



David Skidmore Sean Connors Robert Dillon Peter Martin

PROGRAM FOR

PASIC 2019

Thursday, November 14, 2019

“Niagara” from *Paddle to the Sea* (2016)

Third Coast Percussion

Perfectly Voiceless (2018)

Devonté Hynes (b. 1985)

Percussion Quartet (2019)

Danny Elfman (b. 1953)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Death Wish (2017)

Gemma Peacocke (b. 1984)

Perpetuum (2018)

Philip Glass (b. 1937)

- 1.
- 2.
- Cadenza
- 3.

Torched and Wrecked (2016)

David Skidmore (b.1982)

PROGRAM NOTES

The four members of Third Coast Percussion all compose their own music, and in recent years, have worked on projects that involve composing music together as a team. As part of a multi-media performance project, the quartet composed music to perform live with the 1966 film *Paddle to the Sea*, based on a children's book of the same name written in 1941. The film tells the story of a small wooden figure in a canoe, lovingly carved by a Native Canadian boy and set on a long journey through the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway, out to the Atlantic Ocean and beyond.

Third Coast Percussion's album *Paddle to the Sea*, featuring this music, as well as water-themed works that inspired this composition, was released on Cedille Records in February 2018.

Paddle to the Sea was commissioned with lead support from the Maxine and Stuart Frankel Foundation. The work was co-commissioned by the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Meany Center for the Performing Arts at University of Washington, ArtsLIVE at University of Dayton, and the University of Notre Dame's DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

Duration: 4 minutes



Photo: Matthew Leifheit

Devonté Hynes is a British singer, songwriter, composer, producer, and author, now residing in New York City. He has released five studio albums under the name "Blood Orange," and previously released two albums as "Lightspeed Champion." He has produced for artists such as Solange Knowles, Sky Ferreira, and Carly Rae Jepsen, and has made his own solo appearances on the Pitchfork and Coachella Music Festivals. Hynes plays cello and piano, and recently performed some of Philip Glass's etudes as part of an all-star lineup for Glass concerts at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center. Hynes also has a background in dance and has worked with ballet dancer Maria Kochetkova and choreographer Emma Portner in his own music videos.

Hynes composed the music for an entire evening-length program featuring Third Coast Percussion and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, with new choreography created by Emma Portner, Jon Boogz, and Lil Buck, which premiered in Chicago in September 2018. To create this 75-minute opus, Hynes composed music with synthesized and sampled sounds, which he then sent to Third Coast Percussion. TCP experimented with instruments to create a live performance version of the music, which they then recorded and sent back to Hynes for feedback, then eventually to the choreographers to create the dance. Tonight's program features a section of this program, *Perfectly Voiceless*, that served as a musical interlude between choreographed pieces.

Third Coast Percussion's album "Fields," which includes all of the music composed by Hynes as part of the project with Hubbard Street Dance Chicago was released on Cedille Records in October 2019.

This work was commissioned by the Charles and Joan Gross Family Foundation. The project was supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Third Coast Percussion New Works Fund, and the Elizabeth F Cheney Foundation.

Duration: 11 minutes

For over 30 years, four-time Oscar nominee **Danny Elfman** has established himself as one of the most versatile and accomplished film composers in the industry. Beginning with his first score on Tim Burton's *Pee-wee's Big Adventure*, Elfman has scored over 100 films, including: *Milk*, *Good Will Hunting*, *Big Fish*, *Men in Black*, *Edward Scissorhands*, *Batman*, *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Silver Linings Playbook*, *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, *Justice League*, and *The Grinch*, as well as writing the iconic theme music for the television series *The Simpsons* and *Desperate Housewives*.



Photo: Brian Averill

Before beginning his film scoring career, Elfman played in the Gamelan at Cal Arts (though he was never officially enrolled as a student), made a self-guided tour across Africa absorbing a diversity of musical traditions, worked with his brother Richard in an experimental musical theater group in France, and helped found the band Oingo Boingo. In recent years, Elfman has expanded his composition projects into the concert music world. His *Serenada Schizophrana*, commissioned by the American Composer's Orchestra, premiered at Carnegie Hall in 2005, and *Rabbit and Rogue*, for the American Ballet Theater choreographed by Twyla Tharp, was performed at The Metropolitan Opera house in 2008.

