

4-20-2009

Faculty Recital: Jeffery Meyer, piano and Paul Vaillancourt, percussion

Jeffery Meyer

Paul Vaillancourt

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ITHACA COLLEGE

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

FACULTY RECITAL

Strike

Jeffery Meyer, piano
Paul Vaillancourt, percussion

Hockett Family Recital Hall
Monday, April 20, 2009
8:15 p.m.

ITHACA

PROGRAM

China West Suite (2007)
for marimba and piano

Chen Yi
(b. 1952)

- I. *Introduction*
- II. *Meng Songs*
- III. *Zang Songs*
- IV. *Miao Dances*

Soft Stillness and the Night (2007)
in 6 movements

Daniel Koontz
(b. 1969)

INTERMISSION

Sacred Trees (2007)

Brooke Joyce
(b. 1977)

- I. *Aspen grove*
- II. *Hackberry*
- III. *Chinquapin Oak*
- IV. *Red Oak*
- V. *Blue Beech*
- VI. *Elm*

Duo Toccatta (2008)

Jim David
(b. 1978)

- I. *Campanello d'allarme*
- II. *Aula di tribunale*

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Program Notes

Originally commissioned and dedicated to the Klavier-Festival Ruhr, Germany (Director Franz Xaver Ohnesorg) for Dennis Russell Davies and Maki Namekawa to premiere on June 4, 2007, my work *China West Suite* was originally written in four movements for two pianos. The authentic folk music from China West has amazed and inspired me to write this piece, which has the folk music elements drawn from the folk songs Gadameilin and Pastoral of the Meng People (Mongolian); Ashima (of the Yi People); Du Mu and Amaliehuo (of the Dou Duo and Jusheng ensemble music of the Miao People). I have adapted the piece for marimba and piano after the premiere, under the request from Prof. Jeffery Meyer of Ithaca College, who is the pianist of the piano-percussion duo "Strike" (with percussionist Paul Vaillancourt) for a recording project on Luminescence Records in Chicago, and their performances in 2008. (C.Y.)

Soft Stillness and the Night: I excerpted the title of my piece from Shakespeare. The longer quote is:

How sweet the moonlight sleeps along the bank! -
Here we will sit, and let the sounds of music
Creep in our ears: soft stillness and the night
Become the touches of sweet harmony.

The piece is subtle and delicate, arising from sonic fantasies of night and dawn. It was commissioned by *Strike* and is dedicated to Jeff Meyer and Paul Vaillancourt. (D.K.)

Sacred Trees was inspired by several trips to the Effigy Mounds National Monument in Iowa, a park that contains the remnants of several large Native American burial mounds, some of which are shaped like birds and animals. My experiences there led me to reflect on my own sense of ritual, memory and spirituality. As I was composing this music, I decided to focus my reflections not on the mounds or the people who built them but rather on the various and ancient trees that grow in the area. Trees are thought to be sacred in many faith traditions, and to me, they are a kind of silent witness to the passage of time and the people who come and go under their gaze. (B.J.)

Duo Toccata for piano and percussion is, as one might expect, a "touch piece" for two instruments. The two movements are each based on a particular type of articulation. "Campanello d'allarme" or "alarm bell" uses long, ringing tones from numerous gongs, bells and other metallic sounds throughout. Frequent shifts of rhythmic organization are intended to create sudden moments of excitement within a largely calm texture. The second movement, "Aula di tribunale" or "courtroom," was so titled as the opening is

reminiscent of the theme from the TV show *The People's Court*. Sharp, quick articulations are the rule within a definite tendency towards Afro-Cuban rhythms. Drums and cymbals are important throughout with a brief aside from the xylophone. (J.D.)

Performers Biographies

Dr. **Paul Vaillancourt**, Associate Professor of Percussion at Columbus State University, is principal timpanist for the LaGrange Symphony Orchestra and performs regularly with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra. He completed his D.M.A. at the State University of New York in Stony Brook studying with Raymond DesRoches. While in New York, he performed regularly with *Pulse*, the *New Jersey Percussion Ensemble* and the *S.E.M Ensemble*. He has been a featured soloist at the Banff Music Festival, the Aspen Summer Music Festival, with the National Arts Center Orchestra, the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra, the CSU Wind Ensemble and the St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic. He has had various performances broadcast by NPR, CBC and Radio-Canada and is in high demand as an instructor and composer of Scottish pipe band drumming. He is a founding member of several contemporary music ensembles including *The Furious Band*, the duo *Strike* with pianist Jeff Meyer and the *Fountain City Ensemble*, who premiered a work by Jim David at the International Clarinet Conference 2005 in Tokyo, Japan. He premiered an entire program of newly commissioned works for flute and percussion with his wife Andrée Martin at Sound Symposium IX, and new works for percussion at Sound Symposium XIII in St. John's Newfoundland. He also traveled to St. Petersburg, Russia where he and pianist Jeff Meyer presented a duo recital for the 18th International New Music Festival "Sound Ways". In addition, Paul was a featured soloist with the St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic, premiering a new work by Russian composer Alexander Radvilovich. He has recently premiered and recorded a new work for solo percussion and percussion ensemble by Canadian composer Brian Cherney entitled: *In Gottes Gärten schweigen die Engel*.

