

Old Dominion University's
F. Ludwig

Diehn Concert Series



Glen Velez and Loire Cotler

Glen Velez, frame drum
Loire Cotler, rhythm vocalist

Monday, October 19, 2015
8:00 p.m.

Wilson G. Chandler Recital Hall,
F. Ludwig Diehn Center for the Performing Arts



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IDEA FUSION

Program

**Glen Velez and Loire Cotler will announce
the program from the stage.**

Please return for their **free master class**
on Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at 12:30 p.m.
in Chandler Recital Hall.



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I D E A F U S I O N

**An endowment established at the Hampton Roads Community Foundation,
made possible by a generous gift from F. Ludwig Diehn, funds this program.**

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“A galaxy of timbres and inflections ... remarkable rhythmic fireworks.”

— *The New York Times*

Four-time Grammy Award winner, **Glen Velez** is the founding father of the modern frame-drum movement and is regarded as a legendary figure among musicians and audiences worldwide. Velez brought a new genre of drumming to the contemporary music scene by creating his own performance style inspired by years of percussion and frame drumming studies from various cultures. Velez's virtuosic combinations of hand movements, finger techniques, along with his original compositional style, which incorporates stepping, drum language, and Central Asian Overtone singing (split-tone singing), has undoubtedly opened new possibilities for musicians around the globe, resulting in a shift in modern percussion. Velez was recently inducted into the Percussion Hall of Fame by the Percussive Arts Society; this is the highest honor in the field of percussion.

Velez is the first percussionist to gain international recognition as a successful solo artist using frame drums. In 1989, Velez's undeniable mastery caught the attention of twentieth century composer John Cage, who composed a piece especially for him titled "Improvisation for One-Sided Drum with or without Jingles." Adorned with a rich international artistic legacy, his plethora of sounds have inspired decades of collaborations with an epic and eclectic list, including Steve Reich, the Paul Winter Consort, Suzanne Vega, Maya Beiser, Tan Dun and Pat Metheny. Other collaborations include Israel Philharmonia, Brooklyn Philharmonia, Opera Orchestra of New York, Taipei Chinese Orchestra, National Chinese Orchestra, Zakir Hussain, Sonny Fortune, New York City Ballet, Stuttgart Ballet Orchestra, Orchestra of St. Luke's, David Darling, Howard Levy, Eugene Friesen and Coleman Barks. Live performances also include radio concerts and interviews broadcasted on Spanish National Radio 4, German Public Radio,

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Italian National Radio 3, Radio Freistadt (Austria) and National Public Radio. Velez maintains an International touring schedule as a soloist and continues to collaborate with prominent artists in many styles, including TRIO GLOBO with Howard Levy and Eugene Friesen, as well as his own ensemble, TA KA DI MI Project, which features the virtuosic rhythm vocalist Loire Cotler and illustrious guest artists.

Velez is a prolific session musician; his signature sound can be heard in numerous films, television commercials and modern dance scores. He is also an experienced collaborator in Early Music, including a renowned recording with the Ensemble for Early Music titled "Istanpitta." Velez has recorded hundreds of albums on labels including ECM, CBS, RCA, GRP, Warner Brothers, Deutsche Gramophone, Geffen, Nonesuch, Capital, CMP, Music of the World, Sounds True, Interworld, Ellipsis Arts, Daft of Records and Sony. In addition, he has released numerous recordings of his own music.

Glen Velez is a prolific composer whose compositions have been used extensively by dance companies. He has also written numerous compositions for his own ensembles as well as chamber music of various combinations. His compositions have been commissioned by the Rockefeller Foundation, Jerome Foundation, American Music Center and Reader's Digest. Velez wrote a solo cello piece for cellist Maya Beiser titled "Kinship," which Beiser chose as the title for one of her recent CDs. Another of Velez's compositions, "Sol Tunnels," was commissioned by the Ethos Percussion Ensemble and is the title for one of their new recordings. In 2009, the Ensemble DuoJalal premiered his composition "Homage for Viola and Frame Drum." He was commissioned in 2010 by the Lark String Quartet to compose "Intarsio for String Quartet and Frame Drum." Velez's compositions have been arranged and performed by the Taipei Chinese Orchestra and National Chinese Orchestra. In 2012, Velez

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performed a world premiere arrangement with the National Chinese Orchestra of his compositions "Tuppim" and "Intarsio" to a sold-out audience at the National Concert Hall in Taipei City, Taiwan.

Velez has several instructional videos and has published numerous instructional books and articles on the subject. A master teacher who conducts workshops worldwide, Velez developed his own teaching approach called the Handance Method. This method incorporates voice and body movement into the process of learning to play the frame drum and has been presented in hundreds of universities and conservatories. Velez is an adjunct professor at Mannes School of Music in New York City and conducts regular master classes at the Juilliard School and Tanglewood Summer Music Program. Velez's groundbreaking research efforts into the history of the frame drum have inspired a host of protégés to continue the quest into the frame drum's origins.

