UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE
(Bonnie Whiting, director)

and

STEELBAND
(Shannon Dudley, director)

Friday, June 4th, 2021
7:30 pm, streaming video premiere and livestream
Meany Studio Theatre & other locations

UW MUSIC
2020-21 SEASON

PROGRAM

UW PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Rrrrrrr… (1981-82)--------------------------------------Mauricio Kagel (1931-2008)
    rim shot
            Aaron Michael Butler, Jonathan Rodriguez
    ranz de vaches
            Aaron Michael Butler and Cyrus Graham
    railroad drama
            Cyrus Graham and Sophia Schmidt

Glow Dance* (2020)--Shruthi Rajasekar (b. 1996)
    Connor Aksama, Ryan Baker, Yolanda Yang

Bon Temps (2018)--Joe Moore III (b. 1986)
    Connor Aksama, Ryan Baker, Grace Rosing, Yolanda Yang

Cursive (2000-01)-- QU Xiao-Song (b. 1952)
    Scott Farkas, Jaden Wang: percussion
    Ashley Sandau, Olivia Anderson: dance
    Jaden Wang: video. Scott Farkas: audio

Rrrrrrr…---Kagel
    rigaudon
            Aaron Michael Butler, Jonathan Rodriguez
    ruff
            Cyrus Graham, Sophia Schmidt
    rutscher
            Cyrus Graham, Jonathan Rodriguez

Danza de los Saqsampillos (2006)---------------------Gabriela Lena Frank (b. 1972)
    Sophia Schmidt, Yongyun Zhang

"Yesterday" (Lennon and McCartney)
"Guantanamera" (Joseíto Fernandez)
"Old Lady Walk a Mile and a Half" (traditional)
"Charlotte St." (Ray Holman)

Band:
Shannon Dudley, director & arranger
Griffin Becker
Marley Bishop
Ethan Nowack
Emily Silks

Guest percussionist: Dr. Marisol Berríos-Miranda

The UW steelband was founded by the pioneering steelband composer and arranger Ray Holman, from Trinidad and Tobago, who served as Visiting Artist at the UW School of Music from 1998 to 2000. Currently it is directed by Ethnomusicology professor and steel pannist Shannon Dudley. The UW steelband's repertoire emphasizes Caribbean dance styles, including calypso, soca and salsa, and performs at a variety of community events as well as concerts.

This year we were very small, and very quarantined, so we took advantage of the quartet format to give more voice to individual players and improvise a bit. In this new format all of these songs are fresh, even though we've performed them before. Credit for the arrangement of "Yesterday" goes in part to a steelband Shannon heard playing on the road in Pt. Fortin, Trinidad, in the early 1990s.

We hope you enjoy!

-Shannon Dudley

PROGRAM NOTES

Mauricio Kagel's **Rrrrrrr…** consists of 41 autonomous pieces of music, beginning with the letter "R" and all performable independently. The respective instrumental setting (organ; choir and piano; percussion duo; wind instruments,

double basses and percussion; solo voices; jazz combo) are all published in different volumes. A performance of all 41 pieces constitutes the "Radio Phantasy Rrrrrr…"

A pared-down version of Kagel's signature instrumental music theatre, these comedically bleak experimental duos function much like Samuel Beckett plays for musicians. Exploring non-musical gesture, failure, and prescient commentary on musical/cultural appropriation, these short works question and subvert traditional performance and form. -BW

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railroad drama: A railway accident, derived from the railroad song

ranz de vaches: (Fr: Swiss cowherd's song): a melodious, narrative round dance common in the romanesque Alpine areas (Ger.: Kuhreigen).

rigaudon: early French folk and social dance; a line and couple dance in a lively ., 4/4 or alla breve meter which arose in the 17th century from the folk dances of Provence and Langue d'oc, and is predominantly governed by crotchets and quavers, usually beginning with a crotchet upbeat. As a courtly dance the rigaudon found its way in the 17th/18th century into the ballet, opera and instrumental suite, where it was frequently inserted between the sarabande and gigue. It is closely related to the bourrée and gavotte.

rim shot: a sharp drum stroke, resembling the report of a firearm, produced when the skin and rim are struck simultaneously with the drumstick.

ruff (or ruffle): a triple stroke on the side drum, somewhat in the manner of a short roll.