He can be heard on the following labels: CRI, Tzadik, Albany, New Chris Records (*Live In The Studio*-with the jazz trio BE3), *Alien Jazz* with Robert Orr Trio, independent release.

Born in Chicago, **Jeffery Meyer** began his musical studies as a pianist, and shortly thereafter continued on to study composition and conducting. He is the Director of Orchestras at the Ithaca College School of Music, as well as the founder and Artistic Director of the St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic in St. Petersburg, Russia. In 2008-2009, he assumed the position of Music Director of the Water City Chamber Orchestra, Northeast Wisconsin's only professional chamber orchestra. Jeff is also the Orchestra Director at LSM Academy and Festival, a summer festival for talented high

school musicians. He has appeared with orchestras in the United States and abroad, including ensembles such as the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Syracuse Symphony Orchestra, Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, Cayuga Chamber Orchestra and the Orchestra Sinfonico "Haydn" di Bolzano e Trento. In recent concert seasons, he has been seen conducting, performing as piano soloist and chamber musician, as well as conducting from the keyboard in the United States, Canada, Russia, and Germany.

Called "one of the most interesting and creatively productive conductors working in St. Petersburg" by Sergei Slonimsky, he is an active participant in the music of our time, and has collaborated with many composers, as well as commissioned and premiered many new works. In 2007, he made his Glinka Hall conducting debut in the final concert of the 43rd St. Petersburg "Musical Spring" International Festival, featuring works by three of St. Petersburg's most prominent composers, and in the spring of 2009, he will appear at the Hermitage Theater in the opening concert of the prestigious Musical Olympus Festival. As a pianist, Jeff has been in residence at the Banff Centre for the Arts, and in residence at the Aspen Festival as part of the Furious Band, a New York-based group dedicated to contemporary music. He has been broadcast on CBC Newfoundland, has recorded and performed with the Philadelphia Virtuosi (Naxos), and has been heard as a soloist at the Aspen Festival. During the 2001-2002 academic year he lived and studied in Berlin and Leipzig as the recipient of a DAAD grant in music. He has been distinguished in several international competitions (2008 Cadaqués Orchestra Conducting Competition, 2003 Vakhtang Jordania International Conducting Competition, 2003 Beethoven Sonata International Piano Competition, Memphis, Tennessee) and was recently awarded Third Prize in the X. International Conducting Competition "Antonio Pedrotti."

Concert Calendar

April

22	7:00	Woodwind chamber music
	8:15	Jazz Ensemble; Michael Titlebaum, musical director
23	7:00	Piano Chamber Ensembles; Charis Dimaras, coordinator
	8:15	Percussion Ensemble; Gordon Stout, director
24	4:00	String Quartet Marathon, Part I
	7:00	String Quartet Marathon, Part II
25	Noon	All-Campus Band; Richard Edwards, conductor
	8:15	Choir and Madrigal Singers; Lawrence Doebler, conductor
26	8:15	Percussion Ensemble; Conrad Alexander, director
27	8:15	Vocal Jazz Ensemble; Lauri Keegan, musical director
28	7:00	Collaborative Piano/Vocal Duos; Charis Dimaras, director
	8:15	Symphonic Band, Elizabeth Peterson, conductor
29	7:00	Opera Workshop; Brian DeMaris, music director
29	8:15	Concert Band; Mark Fonder, conductor
30	7:00	Period Instrument Performance Ensemble; Nicholas Walker, director
	8:15	Chorus; Janet Galván, conductor and Brass Choir; Keith Kaiser, conductor

May

1	8:15	Chamber Orchestra; Jeffery Meyer, conductor
2	8:15	Wind Ensemble; Stephen Peterson, conductor
3	4:00	Symphony Orchestra; Jeffery Meyer, conductor
15	8:30	Open Dress Rehearsal of Commencement Eve Concert
16	8:30	42 nd Gala Commencement Eve Concert Ben Light Gymnasium

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