

Akadiddles Premiere Recital

August Siefkes, Jasper Vallad, Ryan Woodruff

Saturday, April 5, 2025

3:00 PM

Kirmser Hall (McCain 204), Kansas State University

PROGRAM

Akadinda Trio (2002)..... Emmanuel Séjourné (b. 1961)

Aibohphobia (2025)..... Jake Wall (b. 2002)

Cruisin' Through Fire (2021)..... Jackson Riffle (b. 1999)

Catching Shadows (2013)..... Ivan Trevino (b. 1983)
Arr. TrioColores

Finale from William Tell (1829)..... Gioachino Rossini (1792-1868)
Arr. Catherine Betts, Joshua Webster

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

School of Music,
Theatre, and Dance

Program Notes

Akadinda Trio

Séjourné's 2002 composition *Akadinda Trio* is inspired and heavily influenced by the rhythms and timbres of Uganda. It was named after the Ugandan xylophone, the Akadinda. The piece originally was written for solo marimba in Séjourné's 1994 collection *5 Pieces Pour Marimba Solo*. This collection included *Bafalon*, inspired by the music of Guinea, and *Ambira*, inspired by the music of Ethiopia.

Akadinda Trio is a detailed, thoughtful, polyrhythmic piece. Séjourné's inspiration from traditional Ugandan music creates for a deceptively difficult work to put together. The three individual parts often have their own simultaneous melodies, making for unique polyphonic textures.

Akadinda Trio was our group's first collaboration in the fall of 2023 and the inspiration for our name. We are deeply thankful to have you at our first recital and hope you enjoy *Akadinda Trio*.

-Program notes by Jasper Vallad

Aibohphobia

A marimba trio featuring only one keyboard and a kick drum, this piece was inspired by the concept of a palindrome (a word spelled the exact same forwards and backwards). The second piece in the "Face your Fears" collection, the term "aibohphobia" is not only the diagnosis for a fear of palindromes, but the word itself is one! In *Aibohphobia*, measure 75 marks the point that the written music begins to "turn back" on itself, and the measure order reverses with minimal alterations. As an audience member, can you notice when this transition happens?

This piece was commissioned by the Akadiddles Trio during their undergraduate studies at Kansas State University and serves as a thank you to them for their friendship and excellent musicianship.

Composer Jake Wall is currently in his final semester of undergraduate composition study at Kansas State University. As a longtime percussionist, he aims to continue innovating new ways to use traditional acoustic percussion, challenging even advanced performers to think outside of the box.

-Program notes by composer, Jake Wall

Cruisin' Through Fire

Cruisin' Through Fire is an energetic composition that plays with rhythmic ideas throughout each section, where the players trade grooves, solos, and unisons. The diddles, splits, and triplet groupings show clear inspiration from drumline music. Each player has a set of bongos, a pitched tom, and a shared, horizontal bass drum. Many non-standard techniques are used throughout, such as pitch bending, muting drums with hands, and hitting one stick with the other to create a roll.

Composer Jackson Riffle received his Bachelor's in percussion and piano performance from Wright State University and is currently an active educator, performer, composer, and arranger. He has performed with many honorary groups, including being a finalist in the "President's Own" Marine Band's Concerto competition.

We began learning this piece during our multi-percussion studies with professor Neil Dunn in the winter of 2024 and thank him for his guidance in putting it together!

-Program notes by Ryan Woodruff

Catching Shadows

Ivan Trevino is a “Mexican-American composer, percussionist, teacher, and arts advocate.” A globally renowned percussion composer, his works have been “performed across five continents in 25 countries.” His accolades include multiple Percussive Arts Society’s International Composition Contest awards and a feature on Performance Today by National Public Radio. In addition to performing and composing, Trevino teaches at the University of Texas at Austin and previously served as co-director of the Eastman Percussion Festival, his alma mater. Trevino is also the drummer for the award-winning international touring cello rock quartet, Break with Reality. As described in his biography, “[Trevino’s] music distinctly threads indie-pop sounds with a contemporary classical aesthetic, and his body of work spans storytelling, singing marimba players, cello rockers, and an ever-present social consciousness.” *Catching Shadows* exemplifies Trevino’s unique aesthetic.

Commissioned by Michael Burritt, *Catching Shadows* premiered in 2013 at the Rochester Fringe Festival. A good friend and frequent collaborator of the composer, Burritt’s selection of tunes on a road trip helped inspire this piece. In Trevino’s notes about the piece, he states: “[Burritt] plugged in his iPod, and the first thing to play: Radiohead, then Dave Matthews, then Earth, Wind & Fire. That’s when I discovered something cool about Mike: he’s as much a rock musician as a classical musician. It just so happens he plays marimba. Sometimes I feel the same way.” The Swiss-Austrian percussion trio, TrioColores, added drums to *Catching Shadows*, further enhancing the rock influence of the piece.

-Program notes by August Siefkes

Finale from William Tell

The March of the Swiss Soldiers, the finale of the *William Tell* overture, is one of the most recognizable pieces of music throughout history. Written by Gioachino Rossini and premiered in 1829, the overture from his opera *William Tell* has been adapted and arranged for many different instrumentations including works for bands, small ensembles, and now for marimba! This particular arrangement is most notable because of its single keyboard instrumentation and the rapid movements from player to player. The players are constantly moving in front of and behind each other, occasionally moving all around the marimba and jumping from register to register. Because of this, the music and choreography must be memorized, and the arranger wishes the performers “good luck” when avoiding any collisions.

The overture tells the legend and story of William Tell, a Swiss Folk hero who led a rebellion against the Austrian government after escaping prison for threatening the Austrian governor's life. The finale resembles the gallop of horses as they charged into battle.

We hope you enjoy this dynamic, active, and energetic finale to our program!

-Program notes by Ryan Woodruff