



Monday, December 7, 2015 at 8:00 p.m.
Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center, Morgan Hall
Sixtieth Concert of the 2015-16 Concert Season

KSU Percussion Ensemble

John Lawless, director

EDGARD VARÈSE (1883-1965)

Ionization

ERIC RAMOS / JOHN LAWLESS (b. 1995/1959)

1.0

CHRISTOPHER ROUSE (b. 1949)

Ku-Ka-Ilimoku

OWEN CLAYTON CONDON (b. 1978)

Fractalia

Josh Bouland, Joe Donohue, Selena Sanchez, Michael Ollman

DUSTIN SHULZE (b. 1983)

Shades of Glass

NEBOJŠA ZIVKOVIC (b. 1962)

Pezzo Da Concerto No. 1

Michael Ollman, snare drum

DAVE HALL (b. 1983)

Pyroclastic Steam

MITCH GILLIS (b. 1996)

Spirals

program notes

Ionization | Edgard Varèse

Composed by Edgard Varèse, *Ionization* was one of the first works intended for the concert hall for percussion ensemble alone. Frank Zappa often claimed that this piece inspired him to pursue a career in music, and was actually the first album that he ever purchased.

1.0 | Eric Ramos / John Lawless

Near the end of Spring semester of this year, Ivan approached me about a second collaboration between our percussion ensemble and the KSU Dance Company. (The first was “Touchdown” 2013). I thought that this was a wonderful idea, and we both started making notes. 2015 marks the tenth year of the KSU Dance Company, so Ivan wanted a showpiece that would represent the incredible growth that his company has had in just a few short years. As I worked through ideas for this new work, I thought that it might be interesting to offer one of my composition majors within the studio, Eric Ramos, an opportunity to help with it’s creation. Ivan, having seen a percussion ensemble rehearsal playing one of Eric’s works, did not hesitate in his “yes.” The result is *1.0*, and the *World Premier* took place on November 11, 2015.

Choreography	Ivan Pulinkala
Music	Eric Ramos, John Lawless
Costumes	Elana Rao
Marionettes	William VanMeter
Dancers	Khylii Chestnut, Sarah Gunter, Payton Horton, Sam Ingram, Christina Massad, Zaleigh Richardson, Simone Stevens, Claire Weed, Julia Weiss, Jalesa Wright
Percussion	Joe Donohue, Mary Madision Jones, Caty Mae Loomis, Eric Ramos, Selena Sanchez

Ku-Ka-Ilimoku | Christopher Rouse

In Hawaiian mythology, K is perhaps the most fundamental and important of gods, occupying a place similar to that of Zeus in Greek mythology or Odin in Norse legend. Ku is manifested in several forms: as Ku-Ka-Ilimoku, he represents the god of war. Thus, this work for percussion ensemble is best viewed as a savage, propulsive war dance. *Ku-Ka-Ilimoku* was commissioned by the Syracuse Symphony Percussion Ensemble, was completed on August 5, 1978, and lasts approximately five minutes.

- *Christopher Rouse*

Fractalia | Owen Clayton Condon

Owen Clayton Condon composed *Fractalia* while still a playing member in Third Coast Percussion. This work is a celebration of fractus, geometric shapes whose parts are each a reduced-size copy of the whole. (Derived from the Latin fructus, meaning: “broken”)

The fractured melodies within *Fractalia* are created by passing a repeated figure through four players in different registers of the marimba.

- *Vic Firth website*

Shades of Glass | Dustin Shulze

This piece was initially inspired by the music of Phillip Glass. I sought to create an elaborate piece for a large percussion ensemble that utilizes repetitive, overlapping rhythms that, when put together as a whole, create a hypnotic sense of euphoria. There are many different “shades” to this work, including some that walk along the edge of “absurdity.” The hope is for the listener to feel entranced, while at the same time not really knowing the possibilities that lay ahead. This ensemble is meant to portray a layered musical landscape that is representative of a surreal, dreamlike state.

- *Dustin Schulze*

Pezzo Da Concerto | Nebojša Zivkovic

This unaccompanied solo by Nebojša Zivkovic has become a benchmark in snare drum repertoire. Michael Ollman played this for a student performance last semester, and I asked him at that time if he would consider playing it for you tonight. The answer was obviously “yes,” and the drum that he will be performing on is a Clevelander “heavy” drum. (It is made from solid bell bronze weighing in at 56 pounds!)

Pyroclastic Steam | Dave Hall

This work was inspired by a 2012 trip to teach percussion at Kamehameha schools in Honolulu, Hawaii. The beauty of the islands along with their seemingly improbable and precarious location in the middle of the Pacific sparked my interest in the volcanic origin of the islands, and in volcanoes in general. In three sections, the music depicts the violent process of the islands’ formation from molten lava to rock. This ensemble represents the different physical states of matter, moving from liquid to gas to solid.

