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Guest Recital: Robert Zolnowski, percussion

Robert Zolnowski

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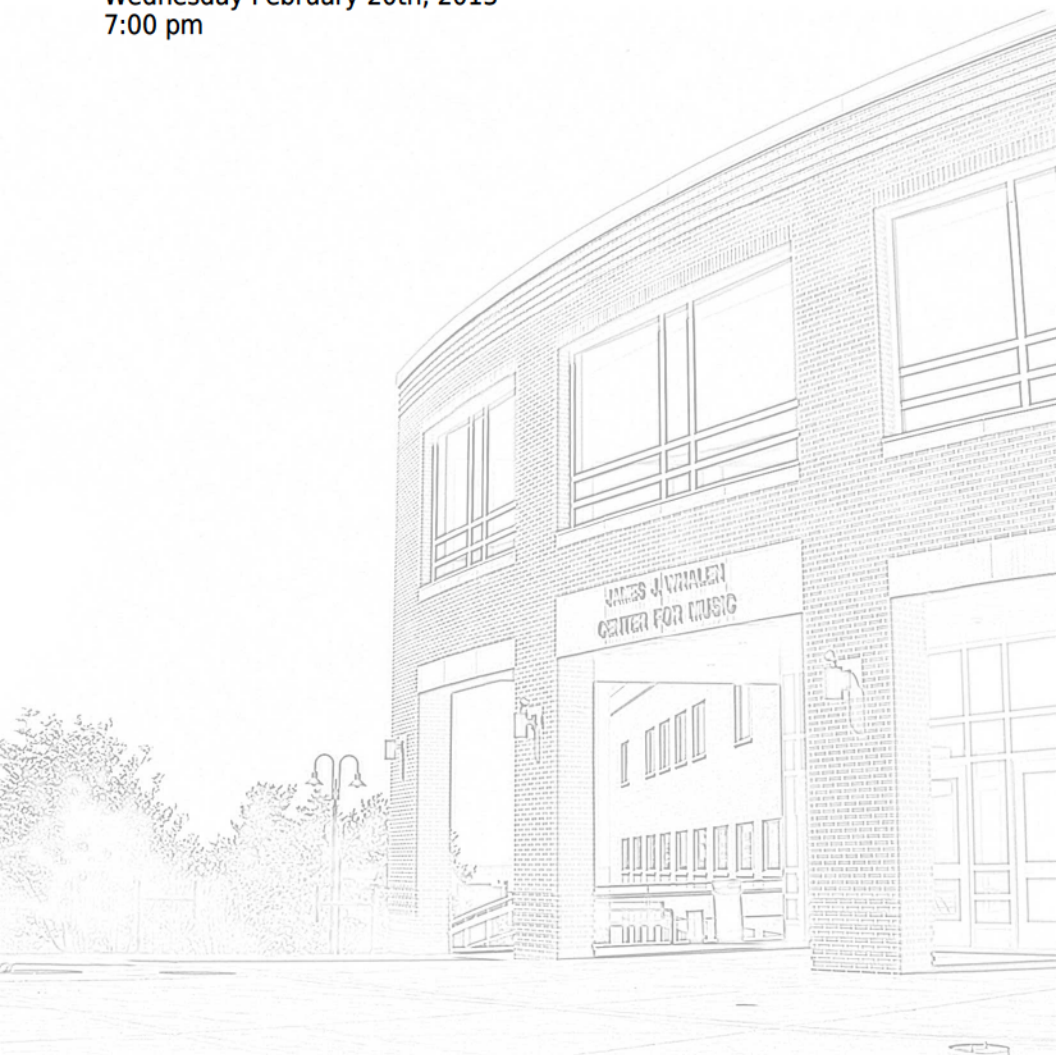
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Guest Recital:

Robert Zolnowski, percussion

Hockett Family Recital Hall
Wednesday February 20th, 2013
7:00 pm



ITHACA COLLEGE

School of Music

Program

Afwa Yuovu

Robert Zolnowski
(b. 1981)

Turmoil Sketches

Zolnowski

1. Boredom
2. Denial
3. Regret
4. Anxiety
5. Paranoia

Quotations for snare drum

Zolnowski

Lullaby for the Fallen
Premiere Performance

Zolnowski

Toccata and Grooves

Zolnowski

Full Circle

Zolnowski

Linus and Lucy

Vince Guaraldi
(1928-1976)
arr. Zolnowski

Program Notes

Afwa Yuovu With the title “welcome white-man,” this piece is reminiscent of a trip to Ghana. The piece is based in 7/8 time to give a feeling of unfamiliarity while the tonality and composition techniques emulate a traditional Gyl player (Degara region xylophone). Enjoy.

Turmoil Sketches is an exploration of inner turmoil. Each movement is based on states of mind, stages of grief, and pathological conditions. Each movement is an exploration of the mental state and is not necessarily intended to create the associated state of mind for the listener.

Quotations for Snare Drum is a response to a friend’s comment that percussion music “rarely contains discernable forms or motives.” This piece, for solo snare drum, is comprised of many popular orchestral snare drum excerpts organized into sonata allegro form.

Lullaby for the Fallen for solo marimba is the newest composition on this program and I have not come up with a cool story or sophisticated background for it. This piece began as an etude exploring different voicings of chords/melodies while maintaining similar rhythmic patterns and stickings in a waltz-like fashion.

Toccata and Grooves is a multiple percussion piece that portrays a percussionist walking into a practice room and jamming in a multi-genre drum set and/or drum corps style on someone else’s set-up. The first few phrases represent the performer becoming acclimated to the set-up and then continuing to jam in different styles. The piece is intended to sound like an improvisatory performance.

Full Circle for solo marimba: the inspiration for the piece came when I heard the saying “Everything comes ‘round full circle,” by several people in a short period of time. “Full Circle” is based on that saying. The piece has three main sections; the opening section begins with a three bar statement that is taken on a wild journey of variations. After the middle chorale section, the opening statement returns for its second journey. There are many motives and circular gestures that overlap to

create interplay amongst the voices. These small circles should be given a light emphasis so they are “felt but not heard” by the audience.

Linus and Lucy, composed by Vince Guaraldi, is the famous theme from the Charlie Brown movies and television shows. This is one of my favorite pieces from my childhood, and I decided to play it for a college class piano assessment. That performance did not go so well, so I tried it out on marimba and it worked surprisingly well. I have since transcribed the piano solo sections and have arranged a combination of the piano and bass parts.

Robert Zolnowski (b. 1981) is a percussion teacher, performer, and composer in the Western New York area. A versatile performer and educator, Robert is an active musician in many genres. He has been head percussion instructor and composer/arranger for marching bands and drum corps across the country, a studio percussion teacher and freelance percussionist in the Buffalo, NY area, and has served as an adjunct music faculty member at Villa Maria College.

Robert has studied African music in Ghana, West Africa with the Agbeli family and Bernard Woma. He has toured as a member with the DCI drum corps Glassmen, of Toledo Ohio, and DCA drum corps, the Rochester Crusaders.

Robert has had the honor of performing with the PASIC 50th Anniversary Professional Marimba Orchestra, Aretha Franklin, Regis Philbin, Frankie Avalon, and Susan Anton, as well as taking part in performances of many world premiere compositions. He has compositions published by Keyboard Percussion Press (KPP) as well as other self-published works for solo and chamber percussion.

Robert received his M.M. in percussion performance from Bowling Green State University and his B.M. in percussion performance from Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory of Music.

For more information and sample recordings please visit www.RobertZolnowski.com