

Percussion Ensembles

Neil Dunn, Kurt Gartner, Jack Johnson, Directors

Monday, November 29, 2021

6:30 PM

McCain Auditorium, Kansas State University

PROGRAM

Common Ground (2001)..... Doug Stephens (b. 1970)

Wa Ka Traditional West African
Arr. Neil Dunn

Bahrah (2003)..... Brandon Hendrix (b. 1979)

Shared Space (2015)..... Ivan Trevino (b. 1983)

Suite for Solo Drum Set and Ensemble (2001) Dave Mancini (b. 1952)

John Eldridge, drum set

Percussion Ensembles Personnel

Percussion Ensemble I

Braedon Bomgardner Buhler
John Eldridge.....Lawrence
Ethan Jeffries..... Salina
*Jack Johnson.....Waseca, MN
Trenton Lowry.....Chanute
Jacob Morgan.....Iowa City, IA
Nathan Smith..... Topeka
Brandon WellsOverland Park
* denotes graduate student

Percussion Ensemble II

Noah Dial..... Tonganoxie
Gaby Fluke..... Topeka
Owen MarkwartShawnee
Bryce Moore.....Dodge City
Tristan Thompson..... Beloit
Ben ThorneEudora
Jake Wall.....Overland Park
Chris Wells Topeka
Eric Woods.....Mulvane

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

School of Music,
Theatre, and Dance

Common Ground is a nonet that features percussionists on many of the standard instruments, including xylophone, orchestra bells, marimba, timpani, congas, timbales, bongos, drum set, and suspended cymbal. Also present are a number of small instruments—maracas, shekeré, sleigh bells, agogo bells, and vibra-slap. The piece derives its title from a constant eighth note pulse that permeates evolving contrasting styles and meters. Its composer, Doug Stephens wrote the piece during his studies for a master's degree in wind band conducting at Pennsylvania State University, where he also earned his bachelor of music education degree. (Notes by the publisher)

Wa Ka is a recreational drumming piece from the Ga-Adangbe ethnic group of Ghana, West Africa. It is not necessarily associated with a social dance, but it pre-dates and has common rhythms with Kpanlogo, a popular social dance revived by the youth in 1957 to celebrate Ghana's newly gained independence from Britain. This arrangement allows for drummers in the ensemble to play improvised solos based on the rhythmic variations using basic improvisational techniques. This piece was arranged by Neil Dunn and inspired by Eddie Green, Master Drummer at the Dagara Music Center, Medie, Ghana. (Notes by Neil Dunn)

Bahrah (pronounced "bay-ray") is the transliteration of the Hebrew phrase "to create." The idea for this composition was to take certain important themes from the Creation in the Bible and turn them into musical motives, and then use those motives to develop musical material. The process of turning event from the book of Genesis into musical material was fairly simple. By simply taking the transliteration of certain key words and braking them up into syllables, the composer could then base the motives on 1) The rhythmic syllabification and 2) The natural Hebrew inflection. The work as a whole is not intended to symbolize the Creation. It simply represents the primitive and raw forces that were used in the creative art. Of particular importance is the motive for "God," which is represented in the log drum and is featured throughout the work as a sort of recurring theme.

Bahrah was premiered on November 12, 2003 at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. The work was also performed at the 2006 Society of Composers, Inc. Region IV Conference at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro as well as the 2008 Society of Composers Inc. National Conference at Georgia State University in Atlanta. (Notes by the composer)

Shared Space by Ivan Trevino was commissioned by McCallum High School Percussion Ensemble for their 2015 PASIC showcase concert. The piece is scored for seven percussionists who share a setup of one 5.0 octave marimba, one vibraphone, one glockenspiel, one cajón, and toms. At times, up to five players perform on the same keyboard instrument, some standing on the opposite side of the instrument, creating a challenging and fun learning and performing experience. (Notes by the composer)

Dave Mancini's **Suite for Solo Drum Set and Percussion Ensemble** features an array of popular styles including Latin-funk, funk, Afro-Cuban, and fast samba. There are numerous opportunities for the soloist to ad lib over an established groove and stretch out during some longer open solo sections. Despite the title, it should also be mentioned that this is not a multi-movement suite -- once the music begins, it plays continuously to the end. Dedicated to Ernest Muzquiz and the Syracuse (NY) University Percussion Ensemble. (Notes by the publisher)