Old Dominion University’s

F. Ludwig Diehn Concert Series

Kevin Bobo
With the Norfolk Chamber Consort
and the ODU Percussion Ensemble

Concert: February 27, 8 p.m.
Pre-concert talk by Andrey Kasparov: February 27, 7:45 p.m.
Master Class: February 28, 12:30 p.m.

Wilson G. Chandler Recital Hall
F. Ludwig Diehn Center for the Performing Arts
Two Impressions (2005) Tracy Thomas (b. 1980)
I.
II.


Boboland (2005) Kevin Bobo
Kevin Bobo, solo marimba
ODU Percussion Ensemble, directed by David Walker,
with Michael Vazquez, Sarah Williams and Jon Wudijono.

INTERMISSION

Kevin Bobo, multiple percussion
Andrey Kasparov, piano

Mudra (1990) Bob Becker (b. 1947)
Kevin Bobo, solo tom-tom
ODU Percussion Ensemble, directed by David Walker,
with Michael Vazquez, Sarah Williams and Jon Wudijono.

An endowment established at the Hampton Roads Community Foundation,
made possible by a generous gift from F. Ludwig Diehn, funds this program.
Tracy Thomas: Two Impressions (2005)

Tracy Thomas was born and raised in Mexico, Missouri. For the past six years, he has taught percussion at Missouri Western State University, where he received his B.S. in music education with a performance emphasis in 2003. While attending Missouri Western, he was a cast member of “Sticks of Thunder,” a percussion theater show based out of Kansas City, Missouri.

After college he served as an assistant band director for Fulton Public Schools in Fulton, Missouri, from 2003 to 2004. Since then, he has earned two degrees from the University of Kansas, his M.M. in percussion performance in May 2006, and his D.M.A. in percussion performance in May 2010.

During the 2007-08 school year, he served as interim percussion instructor at Kansas State University. As well as teaching and writing for many high school ensembles in Missouri and Kansas, he was also the percussion specialist for the Park Hill School District (2009-10), and is currently serving as band director at Troy High School in Troy, Missouri.

As an active performer, Thomas has given numerous solo recitals at universities throughout the country, was a featured soloist at the 13th annual Percussion Festival in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and specialized in chamber music with the Helianthus New Music Ensemble and the Tasty Pear Percussion Duo. As a composer, he is dedicated to writing quality works not only for professionals, but also for developing musicians at various levels of ability.

His piece “Three Songs for Soprano and Marimba” won third place in the Percussive Arts Society International Composition in 2008, and some of his compositions are on the Prescribed Music List for the state of Missouri’s high school competitions. Thomas’s composition “Two Impressions” is known for its idiomatic and virtuosic writing for solo marimba. One of the composer’s best known, this work is performed frequently throughout the United States as well as overseas.

Kevin Bobo: Boboland (2005)

After spending several holidays with my nephew Justin, I realized that he, like most 3-year-olds, lives in his own world, which is where the title “Boboland” comes from. In this world, there are constant changes of emotion, fun and interesting sounds, many colorful and exciting images (whether they be in real life or on the television), and, of course, a whole lot of mischief. The piece has four main sections and is highly virtuosic, containing several homemade instruments and many whistles and calls to give the piece a light-hearted and humorous effect.
William Cahn: In Ancient Temple Gardens (1976)

William Cahn has been a member of NEXUS, the Toronto-based percussion group, since its formation in 1971, performing in concerts, films, recordings and broadcasts all over the world. He was principal percussionist in the Rochester (N.Y.) Philharmonic Orchestra from 1968 to 1995.


His chamber and orchestral compositions featuring percussion are performed and recorded worldwide, including two with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. Cahn has written books and articles about music and percussion, and he is active in presenting lectures and workshops on the subjects of percussion performance, careers in music, the business of music, and composition.

“In Ancient Temple Gardens” is dedicated to the Japanese composer Toru Takemitsu, who wrote for NEXUS a concerto for percussion ensemble and orchestra titled “From me flows what you call time.” The work features the often ignored lyrical characteristics of xylophone as well as colorful combinations of piano and percussion. This work also exists in two other versions for xylophone with symphony orchestra and percussion ensemble.

