



Presents

Emily Magee, Percussion

A Date and Place

Chromeo (2015)
Assisted by Audrey Holden

Dr. Andrea Venet (b. 1983)

Fairview Hymns (2018)

Dr. Brian Mueller (b. 1983)

Pocket Groove (2007)

Steve Gadd (b.1945)

Kibo (2017)

Dr. Andrea Venet (b.1983)

Alborada Del Gracioso (1905)
Assisted by Darrien Spicak – Marimba

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)
arr. by Safri Duo

Ordering Instincts (2014)
Assisted by Bradley Baird, Darrien Spicak, Orion Wysocki

Robert Dillon (b. 1980)

Variations on Porgy and Bess (2004)

George Gershwin (1898-1937)
arr. Eric Sammut

Alborada Del Gracioso - Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

Alborada Del Gracioso was composed by Maurice Ravel in his set of five piano pieces he called *Miroirs* (Mirrors). *Alborada* translates to morning music, and relates to the French aubade and troubadour's alba, which are song to warn lovers of the nearing morning. *Del Gracioso* translates to "of the buffoon", which adds an oxymoronic humor to the title. The piece is high spirited and persistent in tone. Ravel's hometown near the French Pyrenees is a few miles from the Spanish border inspires his music to also live on the boarder of French and Spanish styles. *Safri Duo* was the first to arrange Ravel's work for marimba duet, but *arx duo* was the first to add the middle section of the piece, which had been left out of the original arrangement. Darrien and I will be performing the *arx duo* arrangement with a few of our own musical decisions and interpretations.

The original arrangers, *Safri Duo*, is a Danish electronic percussion duo. The duo arranged and recorded many keyboard duets from composers such as Bach, Mendelssohn, and Ravel. In their more recent years *Safri Duo* has moved towards more electronic "club" music such as their famous track, "The Bongo Song", which appeared in the opening ceremony of the 2000 Summer Olympics and FIFA Football 2003.

Chromeo – Dr. Andrea Venet (b. 1983)

The duo, Chromeo, is an electro-funk duo from Montreal. The duo released their track *Frequent Flyer* in 2014, which became the inspirations for Venet's multi duet, entitled *Chromeo*. Venet reinvented first phrase of *Frequent Flyer* on a set of multi toms, which then becomes a sort of chaconne as it is repeated throughout the first and final section of her piece. The duet is made up of highly composite rhythms between the two performers creating a high demand of communication and synchronization. The two parts are very involved with one another, so while learning this piece, Audrey and I played together from our very first time reading the notes. This allowed us each a unique opportunity to learn music in a way we hadn't before and was a large tribute to the success of the duet. While we did not get to rehearse and perform the piece as we originally intended, we are thrilled to have worked on it and have a video to share with you all.

Fairview Hymns – Dr. Brian Mueller (b. 1983)

Dr. Brian Mueller has arranged two hymns, *In the Bleak Midwinter* and *Come Down O Love Divine*, for solo marimba. Originally composed by Gustav Holst and Ralph Vaughan Williams, Mueller has added a jazzy, contemporary spin on the famous melodies. The first hymn is a slow and melodious treatment of *In the Bleak Midwinter* adding characteristic sounds of the marimba to create a new tone for the hymn. The two tunes are connected by a small improvised section modulating from F major to D major. The second hymn, *Come Down O Love Divine*, is a bright dance of large harmonies and intricacies. The piece grows to a coda and a large, glorious ending.

I met Dr. Brian Mueller during my undergraduate degree at Middle Tennessee State University. He was a professor and mentor to me in my development as a percussionist, but especially as a marimbist and musician. I hope you enjoy this performance and genre of marimba music.

Pocket Groove – Steve Gadd (b. 1945)

This performance is my transcription of Steve Gadd's performance while demonstrating his new cymbals, the Zildjian K session. Gadd's *Pocket Groove* became very popular after being released and was transcribed and shared on many forums like drummerworld.com. The tune is known mostly for its "phat groove" and misconception of simplicity. The chart is deceptively demanding in coordination, but very rewarding as a performance!

Steve Gadd is an American drummer and one of the most well-known drummers in the percussion industry. He's performed on Paul Simon's "50 Ways to Leave Your Lover", "Late in the Evening", and had worked with musicians such as Simon & Garfunkel, Paul McCartney, Chick Corea, and more. He was inducted into the Percussive Arts Society Hall of Fame in 2005 for his achievements and artistry in percussion.

"But it's not always what you do on the drums that's noticed; a lot of times, it's what you don't do that's noticed."

- Steve Gadd

Kibo – Dr. Andrea Venet (b. 1983)

Dr. Venet's inspiration behind this piece is the '80s beloved tune *Africa* by Toto. While the accompaniment to the solo does not fully resemble the hit song by Toto, the snare drum part has rhythmic cells and harmonic motives inspired by the original song. Venet states that she played around with groupings of rhythms in the snare notation to play with conventional accent patterns. She also says in her own program notes that the piece draws on "inspirations from other rudimental snare drum styles, particularly the Pratt solos and the French-American hybrid rudimental style championed by American composer Joseph Tompkins". Kibo is actually named after the highest point, and one of the three volcanic cones, on Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.

Kibo is a snare solo with keyboard quartet accompaniment. Because of the COVID-19 impact, the original quartet of Hayden Gish, Ethan Hight, Marshall Lane, and Zachery Lewis, could no longer perform together. In order to continue performing this piece, I manually entered each part into a score and midi format, and then transferred it to a DAW to create a "play-along" track.

Ordering Instincts – Robert Dillon (b. 1980)

Ordering-instincts draws a big sound from a very compact setup of instruments. The four percussionists share eight wooden planks, an octave of loose crotales and two tom-toms, from which they create a variety of different sonic colors in tightly interwoven rhythms. All musical content arises from the composite of all the players together; no one player's part forms a complete voice by itself. *Ordering-instincts* is dedicated to the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center at the University of Notre Dame, on the occasion of its 10th anniversary, and written for Third Coast Percussion.

Robert Dillon is a member of the Grammy-winning percussion quartet Third Coast Percussion, which has performed hundreds of concerts across four continents since its founding in 2005. He has enjoyed a career as an orchestral, solo and chamber musician, as well as an educator for all ages, and since college, has pursued music composition as an additional expressive avenue.

Variations on Porgy and Bess – arr. Eric Sammut (b. 1968)

Variations on Porgy and Bess was composed by Eric Sammut in 2004. The piece is an arrangement based on some of the most popular songs from George and Ira Gershwin's opera Porgy and Bess, such as the *Overture*, *It Ain't Necessarily So*, *I Loves You Porgy* or the very well-known *Summertime*. Nonetheless, Sammut's appreciation of music of all genres led him to use for this Variations not only the original parts of the opera, but also some others from the version by The Gil Evans Orchestra with Miles Davis as soloist. As a result, in the words of Sammut, this piece is "a mix of classic and jazz sound, which gives to this arrangement its originality."

Sammut is an exceedingly prolific composer for solo marimba works. He was the principal percussionist in the Orchestre de Paris and has taught percussion at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Sammut uses a very melodic and jazzy composition style in which the rhythms, melodies, and harmonies fit comfortably on the hands.