Ensemble Recital Series

NIU PERCUSSION FALL CONCERT

Gregory Beyer and Ben Wahlund, directors
Jean-Christopher Leroy, assistant director
Christian Baugher and Jonah Payne, graduate student conductors
With Special Guests:
Alexis C. Lamb, composition
I-Jen Fang and Raychel Taylor, percussion

Sunday, November 6, 2022
3:00 PM
Boutell Memorial Concert Hall

PROGRAM

Afro-Cuban Medley
Bembé & Guiro: Songs for Elégua
Guaguancó: Songs for Ogún

Traditional
arr. Jean-Christophe Leroy

Matters/Mind (2021)

Alexis C. Lamb
(b. 1993)

Implosion (1981)

Mantle Hood
(1918-2005)

Christian Baugher, Conductor

Bones of Chuang-Tzu (2002-2021)

Christopher Deane
(1957-2021)

I-Jen Fang, percussion

Marimba Quartet no. 2, “Sensing the Coriolis” (2017)

Christopher Deane

Jonah Payne, Conductor
Mourning Dove Sonnet (1983)                      Christopher Deane
                                Ethan Cowburn, vibraphone

Omnes Trio (2019)                                                                 Andrea Venet
                                                        (b. 1983)

Almost Perpetual Torque (2012)                                                                 Christopher Deane
                        I-Jen Fang, vibraphone
                        Raychel Taylor, marimba
                        Gregory Beyer, xylophone

Metamorphosis (1989/2018)                                                                 Phillip Glass
                                                        (b. 1937)
                                                        arr. Peter Martin (2018)

Marimba Quartet no. 1, “Vespertine Formations” (2003)                      Christopher Deane

PERSONNEL

D’Andre Atkins      Wheaton, IL
Christian Baugher    Maryland Heights, MO
Luke Behrends        Minooka, IL
Jalen Charles        Trinidad and Tobago
Ethan Cowburn        Liverpool, NY
David Czechut        Omaha, NE
Rashunda             Trinidad & Tobago
Dorset-Headley       Aurora, IL
Morgan Dudlicke      Lanark, IL
Emily Heller          Bartlett, IL
Andrew Kinsey        Lisle, IL
Jonathon Kurecki     Chicago, IL
Jean Leroy           Guatemala City
Matt Mate            McHenry, IL
Karl Olsen           DeKalb, IL
Jonah Payne          Lincoln, NE
Noah Payton          DeKalb, IL
Will Pierce          Hoffman Estates, IL
Obesanjo Quarless    Lakewood, WA
Rhiannon Robinson    Elizabethtown, KY
Imanol Ruiz          Aurora, IL
Matthew Schneider    Dallas, TX
Michael Speziale     Crystal Lake, IL
Grace Suh            Pella, IA
Abagail Vokoun       Batavia, IL
Jackson Wheeler      Minneapolis, MN
ABOUT OUR GUEST ARTISTS

Alexis C. Lamb
Alexis C. Lamb is a composer, percussionist, and educator whose work seeks to cultivate a connectedness to natural, historical, and societal relationships. As a composer, Lamb has collaborated with numerous ensembles and individuals, including Third Coast Percussion, Aizuri Quartet, Opera Omaha, Albany (NY) Symphony, Vera Quartet, Camilla Tassi, Contemporaneous, Emily Roller, Yale Philharmonia, and Evan Chapman.

As a percussionist, Lamb has recently found joy in improvising in a variety of natural soundscapes, listening to how the natural world responds to her human-made music. Lamb was also a performer from 2013-2020 with Projeto Arcomusical.

As an educator, Lamb’s work runs the gamut from private lessons to curriculum development, to clinics and large classes. Her recent work has included developing the Creative Music-Making program for the Yale Music in Schools Initiative as well as serving as a Graduate Student Instructor at University of Michigan, a Teaching Fellow for the Department of Music at Yale University, and a 6-12th grade band director in Stillman Valley, Illinois.

Lamb is a recipient of a 2022 Presser Foundation Graduate Music Award, a 2021 Charles Ives Scholarship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and a 2018 ASCAP Foundation Morton Gould Young Composer Award. She is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Composition at the University of Michigan and previously earned degrees from Yale School of Music and Northern Illinois University. Her works are self-published and available on her website: www.alexislamb.com.

