to 1952, Chávez was director general of the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes. In 1947, he formed the Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional, which supplanted the older OSM as Mexico's premier orchestra and led to the disbanding of the older ensemble. Throughout all this time, Chávez maintained a busy international touring schedule. He died in quietly while visiting his daughter outside of Mexico City.

Dan Cooper:

Dan Cooper ("especially fascinating" -American Record Guide) was born and raised in Manhattan, and educated at Columbia, NEC, and Princeton. The recipient of an Aaron Copland fellowship to Tanglewood, he has received awards, commissions, residencies, and premieres from Absolute Ensemble, Albany Symphony, ASCAP, Cary

Trust, Engine 27, ESYO, Fontainebleau, Imani Winds, NARAS, NEA, North River Music, NYYS, Shakespeare & Company, ACO / Sonic Festival, Vox Novus, Walter W. Naumburg Fund, and Zentripetal Duo, among others. As a multi-instrumentalist, he has performed at venues including Berlin Philharmonic Hall, Bunkamura Orchard Hall, CBGB, Chicago Theater, Davies Hall, Hong Kong City Hall, Irving Plaza, Joe's Pub, LPR, Massey Hall, Rockefeller Center, Royal Albert Hall, Sydney Opera House, The American Airlines (Selwyn) Theatre, The American Museum of Natural History, The Blue Note, and Town Hall. Cooper is a music professor at SUNY-FIT, and a co-director of Composers Concordance. <http://www.dan-cooper.com>

Peter Jarvis:

Peter Jarvis (b. 1959, Hackensack, New Jersey) ("Jarvis' podium style embedded precision within flowing gestures, a philosophy of movement which clearly transferred itself to the players" - Classical New Jersey) is a percussionist, drummer, conductor, composer, music copyist, print music editor and college professor. He is an Associate Director of the composer Concordance and serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Over the decades, he has performed popular and unpopular music with equal enthusiasm. He has performed as a soloist, chamber player, Broadway musician and as conductor/player with chamber music ensembles, orchestras and choruses. The proliferation of percussion literature is extremely important to Jarvis and he has performed approximately 100 solo pieces for multi percussion, timpani, vibraphone, marimba, solo snare drum and drum set composed for him.

As conductor, he has appeared with the Saint Luke's Chamber Ensemble, The New Jersey Percussion Ensemble, Composers Concordance, and many other groups. Jarvis composed, orchestrated, arranged and performed music for Wes Anderson's film *Moonrise Kingdom*, which received a Golden Globe nomination for Best Score. He has also performed his own solo percussion music for several episodes of the HBO Series *Boardwalk Empire*. He has recorded a great many pieces as soloist, chamber musician and conductor for several labels. His compositions are published by Calabrese Brothers Music LLC, Indian Paintbrush Productions and L-T Music Publishing and he is a member of BMI.

- From Wikipedia

Payton MacDonald:

Payton MacDonald (b. 1974, Idaho Falls, Idaho) is a composer/improviser/percussionist/singer/educator. MacDonald was a founding member of new-music chamber orchestra superstars Alarm Will Sound and has also toured internationally as a solo marimbist and a member of various chamber ensembles including Galaxy Percussion, NJPE, Present Music, and Verederos. He has commissioned many works from today's leading composers, including Charles Wuorinen, Don Freund, Elliott Sharp, and many others. And many of the world's best ensembles have performed MacDonald's music, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, JACK Quartet, Alarm Will Sound, et al. MacDonald has performed in the world's best venues, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Barbican, and many more. MacDonald studied music at the University of Michigan (B.F.A.) and the Eastman School of Music (M.M., D.M.A.). His composition teachers include Sydney Hodkinson, Robert Morris, Dave Rivello, Bright Sheng, and Augusta Read Thomas. His percussion teachers include John Beck and Michael Udow, and tabla with Bob Becker and Pandit Sharda Sahai. Further studies

include Dhruvad vocal with the Gundecha Brothers. MacDonald has been to India many times, including for nine months as a Senior Fulbright-Nehru Fellow. The Los Angeles Times described MacDonald as an ". . . inventive, stylistically omnivorous composer and gifted performer . . ." MacDonald serves as a Full Professor of Music at William Paterson University and he is a Co-Artistic Director of SHASTRA, an organization that brings together the music of India and the West.

Billy Martin:

Before becoming part of Medeski, Martin & Wood, **Martin** was part of the New York City Brazilian scene in the 1980s. He performed regularly with Pe De Boi, Batucada and several Bob Moses bands for over a decade. He also joined Chuck Mangione's touring group for three years. Most notably he has developed as a percussionist for The Lounge Lizards and with the John Lurie National Orchestra, and has collaborated with artists such as John Zorn, DJ Logic, Dave Burrell and Miho Hatori. He has also started his own record label, Amulet Records, specializing in eclectic percussion albums. Martin has also collaborated with Iggy Pop, Eyvind Kang, Chris Whitley, DJ Olive, Ikue Mori, John Scofield, Maceo Parker, Calvin Weston, Marty Ehrlich, and Min Xiao-Fen.

