

BIOGRAPHIES

Synergy is a world of sound with percussion at its heart. The group continues a journey which began 38 years ago, touching audiences with the beauty and expressive diversity of percussion today. With an enviable international reputation as one of Australia's finest and most versatile music projects, Synergy has performed at festivals throughout Europe, Asia and the United States, as well as most of Australia's mainstage recital and performance venues. Core members – Timothy Constable, Alison Pratt, Bree van Reyk and Joshua Hill are all award-winning and internationally acclaimed exponents of new music in their own right.

Fritz Hauser

*1953 in Basel, Switzerland

Fritz Hauser develops solo programmes for drums and percussion, which he performs worldwide. Cross-media works in the fields of architecture, theatre, dance, and opera. Compositions for percussion ensembles and percussion soloists, sound installations, radio plays, soundtracks for films and readings. Fritz Hauser has premiered the works of various composers and performs with improvising musicians around the globe.

DRUMatiX Percussion Group

presents the rich and diverse repertoire written exclusively for percussion. Numerous School of Music percussion students and ensembles regularly perform national broadcasts for ABC Classic FM

as well as many public performances in Australia and overseas. You will find ANU percussion graduates leading the way as members in both ABC and overseas orchestras performing in the worlds leading percussion ensembles, in the studio and in the pit.

Nomad Percussion is a recently formed national percussion project that draws on talent from all over the country. The ensemble focuses on promoting contemporary ensemble works, exposing modern audiences to the percussion literature and aims to draw the music industry's attention to what is possible within the scope of percussion performance.

WE WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE OUTSTANDING SUPPORT FROM THE ANU TEAM:

Belinda Kelly, Rachael Thoms, Katherine Warren, Craig Greening, Deanna Riddell, Chris Wind, Niven Stines, Tim Levy, Kelly McGannon, Anne-Maree O'Brien, Alice Macdonald, Adrian Walter, Adam Black, Cassandra King.

COMING UP

Anders Åstrand and Ensemble Evolution (Sweden) will explore new works with Gary France and the DRUMatiX Percussion Group in an exciting week of joint research, composition and fusion of new media technologies. This week will culminate in a concert on Thursday 22 March in the Band Room at the ANU School of Music.

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ANU SCHOOL OF MUSIC

DRUMMING
SPECTACULAR

FEEL THE RHYTHM OF LIFE

SATURDAY 3 MARCH 2012, 7PM
LLEWELLYN HALL, ANU SCHOOL OF MUSIC



Canberra
FESTIVAL



Australian
National
University

School of Music
More information and program details at
www.music.anu.edu.au

PROGRAM

Saturday 3rd March 2012,
7-8:30pm

Llewellyn Hall

Morning

Gary France, 2008

Duration 12'

Third Construction

John Cage, 1941

Timothy Constable, Gary France,

Josh Hill, William Jackson

Duration 11'

SCHRAFFUR

for gong and percussion ensemble

Fritz Hauser, 2012

Duration 15'

Interval 20'

Persephassa

Iannis Xenakis, 1969

Nomad Percussion

Duration 30'

Second Thought*

Fritz Hauser, 2012

Synergy Percussion

Duration 8'

**World Premiere*

Time/Space/Sound

for percussion ensemble

Fritz Hauser, 2012

Duration 15'

PERFORMERS

Fritz Hauser



DRUMatix Percussion

Gary France, Artistic Director



Stephen Fitzgerald, Veronica Walshaw,
Jonathan Griffiths, Bryce Leske, Yvonne
Lam, Christina Hopgood, Bart Haddock,
William Jackson

Synergy Percussion

Timothy Constable, Artistic Director,
Josh Hill, Alison Pratt



Sydney Conservatorium of Music Percussion Ensemble

Daryl Pratt, Artistic Director, Richard
Daley, Joanna Chan, James Townsend,
Winnie Lin, Stefania Kurniawan,
Julian Clark, Thomas Smith, Millaine
Longmore, Ana Napier

PROGRAM NOTES

Morning, composed for the 2008 Journey of Harmony, Beijing Olympic Torch Relay opening dawn ceremony, Reconciliation Place, Canberra, reflects my exploration of spatial reconfiguration through the use of multi-timbral sources as well as my influences through the immersion in world music culture, specifically my studies in Indonesia. Today's performance encapsulates the essences of this work with the addition of three soloists.

Gary France

Third Construction

"The writing of music is an affirmation of life, not an attempt to bring order out of chaos, nor to suggest improvement in creation, but simply a way of waking up to the very life we're living, which is so excellent once one gets one's desire out of the way, and lets it act of its own accord."

John Cage

Third Construction for four players, perhaps best demonstrates Cage's percussion theory, a compositional style that displays a fascination with conventional rhythms and non-conventional sounds.

Gary France

Schraffur is basically a playing technique, developed for a small gong. The version being performed at DRUMMING SPECTACULAR has been developed with the musicians in residence.

Fritz Hauser

Persephassa: The music of Iannis Xenakis (1922 - 2001) is known by percussionists to contain some of the loudest and rhythmically complex material in the percussion repertoire. Xenakis, originally an architect and mathematician, constructed his musical works in a manner akin to drawing blueprints for a building. His central concerns were the gross structure of the piece (the foundations) and the mathematically controlled in which texture and musical tension develops. In Persephassa, Xenakis also uses space as a musical device, situating six percussionists in a circular fashion around the audience. Often, Xenakis displaces rhythms by fractions of a second to achieve a 'surround sound' effect. Each player functions as a lone unit, often with randomly generated but highly precise rhythmic material. Xenakis employs a variety of contrasting timbres (wood, metals, and even rocks!), which he uses to cut through the 'drum texture' and to introduce interactions between different groups of instruments. The ultimate effect of combining the mathematics with these highly varied timbres then is this intense 'controlled chaos' feeling in which each player plays different subdivisions of the beat concurrently. The name of the piece is a reference to the Greek god Persephone - a reference to Xenakis' Greek heritage.

William Jackson

Second Thought was commissioned by Synergy Percussion and is written for three percussionists using one Marimba and a small variety of metal objects. The 2012 performance at DRUMMING SPECTACULAR is the world premiere.

Fritz Hauser