- *Dave Hall*

Spirals | Mitch Gillis

There is so much "volume" involved in a percussion ensemble concert, I wanted to leave you with something quiet and beautiful. I asked Mitch Gillis to create something on the wooden instruments on stage that the entire ensemble could play. The result is *Spirals*, and it lasts only two minutes, but it is beautiful and exactly what I had in mind for our concerts' finale. Thank you for being here with us this evening.

- John Lawless



percussion personnel

John Lawless, director

Michael Berry

Josh Bouland

Joe Donohue

Mitch Gillis

Lane Hunter

Mary Madison Jones

Caty Mae Loomis

Benjamin Morgan

Malcolm Muhammad

Michael Ollman

Brooks Payne

Eric Ramos

Lindsay Rohskopf

Selena Sanchez

Cooper Sewell

Foster Simmons

Clay Wilderman

biographies

Eric Ramos was born in 1995 in Michigan, but his family moved to Kennesaw, Georgia, when he was 4. Growing up in Kennesaw, he felt Kennesaw State's influence on the area and decided to attend KSU to study music composition his senior year of high school. Eric always had an interest in film music, and his dreams came to reality when he composed a piece for the Student Composition Recital this past spring that was coordinated with a projected video. Due to this performance, Eric was contacted to write the music for Kennesaw State's first commercial which he completed over the summer.

Mitch Gillis is fascinated with experimentation and strives to explore new concepts with all of his compositions. Born in Phoenix, Arizona in 1996, he moved to Marietta, Georgia, in 2008. He studies music composition at Kennesaw State University and plays percussion in KSU's Wind Ensemble, Orchestra, and Percussion Ensemble. Mitch draws inspiration from a wide variety of musicians, visual artists and scientific phenomena.

Chair and Professor, KSU Department of Dance

Ivan Pulinkala, choreographer, is the Chairman of the Department of Dance at Kennesaw State University in Georgia. Originally from New Delhi, India, Pulinkala received his doctorate in Higher Education administration from the University of Alabama, his Master of Fine Arts in Dance from Mills College, and his Bachelor of Commerce from Hindu College- Delhi University. He began his professional training and choreographic career in India, where he served as the artistic director of



his own company from 1994-1998. Pulinkala served as the choreographer-in-residence for Delhi Music Theatre for five years, and was named among the 25 Indian artists of the Millennium by the *India Today* magazine in their December 1999 issue. Pulinkala's recent written scholarship includes the publication of his book *Piper of the Soul*, as well as articles in *Research in Dance Education* and *Theatre Topics*. Pulinkala travels nationally and internationally choreographing

and teaching dance. He is the recipient of several awards and grants including the 2011 KSU Foundation Award, the 2010 Cobb Symphony Orchestra Award for Artistic Excellence, the 2010-12 Kennesaw State University Clendenin Graduate Fellowship, and the 2005 Murray State University Board of Regents Teaching Award. Recent choreographic commissions include works for Atlanta Ballet's *Wabi Sabi*, The Israel Ballet, FRESCO Dance Company and Kennesaw State University.

Senior Lecturer of Percussion Studies

John Lawless, Senior Lecturer, joined the music faculty of Kennesaw State University in 1998 and became the Director of Percussion Studies in 2004. Principal Timpanist of the Atlanta Opera orchestra since 1979, John held the same position with the Chattanooga Symphony for 21 years. Since 1978, Mr. Lawless has performed, toured and recorded with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra while maintaining a thriving freelance career as a studio and pit percussionist.



A founding member of the Atlanta Percussion Trio, Mr. Lawless performs hundreds of school concerts a year for thousands of children throughout the Southeastern United States. Along with Scott Douglas and Karen Hunt, the trio has been a performing group for 32 years, bringing educational programs to children of all ages.

As a soloist, Mr. Lawless played several concertos with the Chattanooga Symphony, including: *The Olympian for 8 Timpani and Orchestra* as well as *The Messenger for Multiple Percussion and Orchestra*, both written by James Oliverio. In 2009, Mr. Lawless performed Joseph Schwantner's *Concerto for Percussion* with the Cobb Symphony Orchestra. In 2014, he performed the Southeastern premier of Christopher Theofinidis' *Marimba Concerto* with the KSU Wind Ensemble for the Festival of New Music.

A graduate of Georgia State University, Mr. Lawless' teachers include Tom Float, Jack Bell, Cloyd Duff, Paul Yancich, Bill Wilder and Mark Yancich. Previous faculty appointments include those at Georgia State University, Clark Atlanta University and West Georgia State University.