Rutscher (Ger.: "slider"): early German folk dance; gallop. (from Ferdinand Hirsch: Wörterbuch der Musik, Berlin 1977).

-Mauricio Kagel

Shruthi Rajasekar's **GLOW DANCE** was part of the *Everybody Hits:* a commissioning project that created six new percussion ensemble works by a diverse group of living composers that are accessible for a wide range of ages and ability levels. University of Washington is one of more than 20 consortium

members who funded this ambitious project. We look forward to presenting more of these works in December of 2021 on our Autumn Quarter concert. -BW

In lieu of an explanatory note, I offer these images:

glowing lights on our walk home,
bonfire light from the place next door,
pulsing lights of the stars above,
shifting light in the pond below.

each movement lit up: embracing,
for the length of this dance, at least,
the warm glow of light spreading within.

About: Some melodic material is in the raga Niroshta; additionally, there are rhythms in gopucha yati (cow's tail shape). These are from the Carnatic (South Indian classical) tradition.

  -Shruthi Rajasekar

Bon Temps was written for my good friend Gustavo Miranda and his students at Nicholls State University. The title *Bon Temps* comes from the Louisiana saying, "Laissez les bon temps rouler" or "Let the good times roll." NSU premiered this piece on their percussion ensemble the fall semester of 2018. I hope you have a good time learning and performing this piece!

  -Joe Moore III

QU Xiao-Song's **CURSIVE** was originally written as part of an expansive, multi-disciplinary project featuring the Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan. Commissioned in part by the Percussion Group Cincinnati, we are grateful to founding group member Allen Otte for his work coaching this as a percussion duo. Tonight's performance features a re-imagination of the work's concept, integrating percussion, dance, and calligraphy in a video that was recorded and produced completely remotely and asynchronously by UW students Scott Farkas and Jaden Wang.

Adapted from the final movement of a solo work for piano, **Danza de los Saqsampillos** for two marimbas is inspired by the jungle-dwelling warrior devil

of Amazonian Perú known as the *Saqsampillo*. The energy of the music is lively, sometimes even ferocious, and there appear musical motifs, rhythms, techniques, and instrumental allusions from both the central Andean mountains of Perú and the great jungles to the east. The following, for instance, are evoked:

I. Golpe: A technique from the Spanish and South American guitar-playing traditions where the strings are struck with the flat of the hands. There results a very apparent moment of silence afterwards.

II. Zampoña: The zampoña is the bamboo panpipe of the Andes, the quintessential wind instrument of this culture. The melodies are often simple but nevertheless still rhythmically lively and inflected with grace notes.

III. Sesquiáltera: Literally, "changing sixes" or the juxtaposition of compound duple (6/8) and simple triple (3/4) meters. This rhythmic pattern is common to many styles of Latin American music.

IV. Marimba: Although originally imported from Africa, the marimba instrument is popular all through Latin America and figures prominently in many kinds of folkloric and popular music. Frequent, percussively-played repeated notes are hallmarks of this style.

V. Vendaval: A particularly violent and gusty rainstorm of Latin America.

— Gabriela Lena Frank

MUSICIANS

UW Percussion Ensemble:

Connor Aksama
Ryan Baker
Aaron Michael Butler
Scott Farkas
Cyrus Graham
Jonathan Rodriguez
Grace Rosing

Sophia Schmidt
Jaden Wang
Yolanda Yang
Yongyun Zhang

Bonnie Whiting, Director

UW Steelband:

Griffin Becker
Marley Bishop
Ethan Nowack
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Emily Silks

Shannon Dudley, director & arranger

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