

11-8-2013

Guest Recital: Bob Becker, xylophone & Yurika Kimura, marimba- "A Salute to George Hamilton Green"

Bob Becker

Yurika Kimura

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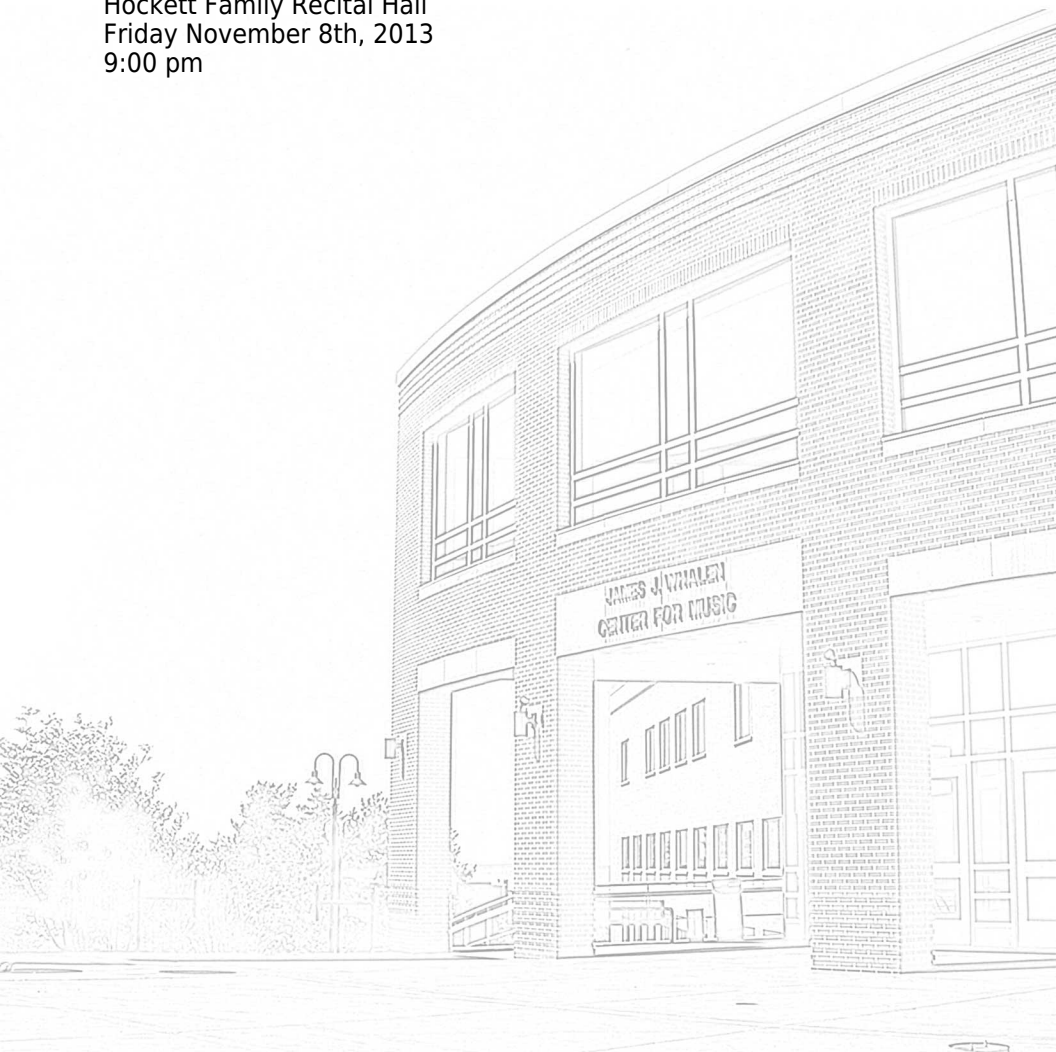
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Guest Recital:
Bob Becker, xylophone
Yurika Kimura, marimba

"A Salute to George Hamilton Green"

Hockett Family Recital Hall
Friday November 8th, 2013
9:00 pm



ITHACA COLLEGE

School of Music

Program

- Caprice Valsant
Marimba accompaniment arranged by Yurika Kimura
G.H. Green
(1893-1970)
- Castle Valse Classique
As played by G.H. Green with Earl Fuller's Orchestra
Transcribed and arranged by Yurika Kimura
Dvořák/
Dabney/
Green
- In Sweet September
As played by the All Star Trio
Transcribed and arranged by Yurika Kimura
James Monaco
- Old Man Jazz
As played by the All Star Trio
Transcribed and arranged by Yurika Kimura
Gene Quaw
- The Hula Blues
As played by the Green Brother's Novelty Band
Transcribed and arranged by Yurika Kimura
Sonny Cunha
and John Noble
- Poor Little Butterfly Is A Fly Gal Now
As played by the All Star Trio
Transcribed and arranged by Yurika Kimura
M.K. Jerome
- Yellow Dog Blues
As played by G.H. Green and Frank Banta
Transcribed and arranged by Yurika Kimura
W.C. Handy
- The Coquette
Xylophone solo edited by G.H. Green
Marimba accompaniment arranged by Yurika
Kimura
Jesse L. Deppen
- Watermelon Whispers
As played by G.H. Green with dance orchestra
Transcribed and arranged by Yurika Kimura
G.H. Green
- Alabama Moon
Xylophone solo arranged by Bob Becker
Marimba accompaniment arranged by Yurika Kimura
G.H. Green
- Swanee
Xylophone Solo arranged by Bob Becker
Marimba accompaniment arranged by Yurika
Kimura
George Gershwin

Biographies

Bob Becker's performing experience spans nearly all of the musical disciplines where percussion is found. Generally considered to be one of the world's premier virtuoso performers on the xylophone and marimba, he appears regularly as a soloist and clinician. In particular, his work toward resurrecting the repertoire and performance styles of early 20th century xylophone music has been recognized internationally. Becker has been associated with the Malletech company since 1988, and plays the Malletech ragtime/soloist xylophone, which he helped design, and also uses the Bob Becker signature line of Malletech mallets and snare drum sticks. He is an endorser and designer for the Sabian cymbal company, and was honored with Sabian's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005. In 2006 he was recognized as a "Master Drummer" by the International Association of Traditional Drummers, an organization founded by the legendary rudimentalist John S. Pratt. In 1999, as a member of the percussion group NEXUS, he was inducted into the Percussive Arts Society's Hall of Fame.

Yurika Kimura began training on the piano when she was three years old, later adding marimba studies. She majored in percussion performance, piano and Hammond organ at the Sakuyo College of Music, graduating with a scholarship and an award as the top student in all departments. Her major teachers include Mitsuaki Imamura, percussionist with the NHK Symphony Orchestra, and marimba virtuoso Keiko Abe. In addition, she is a licensed therapist by the Japan Music Therapy Association.

Yurika Kimura has performed as a concert marimbist and xylophonist, specializing in the virtuos repertoire of early 20th century America. Her uncanny ability to play the marimba using four, five and six mallets simultaneously has allowed her to create transcriptions and arrangements of 1920s period accompaniments originally performed on a piano or by small orchestras. Her arrangements for xylophone and marimba duet are published by Keyboard Percussion Publications in the series "Recollections of G.H. Green". Her CD, *Alabama Moon - A Salute to G.H. Green*, released by Resonator Records in 2013 features these and other duet pieces performed together with xylophonist Bob Becker.

In 2011 Yurika performed at the 50th Anniversary Percussive Arts Society International Convention in Indianapolis as a member of the Bob Becker Ensemble. In 2012 and 2013 she appeared together with Bob Becker at the Leigh Howard Stevens Summer Marimba Seminar and the Bob Becker Ragtime Xylophone Institute. Yurika is a Malletech Artist and endorser.

Program Notes

George Hamilton Green was born in Omaha, Nebraska in 1893, and was hailed as the world's greatest xylophonist while still a teenager. He passed away in Woodstock, NY in 1970, after an astonishing career as a concert virtuoso, recording artist, radio performer, ground-breaking jazz improviser, composer and teacher. His talents extended beyond the music world into athletics and, notably, the graphic arts and magazine cartoons.

During the decade from 1915 to 1925 Green's name was instantly recognizable to anyone who listened to popular dance music on the phonograph. He made literally thousands of recordings for the major record companies, including Victor, Columbia, Brunswick and Emerson, appearing as leader with ensembles such as the Green Brothers' Novelty Band, and as featured soloist with groups like the All Star Trio and Earl Fuller's Rector House Orchestra. The highly syncopated rhythms he introduced into dance music around 1917 were powerfully radical at the time of pre-swing pop songs. Innovators are typically copied, and Green was no exception – his playing inspired xylophonists of his own and following generations. He was a prolific composer and lyricist, but it is his legacy as a performer that continues to the present time. He pioneered a classical technical approach to the xylophone, which still serves as the foundation for modern keyboard percussion playing.

During the 1920s George Green published several collections of his own compositions for solo xylophone. These pieces were in a variety of styles, from classical to novelty ragtime, and defined the state of the art for mallet playing at the time – a level of technical brilliance that has, in fact, never been surpassed. Bob Becker and the percussion group NEXUS led a revival of Green's music in the 1970s performing these pieces around the world, recording many of them, and later publishing the marimba ensemble arrangements through Keyboard Percussion Publications. Although the North American percussion community remains well-acquainted with Green as a composer, his much more extensive work as a recording artist is barely known, and remained largely undocumented in transcription until now.

In the fall of 2013 KPP released *Recollections of G.H. Green – A Series of Transcription-Arrangements for Xylophone and Marimba Duet*, a project begun by Yurika Kimura in 2010. Many of these pieces feature note-for-note transcriptions of Green's xylophone performances heard on wax cylinders and 78 rpm phonograph records – a monumental effort that required listening through the surface noise and distortion always found on recordings from the era predating electronic recording technology.

This evening's repertoire features Yurika Kimura's transcriptions of xylophone performances by George Green, as well as pieces that include variations improvised by Bob Becker during the concert. Yurika developed the marimba accompaniments for all of the arrangements based on the original recordings where Green is heard in ensemble with individual pianists, or with small dance bands and orchestras. A pianist can play up to ten notes simultaneously, and a dance orchestra even more, but a marimbist is limited to four at a time. A deft approach to chord voicing, registration and technical control was required to create these unique marimba accompaniments.