Martin also sometimes goes by the moniker *Illy B*. The most notable releases as Illy B include the *Illy B Eats* series of breakbeat records. DJ Logic convinced Martin to record a breakbeat album for DJs and other producers to use and remix. At the last minute, Martin decided to place an insert which invited remixers to submit their mixes for a follow up compilation, *Drop the Needle*.

Along with his percussion work, Martin is a visual artist. He does printmaking, painting, pencil drawings, and pastel drawings, among other mediums. His work has been displayed in several galleries and is also on the packaging of many Medeski Martin & Wood albums, most notably the cover of *Shack-man*.

2006 was a prolific year for Martin; he created new chamber compositions for John Zorn's Tzadik label, he released *Out Louder* on MMW's new label Indirecto, he produced many new artworks, and published a drum book entitled *Riddim: Clave of African Origin*.

- From Wikipedia

Milica Paranosic:

Critically acclaimed composer **Milica Paranosic** ("amazing...astonishing" - NYTimes) has established herself as one of New York's finest and most daring composers, performance artists, producers, and technologists. Milica's works range from one-woman multimedia shows and sound installations to operatic and symphonic works. Inspired by her travels and international collaborations, Milica ingeniously incorporates music of her Serbian homeland in addition to cross-continental muses such as Brazil, Ghana and China. Milica is recipient of many honors and awards; her work was commissioned by major NYC organizations such as American Composers Orchestra, New Juilliard Ensemble, VisionIntoArt and Buglisi Dance Theater and has appeared on stages of Symphony Space, Zankel Hall/Carnegie, Alice Tully Hall/Lincoln Center, BAM café, Bohemian National Hall and many others. International and intercontinental highlights include BEMUS (Belgrade, Serbia), EtnaFest (Catania, Italy) and Internacional De Música Contemporânea Ppgmus-Ufba, (Bahia, Brazil). Her recent commission by the American Composers Orchestra's for an opener of their 2012-13 season at the Carnegie's Zankel Hall, was co-sponsored by the LVMH Moët Hennessy • Louis Vuitton. She is a current

music faculty member at the Juilliard School, Music director of Gallery MC, co-director of Composers Concordance, visiting Composition Faculty of FaceArt Internations, founder of Give to Grow and founder and director of Paracademia LLC. Milica lives in Harlem, NYC. <http://www.milicaparanosic.com>

Dorian Wallace:

Composer and pianist **Dorian Wallace's** career has experienced a diverse musical palette including contemporary classical, avant-garde, orchestra, classical dance, electro acoustic, large jazz ensemble, spontaneous improvisation, film, and opera. He is Co-Founder and Artistic Director of Tenth Intervention, a consortium of ensembles in New York City. He has received commissions and performed with such artists as The Cleveland Orchestra, Robert Ashley, Composers Concordance, 42nd Parallel, Paperwing, New Vintage Baroque, 1685, ACB Dance, TRIODance Collective, Frank London, Jonathan Finlayson, Son Lux, Eric Lyon, Aleksandra Vrebalov, Hannis Brown, Jason Cady, Dan Cooper, David T. Little, Nate May, Dave Liebman, Bobby Selvaggio, and Nathan Hall. He is a staff musician and composer for dance at The Juilliard School, Barnard College, Columbia University, New York University, The Martha Graham Dance Company, Ballet Hispanico, and Doug Varone and Dancers. He is a Mentor at UnCollege, where he teaches Music Composition, Music Theory, and Spontaneous Improvisation. <http://www.dorianwallace.com>

Many Thanks to the Tech Crew under the Direction of Al Schaefer.

**New Music at William Paterson University
New Music Series – 2015 - 2016**

All Concerts are at 7:00 PM unless otherwise stated.

All performances are in Shea Auditorium unless otherwise stated.

All programs are subject to change without notice.

September 14, 2015 - Composers Concordance. A multi media event featuring the Manhattan Brass Ensemble and the comp Cord Ensemble with 4 premieres, all including new poetry and videos.

October 19, 2015 – WPU New Music and Percussion Ensembles.

November 9, 2015 – WPU New Music and Percussion Ensembles.

November 23, 2015 – WPU Percussion Ensemble & New Jersey Percussion Ensemble

February 1, 2016 – Concert of Concertos – Featuring Soloists: John Ferrari, Peter Jarvis and Glen Velez

February 22, 2016 – WPU New Music and Percussion Ensembles.

March 7, 2016 – WPU New Music and Percussion Ensembles.

March 10, 2016: This concert is on a Thursday and it begins at 12:30PM. Composer in Residence Day featuring our 4th annual WPU Composer concert. Music by WPU students, alumni and faculty.

April 18, 2016