


New Compositions for Percussion Duo

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UNF Faculty Showcase Description

New Compositions for Percussion Duo - Video performance submission by Dr. Andrea Venet

Dr. Andrea Venet, Assistant Professor and director of percussion studies at the UNF School of Music, maintains a very active performance and collaborative career as a professional soloist and chamber musician. Dr. Venet's percussion duo, Escape Ten (with Dr. Annie Stevens, Virginia Tech) is an ensemble in residence at the UNF School of Music and remains active commissioning new works and performing around the country as featured artists. Escape Ten recently gave a showcase concert of newly commissioned works and world premieres for an audience of 800 people at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention in Indianapolis this past November.

Escape Ten's focus is to collaborate with living composers and artists in order to create and contribute significant works to the standard chamber percussion repertory while engaging diverse audiences with exciting and creative programs of music. Escape Ten has their own Escape X publication series of new percussion duos through Keyboard Percussion Publications (KPP). In addition to regular appearances at percussion festivals across the country, Escape Ten has been featured artists at the Barnes Foundation, Spivey Hall, the Leigh Howard Stevens Summer Marimba Seminar, Rhea Miller Concert series, Musica Viva Concert Series, McCormick Marimba Festival, the International Trombone Festival, VMEA, and at the Virginia Humanities Conference at Roanoke College.

The first video submission is of a new composition entitled 2300 Degrees, by Ivan Trevino. The piece was inspired by a musical residence Trevino held with his band A Break of Reality at the Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, NY. Trevino was greatly affected by observing glass blower Lino Tagliapietra work. Ivan states "In order to recreate the feelings I felt while watching Lino work, I decided to create a piece with a stream of unrelenting notes, while at times having each player play in time signatures different than the other. My reason for doing this is to create tension, similar to how I felt watching Lino work. To add an additional layer of tension and difficulty, there are occasional crotale notes simultaneously played with the marimba parts. As you can imagine, this is a very challenging piece to play, and the most difficult duo I've written."

The second video contains two works, the first a piece entitled Clear Midnight by Michael Burritt. Clear Midnight is a continuous two-movement work connected by a drum interlude, and is inspired by the poem A Clear Midnight by Walt Whitman. The piece showcases interjectory and organic uses of the drums in a homogenous manner with the marimba texture. What is most unique about the work is that the performers are required to sing while playing their instruments in the middle section, eliciting an immediate, visceral response from the listener. There is also a supplemental second video of a live performance provided which includes only this piece.

Fastlane is by Aurél Holló, who is most notable for his wide breadth of performances with the internationally acclaimed Hungarian percussion ensemble Amadinda, an ensemble hailed by London's The Guardian as "among the most dazzling percussionists you might hear this side of Bali." Holló's musical influences include music by György Ligeti and Balinese Gamelan, a very rhythmic and percussive music with a heavy emphasis on repeated, interlocking patterns called kotekan by idiophones and gong chimes. You can hear these influences in timbre and rhythm in Fastlane.

All three of these pieces are commissioned by Escape X, with the sheet music being published through www.MostlyMarimba.com and www.IvanDrums.com. Dr. Venet will continue to perform these pieces as part of a full program of recent compositions this year throughout the country. Please visit: www.EscapeTen.com