

2-20-2018

Concert: Tombeau en James Preiss: Stephen Solook, guest marimba artist

Stephen Solook

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.ithaca.edu/music_programs



Part of the [Music Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Solook, Stephen, "Concert: Tombeau en James Preiss: Stephen Solook, guest marimba artist" (2018). *All Concert & Recital Programs*. 3288.

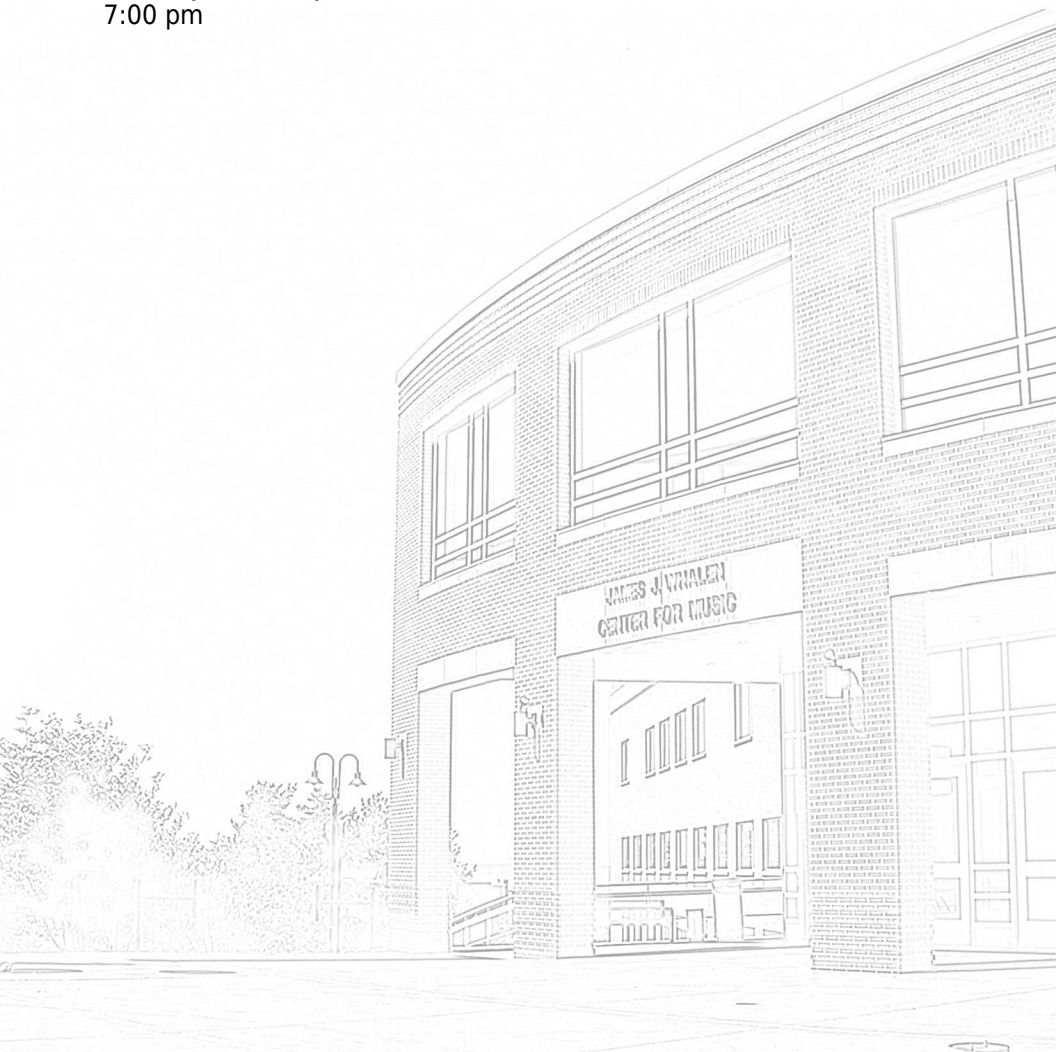
https://digitalcommons.ithaca.edu/music_programs/3288

This Program is brought to you for free and open access by the Concert & Recital Programs at Digital Commons @ IC. It has been accepted for inclusion in All Concert & Recital Programs by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ IC.

Stephen Solook, guest marimba artist

"Tombeau en James Preiss"

Hockett Family Recital Hall
Tuesday, February 20th, 2018
7:00 pm



ITHACA COLLEGE

School of Music

Reflections on the Nature of Water(1986)
Movement No. 2 Fleet

Jacob Druckman
(1928-1996)

Introduction
***Interview Ted**

Reflexions (2009)

Theodore Wiprud
(b. 1958)

****Reich Impression 1**
Interview Eva

Glacial Space: Concerto for Solo Marimba
(2006)

Eva Weiner

Reich Impression 2

Cello Suite in G Major, Prelude (1717-23)

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Intermission

Reich Impression 3
Interview Davide

Six Fleeting Moods (2002)

Davide Zannoni

Reich Impression 4
Closing Remarks
Cage Silence excerpt
Interview Ted 2

Four Episodes, No. 2 (1994-95)

Gordon Stout
(b. 1952)

