

Three Brothers was the first percussion ensemble piece written by Michael Colgrass. He wrote the piece after attending a percussion ensemble concert directed by Paul Price, who first officially introduced the percussion ensemble to the university setting at the University of Illinois in 1950. Price had invited Colgrass to attend the concert in an attempt to bring him on as a student. After seeing the concert, Colgrass said that playing was fine but the music was “terrible.” Price challenged him to make an attempt on his own at composing a percussion work for the group. The resulting composition was **Three Brothers** for nine percussionists, which became a percussion classic. He has continued composing since and is credited with a Pulitzer Prize. **Three Brothers** features timpani, snare drum, and bongos solos that are accompanied by a battery of cymbals, maracas, tambourine, cowbell, a second timpani part, and a tom-tom part that has solo-like passages. (Notes by Neil Dunn)

Twinkle Variations, written for marimba quartet by Daniel Farbricius, is based on *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*, a nursery rhyme set to a French melody, *Ah vous dirai-je, Maman*, which was popularized in part by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s *Twelve Variations on "Ah vous dirai-je, Maman"*. **Twinkle Variations** features contrasting sections that move between fast & energetic and slow & elegant and explore different uses of, energy, rhythm, and texture to treat the familiar melody in a variety of ways. (Notes by Neil Dunn)

Rondo Alla Turca, written for marimba quartet by James Moore is an arrangement of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s *Rondo Alla Turca (Turkish March)*, the third movement from his *Piano Sonata No. 11*. (Notes by Neil Dunn)

Michael Burritt was born in 1962 and is currently the Professor of Percussion at Eastman School of Music. **White Pines** was written as the second movement in a trilogy known as “Home.” The piece captures the beauty of winter in New York, with snow covered trees. In the score, is a poem written by his wife that perfectly describes the piece:

Snow shakes the limbs,
but does not break them,
they hold,
laden with white.
The dusting glints
in sunlight, fastens
to the branch, secured with frost.
There is a way to live.
Each evergreen
bearing snow into the blue sky
knows.
At night,
the pines radiate
a gray opaque
in starlight.

(Notes by Braedon Bomgardner)

Jesse Monkman is a composer and percussionist originally hailing from Boston, MA. He received his degrees from the New England Conservatory where he studied with Frank Epstein and Will Hudgins of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. While in the New England area, he played with the Portland Symphony Orchestra of Maine, Boston Modern Orchestra, as well as other performance venues in the Boston area.

Rite of Passage is truly a rite of passage for myself. I have attempted to infuse percussion sounds and “feel” derived from African and Eastern decent, with more modern influences of jazz harmonies. High energy and dynamic contrast are crucial in order for this piece to flow. (Notes by the composer)

AC/DC are an Australian rock band formed in Sydney in 1973 by brothers Malcolm and Angus Young. Their music has been described by music journalists as hard rock, blues rock, and, controversially, heavy metal; the group have defined themselves as “a rock and roll band, nothing more, nothing less.”

Thunderstruck was written by guitarist, Angus Young between the release of 1988’s “Blow Up Your Video” and 1990’s “The Razor’s Edge,” the latter featuring this song. In regards to writing the song, Young had the following to say in a 1993 interview with *Guitar World’s* Alan Di Perna, “I was just fiddling with my left hand when I came up with that riff; I played it more by accident than anything. I thought, ‘not bad,’ and put it on a tape. That’s how me and Malcolm generally work. We put our ideas down on tape and play them for one another.” (Notes by Hunter Sprong)

“Bicksa” (composed by Thom Hasenpflug) is Hungarian for small, sharp knife. Thus, the character of the quartet is best describes as sharp, aggressive, and articulate. Each of the four players has a refreshingly manageable multi-percussion set-up.

Thom Hasenpflug is nationally recognized as a unique performer and educational voice, while his compositions for percussion receive international recognition and are played all over the world. Currently the percussion head and Director of Performing Arts at Idaho State University, he has held prior teaching posts at Drake University, the University of South Dakota, Emporia State University, and the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Arts.

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Come Back is one of a series of pieces by composer Rolando Morales-Matos called “Sticks to Latin.” In writing these pieces, Morales’ intent was to create a salsa band setting for percussion ensemble instrumentation. The work features a standard complement of Cuban drums—congas, timbales, cowbells, drum set—but substitutes keyboard percussion for the roles traditionally played by other rhythm section instruments and winds. In this setting, the rhythmic *montuno* figures associated with piano are played on vibraphone. Melody lines and improvised solos are played on xylophone, marimbas, and an additional vibraphone. The electric bass part is being played on a MalletKAT, an electronic keyboard percussion instrument that can be used to emulate countless acoustic and electric instruments. The arrangement is laid out like a traditional Latin jazz tune, complete with introduction, verse material, breakdowns called *cierres*, and open sections for improvised solos. Tonight’s soloists (in order) are Trace Woods (vibraphone), Jacob Wrobel (marimba) and Brandon Collins (vibraphone). (Notes by Kurt Gartner)

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE II PERSONNEL

Braedon Bomgardner.....Hutchinson
Taylor ClarkSt. John
John Eldridge.....Lawrence
Trevor HerringtonSalina
Ethan Jeffries.....Salina
Derek Leamer.....Salina
Nathaniel Leininger.....Topeka
Jacob Long.....Russell
Brandon Wells.....Overland Park

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE I PERSONNEL

*Brandon Adams.....Fort Worth, TX
*Brandon Collins.....Middlebourne, WV
Bailey Eisenbraun.....Shawnee
Madison Howbert.....Tecumseh
Brandon Rathburn.....Olathe
*Alex Shallenberger.....Erie, PA
Hunter Sprong.....Overland Park
Preston Thomas.....Lenexa
*Richard Welch.....St. Christopher Christ Church, Bridgetown, Barbados
Trace Woods.....Garden City
Jacob Wrobel.....Topeka
* Denotes Graduate Student

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