

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

THE HARTT SCHOOL

Betsy Cooper, Dean
David Westfall, Instrumental Studies Director

present

The Hartt Percussion Ensemble **Benjamin Toth, Director** **Christopher Calderon, Adam Rhan, and Kevin Thompson,** **Assistant Conductors**

Just Drums

Saturday, April 14, 2018

7:30 p.m.

Millard Auditorium

Three Songs of Mad Coyote (1973)
I. 8 Tom Toms

Peter Garland (b. 1952)

Three Pieces for Drum Quartet
I. HOCKET for Henry Cowell (1975)
II. WAKE for Charles Ives (1974)
III. CRYSTAL CANON for Edgard Varese (1974)

James Tenney (1934-2006)

She Is Asleep (1943)

John Cage (1912-1992)

Lift-Off! (1966)

Russell Peck (1945-2009)

intermission

Fanfare for Tambourines (1983)

John Alfieri (b. 1953)

Music for Bass Drum (1964)

Barney Childs (1926-2000)

Eight on 3 and Nine on 2 (2007)

Robert Marino (b. 1983)

Quiet (1981)

David Macbride (b. 1951)

HARTT PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE PERSONNEL

Max Bieryla	Anthony Soscia
Christopher Calderon	Hannah Sternberg
Devon Cupo	Yuanlue Sun
Jean Carlo Urena Gonzalez	Ethan Switzer
Digno Iglesias	Kevin Thompson
Chris Natale	Yudong Wang
Adam Rhan	Ben Yuscavage

THE HARTT PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE **Benjamin Toth, Director**

The Hartt Percussion Ensemble first performed in 1947 and began rehearsing and presenting concerts on a regular basis in 1950, distinguishing it as one of the first ensembles of its type in the United States. Since its inception over 70 years ago the ensemble has had two directors: Alexander Lepak and Benjamin Toth.

With an emphasis on chamber music, the Hartt Percussion Ensemble's repertoire includes works for both small and large ensembles. Programming includes percussion ensemble "classics" (by Varese, Cage, Harrison, Reich, etc.), as well as contemporary literature and premier performances. Concerts have also featured the folkloric music of various cultures, including that of Mexico, Africa, Cuba, Brazil, and the Middle East, as well as American ragtime. In addition, the Hartt Graduate Percussion Group and the Hartt Steelband serve as extensions of the Hartt Percussion Ensemble. Ensemble members are pursuing a wide variety of majors at The Hartt School, including percussion performance, music education, music management, acoustics, music production and technology, and composition.

Highlights from the ensemble's concert schedule include: Percussive Arts Society (PAS) International Conventions in Columbus (1999), Phoenix (1995), Austin (2008), and Indianapolis (2013); the National Association of Composers - USA concert series (New York); the Extension Works concert series (Boston); the Connecticut Music Educator's Annual Conference; PAS state conventions in Maine and Connecticut; and workshops and concerts at Bennington College (Vermont); Michigan State University; and Grand Valley State University (Michigan). The ensemble has also presented over 150 children's programs and steelband concerts throughout southern New England. The Hartt Graduate Percussion Group has recorded for the Innova, Yesa, 11 West Records, and Hartt labels.

Guest performers appearing with the ensemble have included frame drummer Glen Velez; jazz mallet players Dave Samuels and Ted Piltzecker; marimbist Nebojsa Jovan Zivkovic; Brazilian percussionist Rogerio Boccato; African drummer Joseph Galeota; Latin percussionists John Amira and Johnny Almendra; hand drummer Shane

Shanahan; composer, timpanist, and PAS Hall of Fame member Alexander Lepak; and percussionist/composer (and John Cage biographer) David Revill.

Benjamin Toth, Professor of Percussion at The Hartt School, brings more than 30 years of professional chamber music performing experience to the ensemble – his chamber music performance highlights include Percussion Group Cincinnati (2017 PAS Hall of Fame inductees), and Nebojsa Zivkovic and the Jovan Percussion Projekt. His performances have spanned six continents, particularly throughout Europe, Asia, and the United States, and he has appeared on twenty recordings.

“The Hartt percussionists are particularly impressive, and all acquit themselves well in the exposure of Chen Yi’s often transparent scoring”.

- Fanfare Magazine

“The Ensemble did an amazing job of evoking the weirdness, the challenge, and the wonderment that are perhaps the most valuable aspects of Cage’s work”

-The Hartford Advocate

UPCOMING HARTT PERCUSSION PERFORMANCES

The Hartt Steelband

Benjamin Toth, Director

Presents: An evening of Caribbean Music

Saturday, April 21, 2018 at 7:30 pm, Millard Auditorium

Admission free

Christopher Calderon, Master of Music recital

Sunday, April 22, 2018 at 8:00 pm, Bliss Music Room

Yuanlue Sun, Master of Music recital

Monday, May 7, 2018 at 7:30 pm, Bliss Music Room

Yudong Wang, Bachelor of Music recital

Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at 7:30 pm, Bliss Music Room

Jean Carlo Urena Gonzalez, Bachelor of Music recital

Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at 7:30 pm, Millard Auditorium

Adam Rhan, Master of Music recital

Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 7:30 pm, Millard Auditorium

Kevin Thompson, Doctor of Musical Arts recital

Friday, May 11, 2018 at 7:30 pm, Bliss Music Room