The frame drum is one of the oldest types of musical instruments. It is a single headed drum whose origins encompass the Ancient Middle East, India, Rome and which reached medieval Europe through Islamic and Ottoman culture. Velez's performances have popularized this ancient drum for the modern world and prompted the Remo Drum Co. in 1983 to develop a line of frame drums called the "Glen Velez Signature Series." The Cooperman Drum Co. introduced a handmade Signature Series Glen Velez Tambourine and Frame Drum line in 1999. Velez is also considered a virtuoso on other percussion instruments and has introduced dramatic innovations in the playing of maracas and shakers, which are outlined in his instructional book, *The Shaker Manual*. This new approach to playing Shakers led the German based instrument company Anklang to release a handcrafted Glen Velez Signature Series Shaker set. These instruments are carefully designed based on their specific high - low tuning and ergonomic

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shape. Recently, he has designed a line of brushes for frame drum made by the Grassy Creek Co. For more information, visit www.glenvelez.com.

Described by the *Chicago Tribune* as “astonishing,” **Loire Cotler** is a critically acclaimed Rhythm Vocalist whose mission is to show the world the power of the voice as a rhythm instrument. Having coined the phrase *rhythm vocalist* to describe her signature style, Loire has dazzled audiences and critics worldwide with her wordless improvisations, virtuosic vocal percussion techniques and bold eclectic repertoire from Medieval to Be-Bop and World Music to Avant-Pop. *The New York Times* calls her performances “explosive.” *Het Parool Nieuws* remarks: “The wordless lamento of Loire...goes through the body and the bones.” “Peerless artistry...” writes *The Jerusalem Post*, and the *Chicago Classical Review* praises her “...jaw-dropping dexterity.”

In demand as a soloist and muse for contemporary composers, Loire has new music being written specifically for her rare artistry and flare for vocal drama. She tours internationally as a featured soloist and recording artist with world-class innovators, including multiple Grammy Award winner and frame-drum master Glen Velez, harmonica virtuoso Howard Levy, cellist Eugene Friesen, South Indian Vina master Chitravina Ravikiran, award-winning film composer Edward Bilous, Basque national hero Kepa Junkera, medieval music specialist Nina Stern and Serbian composer Milica Paranosic. Loire has been receiving rave reviews for her role in the multimedia opera THE NEWS, a reality opera by composer JacobTV.

Loire has been a featured soloist with the Taipei Chinese Orchestra, National Chinese Orchestra, American Composers Orchestra, The Nerderlandse ReisOpera, Parco della Musica Contemporanea Ensemble, Fulcrum Point New Music Project and La Notte della Taranta Popular Orchestra in a festival performance

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for a live audience of over 150,000. She has been a featured vocalist in dance scores and performances with modern dance companies, including, Bridgman/Packer Dance, Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company and Alison Chase Apogee Arts (co-founder of Pilobolus), Mimi Garrard Dance and Buglisi Dance Theater.

Loire's signature sound has been used in documentaries, film, dance scores and television commercials with companies such as Tiffany & Co. and CVS. Her touring schedule has brought her to such far-reaching destinations as Japan, Taiwan, Mexico, Israel, Brazil, Italy, Alaska, Portugal, France, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Spain, Austria, The Netherlands, UK, Germany and deep below the earth's surface in a one thousand-year-old Copper Mine in Falun, Sweden. Loire's live performances have included radio concerts broadcast on Spanish National Radio 4, German Public Radio, Italian National Radio 3, Radio Freistadt (Austria), DRS (Swiss-German national radio), WNYC and National Public Radio in the United States, along with television appearances on PBS, Italian Rai5, Dutch BravaHD TV, Taipei National Television, and CBS 2.

Loire's distinctive rhythm approach to voice has led to teaching invitations at prestigious conservatories and universities throughout the world, including master classes at The Juilliard School. During her teens, Loire was impassioned by jazz and scat singing, as well as the healing powers of music. This led her to reach far beyond Western music pedagogy, motivating a self-study into music of the world. Loire contributes much of her rhythmic studies to Glen Velez, who introduced her to Konnakol, the rare art of vocal percussion from South India, and who also composed percussion music especially for her. Loire attended Berklee College of Music and earned a Master Degree in Music Therapy from NYU. Music Therapy is an important leitmotif that weaves through every aspect of Loire's musical and charity work. For more information, please visit www.rhythmvocalist.com.

F. Ludwig

Diehn Concert Series

2015—2016 Season

Sept. 18 and 21, 2015
Birth of an Answer: Within Our Gates

Oct. 19, 2015
Glen Velez and Loire Cotler

Nov. 16, 2015
Measha Brueggergosman

Jan. 25, 2016
Jim Walker

Feb. 29, 2016
Harlem Quartet and Ida Kavafian

Mar. 21, 2016
Penelope Crawford and Martha Guth

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