



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Presents

Bradley Baird, Percussion

March 31st, 7pm, TCU Symphony Orchestra Rehearsal Hall (MSC 124)

180 (2015)

Michael Burritt (b. 1962)

Assisted by Emily Magee, Darrien Spicak, and Orion Wysocki, *percussion*

Rebonds b (1987-89)

Iannis Xenakis (1922-2001)

Sweet Dreams and Time Machines (2017)

Michael Burritt (b.1962)

Assisted by Emily Magee, *percussion*

Variations on Lost Love (1997)

David Maslanka (1943-2017)

Theme

Part 1

Part 2

Part 3

Black Widow (2021)

Bradley Baird (b.1996)

World Premiere

Assisted by Jack Beckley, Lester Rushin, Josh Villanueva, and Alex Rodzewich, *percussion*

This recital is given in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Music degree with an emphasis in Percussion Performance

Bradley Baird is a student of Dr. Brian A. West, Dr. Richard C. Gipson, Mr. Joseph Carter, and Mr. Jeff Hodge.

Please silence all electronic devices including watches, pagers and phones.

Program Notes:

180 (2015) Michael Burritt (b. 1962)

Duration: 8'30"

"180 is the second of two quartets I have written for marimba, the first having been completed in 2002. The work is laced with canonic passagework explored through rhythmic and melodic hocketing. The idea is to establish a homogenous sound through the 4 marimbas creating the illusion of a single instrument. The work is 360 measures in length and has a seminal tutti moment in measure 180, where all the displaced rhythmic activity comes together for 1 measure and then immediately disperses.

180 was commissioned by a consortium of schools led by Eric Willie at the University of North Carolina Greensboro along with Tennessee Tech University, University of Tennessee, University of South Carolina, Virginia Tech, Lee University, University of North Alabama, Radford University, University of North Carolina Pembroke, University of North Carolina School of the Arts and Frisco Liberty High School. 180 was premiered by the University of North Carolina Greensboro, Eric Willie director, at the 2015 Percussive Arts Society International Convention in San Antonio, Texas."

- Program Notes by Michael Burritt

Rebonds b (1987-89); Iannis Xenakis (1922-2001)

Duration: 5'30"

Rebonds b is one of two multi-percussion solos of Xenakis' *Rebonds*. Since its' emergence, *Rebonds* has become a staple in the multi-percussion repertoire and is frequently performed throughout the world. This work features a five drum setup of bongos, tumba, tom, and bass drum while being sonically complimented by five wood blocks. Although this setup is what Xenakis lists in the score, many percussionists have taken liberty to perform this piece by changing the skin and wooden surfaces to help benefit the technical and aural challenges that come with performing this piece.

Rebonds b features a driving 16th note ostinato on the high bongo drum with melodic material around the other drums. A challenging part of the bongo ostinato are the insertions of drags; a snare drum rudiment. These drags have been debated by percussionists for years on how to perform them, stick them, and what their interpretation should be. Throughout the piece, the skin and wooden surfaces are separated by the different sections of music and are not played together. Towards the end of the solo, Xenakis begins to combine these two different realms rhythmically into more of a "meta instrument."

Rebonds received its premiere in 1988 by Sylvio Gualda.

Sweet Dreams and Time Machines (2017); Michael Burritt (b. 1962)

Duration: 10'00"

"Sweet Dreams and Time Machines (2017) is dedicated to the memory of my friend, colleague and former Dean of the Eastman School of Music, Doug Lowry. There isn't a week that goes by at Eastman when I don't think of Doug, from the time I interviewed with him for the position at Eastman to Doug introducing me as "Buzz Saw" Burritt after a memorable performance with the Eastman Wind Ensemble in Chicago. Doug was a person who always allowed you to feel yourself in his presence through his warm demeanor and casual sense of humor. There are no time machines, outside of science fiction novels and movies. True time machines are the memories we carry with us of people and moments shared. I find some memories so poignant that you can almost step into them, almost as though you are living that moment again. Sweet Dreams to those who have passed, touched us forever, and live eternally in our time machines.

Sweet Dreams and Time Machines [for Anna] by Kelsey Peterson

I thought I saw you down the hall
There is a door closed with a light behind it
But it could not be you, friend
A door, closed
It has been so long since I have seen you
A light
I remember you so completely
The door is large and dark
That I could almost lay my hand on you again
Behind it, light
Should I see you
At the end of the hall
I imagine you refreshed, as though
A great door
Had opened, pouring
Light
Upon your face"

- Program Notes by Michael Burritt

Variations on Lost Love (1997); David Maslanka (1943-2001)

Duration: 15'00"

"*Variations on Lost Love* is based upon the poem "Lost Love" by English poet Robert Graves. The poem describes "a person so distraught by lost love that he enters a state of hyper-awareness". The poem reads:

His eyes are quickened so with grief
He can watch a grass or leaf
Every instant grow; he can
Clearly through a flint wall see
Or watch the startled spirit flee
From the throat of a dead man.
Across two counties he can hear
And catch your words before you speak.
The woodlouse of the maggot's weak
Clamour rings in his sad ear,
And noise so slight it would surpass
Credence – drinking sound of grass,
Worm talk, clashing jaws of moth
Chumbling holes in cloth;
The groan of ants who undertake
Gigantic loads for honour's sake
(Their sinews creak, their breath comes thin);
Whir of spiders when they spin,
And minute whispering, mumbling, sighs
Of idle grubs and flies.
This man is so quickened with grief,
He wanders god-like or like thief
Inside and out, below, above,
Without relief seeking lost love."

- Program Notes by David Maslanka

Black Widow (2021); Bradley Baird (b.1996)

Duration: 6'00"

Black Widow is a chamber ensemble for Solo Snare Drum accompanied by Marimba Quartet.

The first deadly spider that comes to mind for many people is the black widow spider. Its daunting characteristics and portrayal in pop culture makes it widely known and recognized. While brainstorming titles for this work, I was (un)fortunate enough to have an encounter with one. Afterwards, I began comparing this experience with characteristics of the piece and found many parallels between the eerie nature of the spider and what was written for the ensemble. The first sound you hear from the snare drum soloist is the swirling of their hand in circles around the drum which calls to mind the spinning of a spider's web. Additionally, the swelling dynamics performed by the marimbas evoke the lurking of a spider in the environment. *Black Widow* is a challenging ensemble for all performers that will test both musical and technical capabilities.

Black Widow was premiered on March 31st, 2021 at Texas Christian University by Bradley Baird, Jack Beckley, Lester Rushin, Joshua Villanueva, and Alex Rodzewich.