Bob Becker: Mudra (1990)

Bob Becker is a founding member of the percussion ensemble NEXUS and a virtuoso on xylophone, marimba and tabla. Becker received bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the Eastman School of Music where he studied percussion with William Street and John Beck and composition with Warren Benson. He also did postgraduate study in the World Music Program at Wesleyan University. For several years, Becker was percussionist with the Paul Winter Consort and a regular member of the ensemble Steve Reich and Musicians.

Becker is also a founding member of the Flaming Dono West African Dance and Drum Ensemble in Toronto. He appears regularly as an independent international soloist and clinician. Becker’s compositions and arrangements are performed by percussion groups worldwide, and he has a long association with dance, creating music for the Joffrey Ballet in New York, among others.
“Mudra” is an example of how Becker fuses military drumming style within the context of Hindustani practices. He employs both the tactics and melodic constructions that come from North Indian classical music. Within this frame, Becker uses Western drums in a tabla-like fashion, but employs rudimental ideas. The concept of building out of stasis in Hindustani music is used to establish a motif which builds on itself and sets up the sometimes chaotic presence of the snare drum, which focuses more on the melodic and soloistic functions of tabla drumming. “Mudra” also shows inklings of minimalism that is part of Becker’s overall style. This work is a version of a larger work called “Urbhana Mudra,” which was written as a percussion quartet with choreography.

Kevin Bobo

Kevin Bobo currently serves as professor of music (percussion) at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, a position he has held since 2007. Prior to his appointment at IU, he served as assistant professor of percussion at the University of Kansas (2003–07). He studied percussion with J.C. Combs and Gordon Stout and composition with Greg Woodward and Dana Wilson.

Internationally respected as a solo marimba artist, Bobo has performed on five continents. His travels have taken him to Taiwan, Singapore, Argentina, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Australia, Spain, Latvia, Lithuania, France, Italy, the Czech Republic and much of the United States.

Bobo’s compositions are performed all over the world, with his solo works frequently appearing on international competition repertoire lists. He has written two method books and composed numerous pieces for a variety of instruments and ensembles.

Kevin currently lives in Bloomington, Indiana, with his wife, Emily, and their children, Penelope and Eli.

Andrey Kasparov

Andrey Kasparov is professor of music at Old Dominion University, teaching composition, piano and music theory. He also directs ODU’s New Music Ensemble, co-directs the Norfolk Chamber Consort (ncconsort.org), and is a co-founding member of the award-winning Invencia Piano Duo (invenciaduo.wordpress.com). A graduate of Moscow State Conservatory and the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, he concertizes, publishes and records
internationally. His critically acclaimed releases, in cooperation with pianist Oksana Lutsyshyn, include the four-CD set Complete Original Works for Piano Duet/Duo by Florent Schmitt on Naxos Records, as well as Hommages Musicaux and Ignis Fatuus: Piano Music of Adolphus Hailstork on Albany Records. Also with Lutsyshyn, Kasparov recently completed two CDs with the complete works by Paul Bowles for piano solo and duo released by Naxos. The first of these CDs received a strong critical endorsement from Gramophone magazine and was included by Naxos in its Critics’ Choice for July 2016. Among Kasparov’s other distinctions are prizes from the Sergei Prokofiev International Composition Competition in Moscow, and the Piano Competition for 20th-Century Music in Orléans, France.

David Walker
David Walker has taught at Old Dominion University since 1999. He is the director of percussion studies, drumline instructor for the Monarch Marching Band, and teaches undergraduate instrumental conducting. Walker is a very active freelance musician, performing regularly with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra and numerous national Broadway tours. He is also the percussion instructor for the Governor’s School for the Arts and was previously on the faculty of Messiah College, Wheaton College, Hampton University and Dickinson College. Walker received a master’s degree in music performance from the University of Michigan and a bachelor’s degree in performance from the Wheaton Conservatory of Music. He and his wife, Christy, have eight wonderful children: Matthew, Christopher, Emily, Michael, Bethany, Jeremiah, Mary and Rebekah.

The ODU Percussion Ensemble is pleased to be returning to play with Kevin Bobo. The ensemble is one of the elite performing groups in the ODU Department of Music and was recently featured in the department’s showcase “The Heart Beat of the Department” at the TCC Roper Performing Arts Center. Past performances were with Schola Cantorum, the Fort Monroe U.S. Continental Army Band and other international artists such as Colin Currie and Joe Locke. Each semester the ensemble performs a full recital to a packed audience. This semester’s recital, “Extremes,” will be on Thursday, April 20, at 7:30 p.m. in Chandler Recital Hall.
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