

WEDS @ 7 – red fish blue fish

February 22, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.
Conrad Prebys Music Center
Experimental Theater

Percussion Suite – Johanna Beyer

A Song of grecis – Justin Murphy-Mancini
world premiere

intermission

Persephassa – Iannis Xenakis

red fish blue fish

James Beauton	Ben Rempel
Christopher Clarino	Sean Dowgray
Fiona Digney	Ryan Nestor

Statement from the Team:

We, the musicians, creative, and administrative team of this concert wish to make clear that we reject the language of bigotry, exclusion, and disrespect – and the actions that inevitably follow – that has marked recent social and political discourse. We stand affirmatively behind music as a tool for the creation of common good. We ask you to join us as we seek a fair, inclusive, and respectful society through the practice of our art.

A song of grecis is my first piece for percussion ensemble, and for a long time I wondered how to develop a sound world for such a group. I knew that I wanted to explore the ensemble sound of metal instruments, and I was inspired by UC San Diego's collection of almglocken. The piece explores a delicate texture of unison sounds (though I develop beyond that) where the over "harmony" changes and refocuses even as the instruments themselves resist easily heard harmonies. As the texture begins to admit more complexity, I imagine the far-flung possibilities of development and present a related but radically different texture. These two polarities are neither unrelated, nor are they proportionally arbitrary, but I have elided them in an unusual way, so that linear development is not necessarily inevitable. The piece was written by the request of red fish blue fish and Steven Schick. I dedicate it to them with the sincerest gratitude. Without each of them, I could not have created the work that follows.

– Justin Murphy Mancini

The New York Times calls **red fish blue fish** a “dynamic percussion ensemble from the University of California.” Founded twenty years ago by Steven Schick, the San Diego-based ensemble performs, records, and premieres works from the last 85 years of the rich history of western percussion. The group works regularly with living composers from every continent. Recent projects include a world premiere of a Roger Reynolds’ *Sanctuary* and the American premiere of James Dillon’s epic *Nine Rivers* cycle with the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE). red fish blue fish has collaborated with George Crumb, Dawn Upshaw, and Peter Sellars to premiere the staged version of *The Winds of Destiny* at the Ojai Music Festival. In 2015, red fish blue fish won two important recording awards: the 2015 Deutscheschall-plattenkritikpreis for Best New Music release for the collected early percussion works of Karlheinz Stockhausen, and the “Diapason d’Or” for its recording of Iannis Xenakis’s *Zythos*.

Based in Southern California, **JAMES BEAUTON** is a percussionist who specializes in experimental music from the last century. Beauton performs regularly as a soloist in Los Angeles for the Music@MiMoDa and Brilliant Strings concerts series, performing works of composers Iannis Xenakis, John Cage, Philippe Manoury, Franco Donatoni, and Brian Ferneyhough. He has also performed in Monday Evening Concerts and the unSung Music Festival. Beauton is a member of the ensemble Tala Rasa, a percussion trio dedicated to the commissioning and performance of new music. Tala Rasa has premiered works by composers G.N. Gianopoulos, Andrea Mazzariello, Wally Gunn, Michael Laurello, and Thomas Childs. James has also performed with ensembles such as red fish blue fish, the Santa Monica Symphony, the Nova Ensemble, and has been featured as a soloist with the ensembles Renga, the Contemporary Chamber Players, and the Michigan State University Philharmonic and Symphony Orchestras. He has earned degrees from SUNY Stony Brook (Master of Music) and Michigan State University (Bachelor of Music). James is a Vic Firth and Yamaha Performing Artist. www.jamesbeauton.com

CHRIS CLARINO currently performs with red fish blue fish. He has previously performed with the Eastman Wind Ensemble, Eastman Percussion Ensemble, OSSIA and the Stony Brook Contemporary Chamber Players. Chris has performed as soloist with the USMA Concert Band at West Point and the Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra. Chris has studied with John Beck, Steve Schick, Michael Burrirt, Bill Cahn, Eduardo Leandro, Charles "Chip" Ross and Rich Thompson. When he's not busy with schoolwork and practicing and performances and stuff like that, Chris enjoys hiking and backpacking. A lot. He's gone on some pretty awesome trips. Chris really likes beer, too.

FIONA DIGNEY is an Australian-born multi-faceted percussionist who holds both education and performance degrees and is currently based in California while she undertakes doctoral studies under the guidance of Prof. Steven Schick. She has enjoyed a wide-ranging freelance career over the last decade, performing in solo, ensemble, and theatrical settings in Australia, China, Canada, The Netherlands, Sweden, England, Mexico, and the United States. As a proponent of new music, she has commissioned and premiered many percussion works and has been involved in new music ensembles; most recently as on-stage percussionist in Tony Kushner's *Perestroika*, and the European premiere of Anne Washburn's highly acclaimed post-electric play, *Mr. Burns* at the Almeida theatre, London. Fiona has performed with West Australian Symphony Orchestra, Tetrafile percussion quartet (AUS), Ensemble 64.8 (USA), Het Zuiderlijk Toneel, and Diamantfabriek theatre companies (NL), as well as a soloist at Club Zho and the launch of the Totally Huge New Music Festival (AUS). Fiona is a current member of red fish blue fish, and is active in both the music and theatre departments at the University of California, San Diego.

SEAN DOWGRAY is a classical percussionist specializing in avant-garde, modern, contemporary, and experimental percussion. He is a graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy, the Oberlin Conservatory, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He is currently a candidate for the Doctorate of Musical Arts at UC San Diego.

From Irvine CA, **BEN REMPEL** is pursuing an M.A. in Music Performance at UC San Diego, where he studies with renowned percussionist Steven Schick. His artistic interests include sound and rhythm. Ben has bachelors degrees from Oberlin College in Percussion Performance and Computer Science, where he studied with Michael Rosen and Jamey Haddad

RYAN NESTOR (1985) is currently a candidate for the Doctorate in Contemporary Music Performance at the University of California, San Diego. Nestor has performed with the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE), The Bang on a Can All-Stars, Calder Quartet, Renga, and San Diego New Music. Nestor served as Music Director for The Old Globe Theater's production of *Othello* and principal percussionist of the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus. Nestor has performed at the Cervantino Music Festival, La Jolla Summer Festival, The Ojai Music Festival, Monday Evening Concerts, The Wulf, Moore Theater, and Bang on a Can Marathon. A fellowship recipient, Nestor performed with the Aspen Contemporary Ensemble (ACE) at the Aspen Summer Music festival for two summers. As an educator, Nestor has instructed music courses at UC San Diego and was an adjunct lecturer in music at Queensborough Community College. Nestor earned his Master's degree in Percussion Performance at Stony Brook University and his Bachelor's degree in Music Education from the University of Kentucky

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A black and white photograph of a city skyline at night, with numerous skyscrapers illuminated and their lights reflecting on the water in the foreground. The sky is dark, and the water shows a soft, blurred reflection of the city lights.

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