

Alumni Recital Series

2011-2012 Season
 Tuesday, October 18
 Sara M. Snell Music Theater
 7:30 PM

Ruth Bennett, Harp
Mario Gaetano, Percussion

Suite for Harp, Op. 83 Benjamin Britten
 I. Overture (1913-1976)
 II. Toccata
 IV. Fugue

Sonata in G Major, Wq 139 C.P.E. Bach
 Adagio (1714-1788)
 Allegro
 Allegro

Concert-Study No. 7 (from *Eight Great Concert-Studies*) Wilhelm Posse
 Allegretto grazioso (1852-1925)

Torre Bermeja (from *Doce Piezas Caracteristicas for piano, 1889*) Isaac Albeniz
 (1860-1909)
 Trans. Ginevra Bruno

Dances, *pour harpe et orchestra de cordes* (1904) Claude Debussy
 Danse sacrée (1862-1918)
 Danse profane

Nina Merullo, Josephine Llorente, Violins
 Shelly Tramposh, Viola
 Brian Carter, Cello

Intermission

Cortege for Solo Timpani (1987) Steve Grimo
 Bud
 Pith
 Nib

Unaccompanied Snare Drum Solos, No. 2 and 3 (2005) Mario Gaetano

For Marimba and Tape (1983) Martin Wesley-Smith

Prelude for Marimba (1976) Mario Gaetano

Tranquility, for Solo Vibraphone (1979) Murray Houllif

In order to ensure a pleasant concert experience for both performers and audience, please refrain from:

- Entering or leaving during the performance.
- Bringing food or drink into the concert hall.
- Taking flash photographs.
- Using electronic devices (please remember to turn off your cellular phone, pagers and watches that chime on the hour).

Children who are able to sit quietly during the performance are welcome to our concerts.

Tape/video recording of performances is strictly prohibited without permission of the performers!

Thank you!

In Case of Fire Emergency

In case of fire, leave the building immediately by walking to the nearest safe exit. Once outside, please move fifty feet away from the building and safely away from emergency traffic. Do not return to the building until authorities indicate that it is safe to do so.

First prize winner of the Second National Harp Contest in Mexico City (2009), harpist **Ruth Bennett** divides her time between New York City and Merida, Mexico where she has held the post of principal harpist with the Orquesta Sinfonica de Yucatan since 2007.

Living in England until age nine, Ruth began her studies at the piano but was eventually persuaded into learning the harp by her grandmother, a former student of Carlos Salzedo. Ruth furthered her studies receiving performance degrees from Manhattan School of Music, Eastman School of Music (where she received the Eileen Malone Scholarship for harp), and The Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam. Teachers past and present include Deborah Hoffman (Metropolitan Opera Orchestra), Barbara Allen (American Ballet Theatre), Kathleen Bride and Jessica Suchy-Pilalis.

A prizewinner in the American Harp Society National Contest and American String Teachers Association Competition, Ruth has been presented in recitals as both soloist and chamber musician at Carnegie Hall, Bargemusic in Brooklyn, The Music Festival of the Hamptons, The Dame Myra Hess Concert Series in Chicago, New York University, and SUNY Potsdam to name a few. She also appeared as guest soloist with Chamber Orchestra Kremlin (Moscow) during their US tour in 2001.

In 2006, Ruth gave her debut recital at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall as presented by Artists International. That same year she toured Japan for three weeks with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. She has also been a sought-after performer in a variety of Broadway shows including 'Beauty and the Beast', 'The Producers', and 'The Fantasticks', a finalist for New World Symphony in Miami, Florida, former principal harpist of the Binghamton Philharmonic, and a member of the Chelsea Symphony and One World Symphony in New York City.

During the holiday season of 2011, Ruth performed with the American Ballet Theatre and Orchestra at Brooklyn Academy of Music in Alexander Ratmansky's world premiere production of Tchaikovsky's ballet "The Nutcracker."

Most recently, Ruth appeared alongside Peruvian tenor Juan Diego Flores with the Orquesta Sinfonica de Yucatan in the National Auditorium in Mexico City. Other engagements for the 2011 season included performances of the Gliere Concerto for Harp and Orchestra, the Handel Concerto, and the Debussy Danse.

In July 2011, Ruth won first place in the Harp Division of the *Concorso Internazionale Citta di Padova* in Padova, Italy. Ruth's debut CD 'Concert d'Aujourd'hui' alongside flautist Alejandro Vasquez has just been released by Urtext Digital Classics.

Mario Gaetano is a 1977 magna cum laude graduate of the Crane School of Music, where he studied percussion with Professor James Petercsak, and earned the BM degree in music education, along with the Performers Certificate. He subsequently earned an MM from East Carolina University, and a DMA from The University of Memphis. Dr. Gaetano is currently Professor of Music and University Scholar at Western Carolina University, Cullowhee NC, a position he has held since 1979. Since that time, he has distinguished himself nationally as a leader in percussive arts education, performance, composition, research, and service.

As a percussion artist, Dr. Gaetano has appeared as clinician, recitalist, or chamber artist in numerous U.S. states for various regional, national, and international professional conferences, such as the Music Teachers National Association Convention, American Composers Forum, College Music Society Convention, International ClarinetFest, North American Saxophone Alliance, Southeast Composers League, Ludwig Symposium, PAS "Days of Percussion," and many others.

He is currently principal percussionist of the Asheville Symphony Orchestra, and has performed as a member of the North Carolina Symphony, West Virginia Festival Orchestra, and the Memphis Symphony. Throughout his 32-year tenure with the ASO, he has appeared twice as concerto soloist and has had the privilege to accompany such noted artists as Tony Bennett, Dizzy Gillespie, Ronnie Milsap, Clay Aiken, Chet Atkins, Dina Shore, Clark Terry, Rene Fleming, Dimtri Ratzner, and many others.

Gaetano has authored numerous scholarly articles for various national and international journals such as *Percussive Notes*, *Drum*, *The Instrumentalist*, *BandWorld*, *NACWPI*, *Woodwind Brass and Percussion*. He is past president of the North Carolina Chapter of the Percussive Arts Society and has served as a member of the PAS Composition Contest Committee for the past 14 years. He has also served as contributing editor to *Percussive Notes* magazine, and associate editor of the *North Carolina Music Educator*.

A prolific composer/arranger of percussion music, Gaetano has over 50 published works that have been performed at high schools and universities in 20 countries. He is a two-time recipient of the N.C. Federation of Music Clubs Composers Award, and has annual ASCAP Awards to his credit. His method book, *The Complete Snare Drum Book*, is published by Mel Bay. He is also a performing artist/clinician for Innovative Percussion, Inc.