School of Music Faculty and Staff

Director

Stephen W. Plate

Music Education

Judith Beale
Janet Boner
Kathleen Creasy
John Culvahouse
Charles Jackson
Charles Laux
Alison Mann
Angela McKee
Richard McKee
Cory Meals
Harry Price
Terri Talley
Amber Weldon-Stephens

Music History & Appreciation

Drew Dolan
Edward Eanes
Heather Hart
Kayleen Justus

Music Theory, Composition & Technology

Judith Cole
Kelly Francis
Jennifer Mitchell
Laurence Sherr
Benjamin Wadsworth
Jeff Yunek

Woodwinds

Robert Cronin, Flute
Todd Skitch, Flute
Christina Smith, Flute
Elizabeth Koch Tiscione, Oboe
John Warren, Clarinet, Chamber Music
Laura Najarian, Bassoon
Sam Skelton, Saxophone

Brass and Percussion

Doug Lindsey, Trumpet, Chamber Music
Mike Tiscione, Trumpet
Jason Eklund, Horn
Tom Gibson, Trombone
Brian Hecht, Bass Trombone
Martin Cochran, Euphonium
Bernard Flythe, Tuba/Euphonium
John Lawless, Percussion

Strings

Helen Kim, Violin
Kenn Wagner, Violin
Justin Bruns, Chamber Music
Catherine Lynn, Viola
Paul Murphy, Viola
Charae Krueger, Cello
James Barket, Double Bass
Elisabeth Remy Johnson, Harp
Mary Akerman, Classical Guitar

Voice

Jessica Jones
Eileen Moremen
Oral Moses
Leah Partridge
Valerie Walters
Todd Wedge
Jana Young

Piano

Judith Cole, Collaborative Piano & Musical Theatre
Julie Coucheron
Robert Henry
John Marsh, Class Piano
David Watkins
Soohyun Yun

Jazz

Justin Chesarek, Jazz Percussion
Wes Funderburk, Jazz Trombone, Jazz Ensembles
Tyrone Jackson, Jazz Piano
Marc Miller, Jazz Bass
Sam Skelton, Jazz Ensembles
Lester Walker, Jazz Trumpet
Trey Wright, Jazz Guitar, Jazz Combos

Ensembles & Conductors

Leslie J. Blackwell, Choral Activities
Alison Mann, Choral Activities
Cory Meals, Concert Band, Marching Band
Oral Moses, Gospel Choir
Eileen Moremen, Opera
Nathaniel Parker, Symphony Orchestra
Charles Laux, Philharmonic Orchestra
Debra Traficante, Concert Band, Marching Band
David Kehler, Wind Ensemble

School of Music Staff

Julia Becker, Administrative Specialist III
Kimberly Beckham, Coordinator of Band Operations and Outreach
David Daly, Director of Programming and Facilities
Susan M. Grant Robinson, Associate Director for Administration
Joseph Greenway, Technical Director
Dan Hesketh, Digital Media Specialist
June Mauser, Administrative Associate II
Andrew Solomonson, Facility Operations Manager

Ensembles in Residence

Atlanta Percussion Trio
KSU Faculty Jazz Parliament
Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus
KSU Faculty Chamber Players
KSU Faculty String Trio
KSU Community and Alumni Choir

about the school of music



Welcome to our campus! The School of Music is an exciting place to live, learn and work. Housed in the College of the Arts, the School is infused with masterfully skilled and dedicated performing teachers who care deeply about their profession, our programs, our community and every student involved in music and the arts. Our facilities are aesthetically functional and well equipped, our professional staff first-class, and our motivation perfect; to prepare students to be accomplished, creative arts leaders - diversely trained, acutely challenged and well-practiced to ensure employability and empowerment to take the 21st-century music world by storm.


Our students come to us from the leading musical arts and honors organizations from across the southeast, and as a School of Music, we are dedicated to the purpose of furthering the arts and cultural offerings of our region and beyond.


Please take the time to meet our faculty, students and staff. Interact with them, talk shop with them - their enthusiasm is contagious whether on or off the stage. I look forward to a long and rewarding relationship, and with your involvement as an audience member and patron, there are no limits to what we can become. If we can be of assistance to you, simply ask.


A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen W. Plate". The signature is fluid and cursive.


Stephen W. Plate, DMA
Director, School of Music
Kennesaw State University

connect with us

 /musicKSU

 @musicKSU

 /musicKSU

 @musicKSU

musicKSU.com

Visit musicKSU.com and click "Live Streaming" to watch live broadcasts of many of our concerts and to view the full schedule of live streamed events.

Please consider a gift to the Kennesaw State University School of Music.

<http://community.kennesaw.edu/GiveToMusic>