

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE
COLLEGE OF ARTS + ARCHITECTURE

The Department of Music presents

The Percussion Ensemble

Rick Dior, director

Storm Warning and Dance

Steve Riley

La Danza

Gioachino Rossini
arr. Steve Grimo

Caprice Diabolique

Jared Spears

Triptych Boom

Chad Floyd

Ryan Comley, solo snare drum

A Bird Sings

Peter Erskine

Jon Phipps, solo drum set
Ryan Comley, solo marimba

Le Chant du Serpent

Eckhard Kopetzki

Anne R. Belk Theater
Robinson Hall for the Performing Arts
Monday November 29, 2021 | 7:30 pm
coaa.charlotte.edu

Program Notes

Storm Warning and Dance begins freely and mysteriously before moving into a vivace section with a strong groove driven by the timpani. The syncopated and accented rhythms serve as thematic material. The form is AABA with melodic themes played by the marimba and xylophone.

La Danza is the eighth song of the collection *Les soirées musicales* composed by Rossini from 1830–1835. Originally a vocal composition, the piece is arranged here for mallet percussion, timpani, triangle and tambourine. *La danza* is in the style of Tarantella which is a brisk 6/8 time dance.

With modal melodies and ominous timbres beneath a thin layer of playfulness, ***Caprice Diabolique*** harkens back to percussion music of the 1950's and 60's by composers such as Colgrass and Varese. The title translates as “diabolic whim.” Moments of tunefulness are interrupted with frequent dissonance creating tension throughout this composition.

Triptych Boom features a snare soloist backed by three multi-percussionists. The snare drummer is presented with an ever-changing combination of sticks, brushes, and hands while exploring a number of creative techniques in which the drum is played. The accompaniment parts are equally intriguing, as the percussionists are called on to manage multiple instruments, sticks, mallets, and hand techniques. This accompanying trio creates a uniquely colorful backing for the soloist and composer Chad Floyd crafted several moments where clever interplay occurs between all players. The result is a blend of subtlety, groove, color, and all around originality.

A Bird Sings is dedicated to the memory of John Wyre, one of the founding members of the innovative percussion group, Nexus. The piece is a journey through Wyre's musical life, interests and experiences. It begins with a gentle, lyrical marimba solo and leads into a section that echoes Wyre's orchestral roots. The xylophone excerpt from Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* is quoted under a hypnotic ostinato performed by marimba, vibraphone and timpani. This section gives way to an African themed Mbira (thumb piano) tune and features a jazz improvisation on the marimba. After an extended drum set solo the piece transitions into a contemporary Varèse (*Ionisation*)-like percussion interlude before closing with a serene mallet percussion section. You will hear a quote from *Nola*, one of Wyre's favorite xylophone solos at the very end of the piece.

Le Chant du Serpent, the song of the snake, is a powerful piece using eight drums of various types and sizes. Shouts, clapping and drumming paint a picture of an enormous serpent body, which seems to consist of a variety of imaginary dancers, which move in spellbinding movements about a wild fire.

Percussion Ensemble Personnel

Ryan Comley	John Pickett
Walker Deese	Jonathan Phipps
Dylan Hatley	Trey Snyder
Alex Johnson	Justin Tharp

About the Director

Rick Dior is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music where he studied with renowned timpanist Fred Hinger and jazz composer Bob Mintzer. He also studied extensively with famed jazz drummer Joe Morello. Rick has performed as a percussionist and drummer with some of the greatest artists in the music industry including James Taylor, Aretha Franklin, Roberta Flack, Ray Charles, Bobby McFerrin, Al Jarreau, Marvin Hamlisch, BeBe Winans and Martina McBride. He has added his jazz drum set talents to performances with many great jazz artists including Marvin Stamm, Bill Watrous, Clark Terry, Red Rodney, Chris Potter, Russell Malone and Lionel Hampton. Some of these performances have taken place with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, which he has performed with since 1990 as principal percussionist, section percussionist and timpanist. Rick's recording credits are extensive and include movie soundtracks, CD releases and commercial radio and television spots. As a first call percussionist in Charlotte, Rick has performed in dozens of Broadway show tours. Some of the most recent are *Beautiful*, *Wicked*, *The Producers*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Spamalot*, *Hairspray*, *South Pacific*, *West Side Story* and *Mary Poppins*.

Rick has served as the Professor of Percussion (Senior Lecturer) at UNC Charlotte since 2001. He also maintains an active private teaching studio. His private students have gone on to attend UNC Charlotte as well as many other prestigious music institutions such as The Julliard School of Music, The Manhattan School of Music, The Eastman School of Music, North Texas State University, the Oberlin School of Music and The University of Miami. Many of these students are active as professional musicians and educators.

As a composer Rick has written many compositions and arrangements for Classical, Jazz and Latin ensembles. In 2018 Rick was commissioned to orchestrate his composition *Science Fiction* for a European tour of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, widely considered to be the finest youth orchestra in the world. He is the author of several percussion books including the acclaimed *Advanced Coordination for Drum Set and Hand Percussion*. Rick's books and compositions are published by Tap Space. He is also an artist for Vic Firth Drumsticks, Mike Balter Mallets, Paiste Cymbals, and Doc Sweeney Drums.

College of Arts + Architecture

Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER

Orchestra Tue Nov 30 | 7:30 pm
Anne R. Belk Theater

DECEMBER

Symphonic Band Wed Dec 1 | 7:30 pm
Anne R. Belk Theater

Wind Ensemble Thu Dec 2 | 7:30 pm
Anne R. Belk Theater

University Chorale Mon Dec 6 | 7:30 pm
Anne R. Belk Theater

Men's & Women's Choirs Tue Dec 7 | 7:30 pm (M) & 8:15 pm (W)
Anne R. Belk Theater

CoA+A Performing Arts Services

Dean Adams, Associate Dean for Performing Arts Services
Elizabeth A. Yoder, Production Manager
Beverly Lueke, Interim Performing Arts Operations Manager
Liz Paradis, Audience Services Manager
Beth Rucker, Business Services Coordinator
Rachel Engstrom, Lecturer, Costume Lab Supervisor / Designer
Matthew B. Fraiser, Lecturer, Technical Director
Hali Hutchison-Houk, Costume Lab Manager
Rick Moll, Senior Lecturer, Master Electrician
Gordon W. Olson, Senior Lecturer, Lighting Designer
Benjamin G. Stickels, Senior Lecturer, Audio Engineer and Asst. Production Manager
Rachel Swenson Watkins, Senior Lecturer, Stage Management
Hazel Doherty, Music Stage Manager
Wendy Van Rees, Performing Arts House Manager
Alex Gomes, Performing Arts House Manager

Robinson Hall Technicians

Emmett Cleaver, Jonah Levy, Leenah Newby, Chloe Shade, Renee Szeghy