Elfman's *Percussion Quartet* was written for Third Coast Percussion, to premiere at Philip Glass's "Days and Nights" Festival in Big Sur, California in October 2019. In composing his first percussion piece for the concert hall, Elfman drew on the vast collection of instruments he has amassed in his studio over the years, as well as recorded samples of many of Third Coast's unique instruments, including tuned metal flat bar and wooden slats. Its four movements loosely follow the structure of a traditional symphony, with a gentle, more lyrical second movement, and a dance-like third movement that combines the feel of a Shostakovich scherzo with sounds reminiscent of balofon and gamelan. Each movement maintains a steady energy while shifting rapidly between sounds, styles, and tempos, and Elfman's distinct voice is clearly recognizable in a slightly warped harmonic language, and moments of playfulness, mystery, and drama.

Duration: 20 minutes



Photo: Susanna Hancock

Gemma Peacocke is a composer from New Zealand who currently resides in Princeton, NJ. Gemma's music works in both acoustic and electronic sound worlds, and she is interested in how music can amplify the voices of under-heard groups of people. Gemma's song cycle, *Waves & Lines*, adapted from female Afghan folk poems, was recently released on New Amsterdam Records. She is a co-founder of Kinds of Kings, a collective of US-based composers focused on producing immersive and inclusive work, who are currently an artist-in-residence at National Sawdust.

About her piece *Death Wish*, Peacock writes:

"I wrote *Death Wish* after watching a short film featuring New Zealand survivors of sexual assault. One of the survivors, Hinewirangi Kohu-Morgan, spoke about the out-of-control spiralling of her life for many years and how she developed what she called a 'death wish.' In the piece I thought about the spooling and unspooling of energy and how we are all bound and driven by forces both within and beyond ourselves.

"With the greatest of respect for Hinewirangi Kohu-Morgan who has used her life to create art and music and to help survivors of abuse and those who have perpetrated abuse.

"I ōrea te tuātara ka patu ki waho. Aroha nui."

Duration: 10 minutes

Through his operas, his symphonies, his compositions for his own ensemble, and his wide-ranging collaborations with artists ranging from Twyla Tharp to Allen Ginsberg, Woody Allen to David Bowie, **Philip Glass** has had an extraordinary and unprecedented impact upon the musical and intellectual life of his times.

Although percussion instruments have played an important role in much of Philip Glass's music, and a number of his works have been arranged for percussion by other musicians, Glass had never composed a work for percussion ensemble until Third Coast Percussion commissioned *Perpetuum*. Glass, who was 81 years old when he composed this work, harkened back to childhood memories of his first experience with percussion instruments. Though Glass's primary musical instrument was the flute, he had the opportunity to participate in a percussion class while a student at the Preparatory Division of the Peabody Conservatory in his hometown of Baltimore. *Perpetuum* blends an almost child-like exploration of the sounds of percussion with Glass's signature musical voice.



Photo: Raymond Meier

The work is in three sections, with a cadenza between the second and third section. Glass proposes some general concepts and instruments for the cadenza, but leaves it to the performers to compose this segment of the music themselves.

Perpetuum by Philip Glass was commissioned for Third Coast Percussion with lead support from the Maxine and Stuart Frankel Foundation. The work was co-commissioned by Elizabeth and Justus Schlichting for Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Bravo! Vail Music Festival, San Francisco Performances, Town Hall Seattle, Performance Santa Fe, the University of Notre Dame's DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, and the Third Coast Percussion New Works Fund, with additional support from Friedrich Burian, Bruce Oltman, MiTO Settembre Musica, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra's Liquid Music Series, and the Percussive Arts Society.

Duration: 22 minutes



Photo: Saverio Truglia

The compositions of Third Coast Percussion member **David Skidmore** are performed regularly in concert halls and universities across the country. In 2011, his multi-movement work *Common Patterns in Uncommon Time* was commissioned by Frank Lloyd Wright scholar Sidney K. Robinson to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Taliesin, home of the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture. In 2007 his piece, *Unknown Kind*, was premiered at Carnegie Hall. He has also received commissions from the Rush Hour Concert Series in Chicago, and a number of leading percussion soloists and pedagogues.