Critically acclaimed percussionist **Stephen Solook** currently resides in Buffalo, NY. As a vivacious interpreter of contemporary music Steve has worked with such composers as Pulitzer Prize winners Paul Moravec and Roger Reynolds, Chinary Ung, Bruce Adolphe, and David Loeb. With co-founder, Tiffany Du Mouchelle, of the Aurora Borealis duo (for soprano and percussion) they have performed together more than any other duo of its kind. Venturously they encourage the development of and explore equally composed works for this primal combination. Mr. Solook has performed as a soloist throughout the United States, Egypt, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, and is a sought after concerto soloist for many ensembles and composers. As an orchestral musician, Steve has served as principal percussionist/timpanist with multiple New York City ensembles, was a member of the La Jolla Symphony in San Diego, California, and performed as an substitute percussionist with the Buffalo Philharmonic. As a member of the non-profit organization Cultures in Harmony, Mr. Solook has traveled to perform, teach, and lead workshops in Cameroon, Egypt, Mexico, and Papua New Guinea. Ethnomusicological research has brought Steve to Fiji in a search to locate and document pre-colonial music, as a conservation project with Pacific Blue Foundation. Steve has performed with Bang on a Can All-Stars, Eighth Black Bird, the International Contemporary Ensemble, red fish blue fish, San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, Joseph Alessi, Bob Becker, David Krakauer, Steven Schick, Lucy Shelton, Socalled, Gordon Stout, Glen Velez, and the Jose Limon Dance Company. He has had the privilege to work under such conductors as John Rutter, JoAnn Falletta, Paul Nadler, and Edwin Outwater, and in venues ranging from Los Angeles's Disney Hall and New York City's Lincoln Center to the legendary nightclub CBGB's. Steve can be seen on QPTV and heard on Bridge, Vortex, and Mode labels, as well as additional forthcoming productions with Mode records. Dr. Solook received his Doctorate of Musical Arts degree from the University of California at San Diego, after attending Mannes College and Ithaca College.

*The Interviews are recordings of the composers sharing a memory of themselves with Jim. The interview with the composer precedes their piece.

**The Reich Impressions are an elongated idea (or measure) from selected Steve Reich works that I have associated experience with Jim. The pieces selected were Nagoya Marimba, Drumming, Six Marimba, and Music for 18 Musicians. These Impressions are not a straight reproduction of the selected piece, they are merely an interpretation of a single measure from each work.

Officially, on programs and official publications, Jim wanted his name spelled James Preiss.

About this project:

Tombeau en James Preiss is a biographical memorial program of our relationship through selected works that I relate to him, and a way to present some of the works from the James Preiss Solo Marimba Commissioning Project.

This concert has been in the works for several years. When I heard of Jim's passing, I had recently performed Music for 18 Musicians for Steve Reich's 75th birthday celebration at Walt Disney Hall in Los Angeles, and the Conrad Prebys Concert Hall at the University of California at San Diego with Bang on a Can Allstars, and had been trying to get a hold of him regarding the my initial idea for this concert. I was coincidentally at the JFK airport flying back home to San Diego when I heard of his passing, and during that flight I realized that this concert was then my memorial and tribute to James Preiss.

James Preiss 2007 biography:

James Preiss is principal percussionist of the Brooklyn Philharmonic, the American Composers Orchestra, the Westchester Philharmonic, and the Riverside Symphony and also performs regularly with the Orchestra of St. Luke's and the American Symphony Orchestra. A founding member of the Parnassus Contemporary Chamber Ensemble, he has been a member of the Steve Reich Ensemble since 1971. He has recorded on many labels, including the Deutsche Grammophon, ECM, and Nonesuch.

Mr. Preiss holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music and Manhattan School of Music.

Manhattan School of Music faculty from 1970 -2006.

Mannes College of Music faculty until 2010.

Information James Preiss Solo Marimba Commissioning Project:

There is nothing official written up about the James Preiss Solo Marimba Commissioning Project. In conversation, Jim stated that this was a project setup to commission friends. The list of composers includes: Keith Fitch, Daniel Levitan, Eva Weiner, Theodore Wiprud, and Davide Zannoni. There is a chance other composers were commissioned before Davide's piece in 2002, but I am unaware of these. To obtain any work from the series you need to contact the composer. Daniel Levitan's work that is part of this JPSMCP is published through Keyboard Percussion Publications (KPP).

As a related side note, James Preiss did commission other works in addition to these. One notable work of these commissions is Archers of Solitude by Davide Zannoni, which is a concerto for a trio of performers (soprano, clarinet/bass clarinet, and marimba/percussion) plus accompanying percussion ensemble.

Selection of non-JPSMCP for this program:

Druckman - I first learned Fleet during my second year at Ithaca College, while studying with Gordon Stout. I then relearned it when preparing for my graduate auditions. This is the first marimba piece I played for Jim. Jim also had interactions with Jacob Druckman's son, Daniel, starting when he was a teenager. Eventually Dan and Jim were friends and peers that played together for many years.

Bach - In my initial conversations with Jim, we spoke on our mutual admiration for the Bach Cello Suites. During my studies with him I took many of Bach's work to him. Jim's love for the Cello Suites pushed him to record his only solo album, Bach's Cello Suites 1-3.

Stout - As mentioned earlier, I studied with Gordon Stout during my undergraduate degree. When I told Gordon that I wanted to study in NYC for my graduate work, as well as study with someone who was a respected marimbist, Gordon mentioned James Preiss (and emphasized Jim's work with the Manhattan Marimba Quartet). For juries during my graduate degree, Jim said I should learn two movements from Gordon's Episodes. Episode Number 2 was one of those movements. As coincidental side note, Episode 2, is an homage to Paul Smadbeck's Rhythm Song, which is the piece that I was working on when I first heard Jim on the recording of Steve Reich's Nagoya Marimba.