

PROGRAM NOTES

Attraction

Emmanuel Séjourné (1961 -)

Emmanuel Séjourné is a world-renowned French composer as well as one of the most notable mallet percussionists. His compositions include orchestral, solo works, large ensemble, and chamber music. A great number of his pieces are primarily concerned with exploring the possibilities between percussion and other instruments. Séjourné's music is largely influenced by classical music and popular music fusion.

In <Attraction>, it consists of many precisely notated passages that synchronize with the playback. The fast-moving melody brings out the repetitive pentatonic scale and grooving rhythm, which are the remarkable characteristics of this advanced multi-percussion piece. There are also improvised sections that require junk and metallic instruments chosen by the player.

Marimba and vibraphone are used as the main melody, combined with the vocal accompaniment in the prerecorded CD, elements of various metal instruments, natural elements, etc., to create a rich sense of layering and sacredness.

Double Happiness

Christopher Cerrone (1984 -)

Christopher Cerrone is an American composer known for his works that were committed to exploring the timbres and expanding the hierarchy of sound. He was also a 2014 Pulitzer Prize finalist and has received numerous Grammy nominations.

<Double Happiness> is composed in five consecutive movements, for piano, percussion and electronics. These five movements are I. Self Portrait (Part I) — II. Interlude I — III. Self Portrait (Part II) — IV. Interlude II — V. New Year's Song (for Sarah). This piece's inspiration was from Cerrone's summer time spent in Italy. The electronic audio includes church bells, train station bells and the sounds of storms he recorded in the Italian countryside.

The first movement is simply portrayed by the repetition of four vibraphone notes in changing metres, while the piano fills the harmonic chord, creating an ethereal setting with the percussion. The third movement is notable for the continuously emphasized notes that play on crotales imitating the church bell sound, and the piano's accents that join the sustained metal sound to push the volume to reach the climax. The last movement summarizes the extreme tranquility and storm that manifested in the preceding parts.

Strawberry Therapy **Krystian Skubala (1989 -)**

<Strawberry Therapy> is the second movement of Polish composer Krystian Skubala's 'The Bottom of the Soul' for vibraphone and piano duo.

This piece flexibly applies a lot of jazz elements, such as blues scales, syncopation, and improvisation. In terms of the structure of the piece, the author skillfully but not strictly (there is an improvisation in between the development and recapitulation) used the sonata form in classical compositions. The recapitulation clearly repeats the opening material in the A flat major to represent the theme again. Many shifts of accents between vibraphone and piano convey the melodic dialogue throughout the whole piece.

Burn³ **Nathan Daughtrey (1975 -)**

Nathan Daughtrey is from the United States, and has a diverse career as a composer, musician, and owner of the publication. His compositions are primarily inspired by his passion for life and extensive experience in outdoor adventure.

Burn³ is a trio for marimba, flute and B-flat clarinet. In this piece, the composer uses different vocabularies to describe the characteristics of each section. "Spark | Ignite | Dance | Scorch | Smolder | Incinerate | Extinguish" vividly explains the whole process of the fire burn.

Acoustically, woodwinds and marimba blend together through continuous arpeggios and changing harmonic textures. At the same time, the technical changes in different instruments restore to the greatest extent what the audience can imagine of burning things. This is a piece that nicely combines real life scenes with musical instrument and music elements.

Side by Side **Michio Kitazume(1948 -)**

Michio Kitazume is a Japanese composer and orchestra conductor. His most famous composition include "Water Reincarnation" (commissioned by NHK Electronic Music Studio), "Shadows IV for clarinet solo", "Side by Side for percussion solo", "Color of the Layers II for piano" and many others for various instruments. His avant-garde composing style was largely influenced by Schoenberg.

<Side by side> was originally composed for solo multi-percussion and orchestra in 1987.

In this piece, there are clear indications of the number of desired repetitions of each bar. However, the performers are allowed to repeat the times they want as long as they feel the rhythm and keep the tempo. The extreme and rapid-changed dynamics contrast, polyrhythm, and difficulty in coordinating both hands and feet are the reasons why this piece is so challenging.

Udacrep Akubrad

Avner Dorman (1975 -)

<Udacrep Akubrad> comes from the words “Percadu Darbuka” in reverse. The Israeli composer Avner Dorman composed this piece for the Israeli percussion duo “Percadu” in 2001. He composes music with strict and advanced technique and always presents in an impressive melody.

This piece is written for two percussionists, each player needs a 5-octave marimba, two darbukas and one low tom-tom. The main materials in this piece are scales and rhythms collected from the Mediterranean traditional classical music. The repetitive rhythm patterns alternated between the two players show a bit of the minimalist character. The combination of marimba and darbukas helps create the exotic music style.