Torched and Wrecked comes from Skidmore's cycle of works entitled "Aliens with Extraordinary Abilities," all of which explore the idea that the same piece of music can move at several different speeds at the same time. The movements of this cycle take their cryptic names from memorable Third Coast Percussion touring experiences. An electronic audio

track—David's most intensive work with electronic composition to date—expands and reinforces the live percussion.

Duration: 5 minutes

BIO

Third Coast Percussion is a Grammy Award-winning Chicago-based percussion quartet. For fifteen years, the ensemble has created exciting and unexpected performances that constantly redefine the classical music experience. The ensemble has been praised for "commandingly elegant" (New York Times) performances, the "rare power" (Washington Post) of their recordings, and "an inspirational sense of fun and curiosity" (Minnesota Star-Tribune). Third Coast Percussion maintains a busy tour schedule, with past performances in 34 of the 50 states plus international tour dates in Colombia, the United Kingdom, Lithuania, Taiwan, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Canada, and Poland.

A direct connection with the audience is at the core of all of Third Coast Percussion's work, whether the musicians are speaking from the stage about a new piece of music, inviting the audience to play along in a concert or educational performance, or inviting their fans around the world to create new music using one of their free mobile apps. The four members of Third Coast are also accomplished teachers, and make active participation by all students the corner stone of all their educational offerings.

The quartet's curiosity and eclectic taste have led to a series of unlikely collaborations that have produced exciting new art. The ensemble has worked with engineers at the University of Notre Dame, architects at the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, dancers at Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, and musicians from traditions ranging from the mbira music of Zimbabwe's Shona people, to indie rockers, to some of the world's leading concert musicians. Third Coast Percussion served as ensemble-in-residence at the University of Notre Dame's DeBartolo Performing Arts Center from 2013-2018.

A commission for a new work from composer Augusta Read Thomas in 2012 led to the realization that commissioning new musical works can be—and should be—as collaborative as any other artistic partnership. Through extensive workshopping and close contact with composers, Third Coast Percussion has commissioned and premiered new works by Philip Glass, Jlin, Tyondai Braxton, Augusta Read Thomas, Devonté Hynes, Georg Friedrich Haas, Donnacha Dennehy, Glenn Kotche, Christopher Cerrone, David T. Little and today's leading up-and-coming composers through their Emerging Composers Partnership Program. TCP's commissioned works have become part of the ensemble's core repertoire and seen hundreds of performances across four continents.

Third Coast Percussion's recordings include six full-length albums, three EPs, and a number of appearances on other releases. The quartet has put its stamp on iconic percussion works by John Cage and Steve Reich, and Third Coast has also created first recordings of commissioned works by Philip Glass, Augusta Read Thomas, Devonté Hynes, Gavin Bryars, Donnacha Dennehy, David T. Little, Ted Hearne, and more, in addition to recordings of the ensemble's own compositions. In 2017 the ensemble won the Grammy Award for Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance for their recording of Steve Reich's works for percussion.

Third Coast Percussion has always maintained strong ties to the vibrant artistic community in their hometown of Chicago. They have collaborated with Chicago institutions such as Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, the Chicago Children's Choir, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, and the Adler Planetarium, performed at the grand opening of Maggie Daley Children's Park, conducted residencies at the University of Chicago and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, created multi-year collaborative projects with Chicago-based composers Augusta Read Thomas, Glenn Kotche, and chamber ensemble Eighth Blackbird, and taught tens of thousands of students through partnerships with the People's Music School, the Chicago Park District, Rush Hour Concerts, Urban Gateways, and others.

The four members of Third Coast Percussion (Sean Connors, Robert Dillon, Peter Martin, and David Skidmore) met while studying percussion music at Northwestern University with Michael Burritt and James Ross. Members of Third Coast also hold degrees from the Eastman School of Music, Rutgers University, the New England Conservatory, and the Yale School of

Music. Stay up-to-date and go behind-the-scenes by following Third Coast on Twitter (@ThirdCoastPerc), Facebook (@Third Coast Percussion), and Instagram (@ThirdCoastPercussion).

*Third Coast Percussion is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization.