



Guest Artist Series

2012-2013 Season

Helen M. Hosmer Hall

Saturday, October 20, 7:30 PM

Michael Burrirt and Friends

Adagio from the Sonata for Violin in G Minor (1720)

J. S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Burrirt Variations (2012)

Alejandro Viñao
(b. 1951)

Into the Air (2010)

Ivan Trevino
(b. 1985)

Austin Lamarche, Marimba

Wer Nur den Lieben Gott Lasst Walten

J. S. Bach
(1685-1750)

The Offering (2001)

Michael Burrirt

Prelude No. 5 (1998)

Michael Burrirt

Rounders (2009)

Michael Burrirt

Heidi Crampton
Michael Gentile
Nicholas Murray
Percussion

Notes

Burritt Variations - Alejandro Viñao

This work is a set of seven variations on a theme of my own invention. However, the theme has a quality reminiscent of some of the music of Latin America. In that sense it is a 'latino' theme, but one that is difficult to pin down to a particular region of Latin America. Perhaps the theme and the overall feeling of the piece are closer to the musical styles of the Caribbean, such as salsa, with its repeated phrases that shift against complex pulses. The beginning of the piece came to me as something very simple and familiar, related to the music I grew up playing and listening to in Buenos Aires as a young man. Progressively the piece become more complex, exploring various rhythmic procedures that have interested me for a many years, such as music with more than one speed, pulse or tempo going on at the same time. Each variations presents the listener with the challenge, and I hope the excitement, of listening to rhythmic patterns that combine with each other to form complex layers while seeking to retain the quality that makes one want to move, dance, or foot-tap following a 'groove'.

The piece pays homage to the many Latin American musical traditions I grew up with, that so strongly remain with us today.

Burritt Variations was commissioned by and dedicated to my friend Michael Burritt.
--A.V. August 2012

INTO THE AIR - Ivan Trevino

Into The Air (2010) is scored for two marimbas, and is dedicated to Michael Burritt, professor of percussion at The Eastman School of Music. Burritt is known for his virtuosic marimba playing, energetic spirit, and infectious personality. I wanted to compose a piece that would mirror these traits.

While Burritt and I are considered "classical" musicians, we both share a love for pop and rock music. I wanted to reflect that by utilizing an "intro-verse-chorus" framework, all within a simple ABA form. Like Burritt, the marimba parts are unrelenting, leaving little room for the players to rest.

My interest in groove-based music is evident in this work, which features elements of dance, punk, and rock.
--Ivan Trevino

Rounders - Michael Burrirt (June 2009)

I have often thought that performing and amusement park rides hold much in common. For me, there are two distinct sensations that we experience in both scenarios that entice us to take the “ride” time and time again. The physical sensation of the movements of sudden meter change and rhythmic syncopation creates the feeling of “rounding” the corners of a rollercoaster ride where centripetal force pulls our body in all directions. The mental sensation—like that of a game where chance and gambling are involved—is not dissimilar from taking the stage and performing this piece or any other. Think of Rounders as a “thrill ride” at the Burrirt Amusement Park. No refunds for bruised egos.

Rounders was commissioned by the 2009 Paris International Marimba Competition and it's director Frederic Macarez.

Burrirt Biography

Having performed on four continents and nearly forty states Michael Burrirt is one of the World's leading percussion soloists. He is in frequent demand performing concert tours and master classes throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, Australia and Canada. Mr. Burrirt has been soloist with the Dallas Wind Symphony, Omaha Symphony, Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra, Richmond Symphony Orchestra, Ju Percussion Group (Taiwan), Percussion Art Quartet (Germany), Amores Percussion Group (Spain), Peaux (Sweden) and the Tempus Fugit Percussion Ensemble of Pittsburgh, PA. Mr. Burrirt has three solo recordings - Perpetual, Shadow Chasers and Waking Dreams as well as numerous collaborative recordings. He has been a featured artist at seven Percussive Arts Society International Conventions. In 1992 he presented his New York solo debut in Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall and in 1998 performed his London debut in the Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Mr Burrirt has extensive chamber and orchestral experience and has performed with the Chicago Chamber Musicians, The Chicago Symphony, The Rembrandt Players, and the The Peninsula Music Festival Orchestra.

Mr. Burrirt is also active as a composer, with three concertos to his credit, numerous solo and chamber works for marimba and percussion as well as two books of etudes. His works for solo marimba have become standard repertoire for the instrument and are frequently required repertoire on international competitions. He has been commissioned by The World Marimba Competition in Stuttgart Germany, The Paris International Marimba Competition and the Nexus Percussion Ensemble to mention a few. Mr. Burrirt is published with Keyboard Percussion Publications, Innovative Percussion, C. Alan and Ludwig Music. Burrirt is also an artist/clinician and product design/consultant for Malletech, where he has developed his own line of marimba mallets and has just recently designed his signature model marimba with Leigh Stevens. He is also an artist/ educational clinician with the Zildjian Company and Evans Drum Heads. Mr. Burrirt served as a member of the Percussive Arts Society Board of Directors from 1996 - 2008. He was also the Chairman of PAS Keyboard Committee from 2004-2010 and is a contributing editor for Percussive Notes Magazine.

Michael Burrirt is currently Professor of Percussion and head of the department at The Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York and only the third person in the history of the school to hold this position. Prior to his appointment at Eastman Mr. Burrirt was Professor of Percussion at Northwestern University from 1995-2008 where he developed a program of international distinction. He received his Bachelor and Master of Music Degrees, as well as the prestigious Performers Certificate from Eastman.