I-Jen Fang
Described as an “intrepid percussionist” by Fanfare Magazine, I-Jen Fang has a career as a solo performer, chamber musician, orchestral player, and teacher. She joined the faculty of the Music Department at the University of Virginia in 2005 and as the Principal Timpanist and Percussionist of the Charlottesville Symphony.

As a soloist, I-Jen has performed as a marimba soloist in Taiwan, U.S., Austria, France, Hungary, Romania, and South Africa. She was also the featured marimba soloist with the Charlottesville Symphony in 2006 and 2010. As a chamber musician, I-Jen has performed or recorded with artists such as Keiko Abe, William Cahn, Christopher Deane, Mark Ford, Mike Mainieri, Ed Smith, Michael Spiro, Nanik Wenton, Nyoman Wenton, EcoSono Ensemble, Cantata Profana, Attacca Percussion Group, DaCapo Chamber Players, and Victory Hall Opera. She is also a founding member, with Ayn Balija, of the Piedmont Duo, which explores the sonic possibilities of the viola and percussion. I-Jen has appeared in Staunton Music Festival,
Charlottesville Chamber Music Festival, Wintergreen Festival, Heritage Theater Festival, Percussive Arts Society International Convention and Regional PAS Day of Percussion.

Born in Taipei, Taiwan, I-Jen began her musical education at age six taking piano. Taking up percussion at the age of nine, she came to the United States at age fifteen to pursue her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Percussion Performance at Carnegie Mellon University. She received her Master of Music degree from Northwestern University and her Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of North Texas where she served as a teaching fellow.

I-Jen is a Marimba One and Innovative Percussion artist.

Raychel Taylor
Raychel Taylor is an educator, performer, and arts entrepreneur in northern Illinois. Motivated by her passion to provide young female percussionists with direct access to female mentorship, Raychel created “Girls March,” an organization that advocates for women in the marching arts. Her vision is realized through music and leadership seminars with some of the most influential women in the activity. Raychel is the Director of Percussion at Prospect High School, teaches private lessons, and is a performing member of berimbau sextet Arcomusical. Additionally, she serves on judging panels for marching contests and is a clinician for events such as Percussive Arts Society (PAS) Days of Percussion.

Raychel serves on the PAS Diversity Alliance and is an Educational Artist for Dynasty USA, Innovative Percussion Inc., and Remo Drumheads.

THE NIU PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE
The award-winning NIU Percussion Ensemble is the principal vehicle through which NIU percussionists gain critical chamber music experiences and cover a wide variety of genres and musical instruments. In addition to its NIU performances each semester, community engagement concerts include DeKalb County Hospice’s *Transformation Through Rhythm*, an annual fundraiser for the Hospice’s sister organization in Knysna, South Africa. NIU has established a proud history of multiple PASIC performances: Percussion Ensemble Showcase (2003, 2009), Focus Day Performances (2009, 2013), World Percussion Showcase (2014). Additional notable performances include the International Festival of Percussion Ensembles in San José, Costa Rica (2008, 2017) and the PAS Illinois Chapter (2005, 2009, 2017).

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS

Gregory Beyer
Fulbright Scholar, composer, educator, and “prodigiously talented percussionist” (Chicago Classical Review), Gregory Beyer is a contemporary music specialist who blends the disciplines of orchestral, jazz, and world music into a singular artistic voice. He is the Artistic Director of
Arcomusical, a non-profit organization spreading the joy of the Afro-Brazilian berimbau and related musical bows. To date, Arcomusical has released four albums of original music.

Beyer is Professor and Director of Percussion Studies at Northern Illinois University School of Music, where he directs the New Music Festival and the Percussion Ensemble. He is a core member of the Chicago-based new music ensembles Dal Niente and the Grossman Ensemble at the University of Chicago’s Center for Contemporary Composition.

Ben Wahlund
Ben Wahlund is a Grammy-nominated music educator, composer, and performer who serves as full-time percussion instructor at Northern Illinois University and the Director of Percussion at the College of DuPage where he was awarded the 2018 All-Campus Outstanding Faculty Award. Published by C. Alan Publications, Bachovich Music, HoneyRock Publications, and Innovative Percussion, his music compositions have won numerous international awards and are performed by professionals around the world.

His engaging teaching style has availed him of the opportunity to work for years with the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra as percussion ensemble director, director of a number of regional camps and workshops with high school students – including the NIU Percussion Camp - and university residencies across the country. Additionally, Mr. Wahlund has been awarded and served long term artist residencies on the island of Key West, Florida, and Gettysburg National Military Park in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.