



UNC CHARLOTTE  
College of Arts + Architecture

The Department of Music presents

# The Percussion Ensemble

Rick Dior, director

**The Miraculous Mandarin**

Béla Bartók  
arr. James Ancona

**Catching Shadows**

Ivan Trevino

Lane Mashburn and Peyton Wulff, marimba

**Mudra**

Bob Becker

Daniel Ferreira, solo

**Over the Rainbow**

Harold Arlen  
arr. Robert Oetomo

Chris Merida, solo marimba

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Anne R. Belk Theater  
Robinson Hall for the Performing Arts  
Monday, November 18, 2019 | 7:30 pm  
[arts.uncc.edu](http://arts.uncc.edu)

## **Clear Midnight**

Michael Burritt

Chris Merida and Raven Pfeiffer, marimba/percussion

## **When Worlds Collide**

Rick Dior

1. Ethnic Jazz Minimalism
2. Afro-Brazil/European Bombast
3. Afro-Cuban/Rudimental Fusion

Malcolm McKinley, Chris Merida, Daniel Ferreira, soloists

## Percussion Ensemble Personnel

Ryan Comley  
Evan Corey  
Cassidy Davis  
Megan Elmore  
Daniel Ferreira  
Dylan Hatley  
Alex Johnson  
Charles Mashburn  
Malcolm McKinley  
Chris Merida  
Raven Pfeiffer  
John Pickett  
Peyton Wulff

# Program Notes

***The Miraculous Mandarin*** is a one act ballet composed by Béla Bartók between 1918 and 1924. Premiered November 27, 1926 in Cologne, Germany, it caused a scandal and was subsequently banned. Although more successful at its Prague premiere, it was generally performed during the rest of Bartók's life in the form of a concert suite, which preserves about two-thirds of the original ballet's music. The piece is still performed by orchestras around the world. It is a savage and dissonant piece, perhaps ahead of its time rhythmically and harmonically.

This percussion ensemble arrangement of *The Miraculous Mandarin* is based upon three movements of Bartók's original work.

The Beginning - A challenging display of technique, timbral variety, and creative orchestration.

The Second Seduction - Featuring the vibraphones, this movement creates a rubato, tense beauty.

The Chase - A relentless conclusion which drives to the ultimate point of release.

***Catching Shadows*** by Ivan Trevino is a marimba duo commissioned by Michael Burritt, professor of percussion at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. This piece was inspired by a playlist of Burritt's that he and Trevino listened to once on a road trip. The composition revolves around interlaced syncopated 16th note rhythms played by the duo at various dynamic levels and is very much a rhythmic groove piece. Each player is given various solo opportunities throughout.

***Mudra*** was originally composed to accompany pre-existing choreography influenced by the dance and music styles of India. As in many Indian dance concerts the focus here is on a single solo voice (represented by the solo drum). Rhythmically *Mudra* is based on two important and common structures found throughout Northern Indian music: 1.) motivic development (palta) and 2.) rhythmic cadence formulas (ti hai). The opening theme reappears several

times throughout the piece, always with slight variations harmonically. The dance rhythms are presented as rhythmic groupings of 2, 3 5, and 7 which is the norm in Indian music. These groupings flow throughout the ensemble, sometimes layered and other times interlaced. Many odd time signatures are employed throughout the piece the most common one being 5/4 time which reappears in several parts of the composition.

As one of the most famous songs of all time, ***Over the Rainbow*** from *The Wizard of Oz* is a timeless treasure. Robert Oetomo's solo marimba arrangement is adapted to be accompanied by a trio of mallet players on vibraphones, glockenspiel, and a second marimba. This arrangement combines jazzy harmonies, quasi improvisation, and classical romantic influences to create a rendition that is mysterious, lyrical, and heartwarming.

***Clear Midnight*** was commissioned by and dedicated to the fabulous Escape X Percussion Duo. The work is essentially two movements in one. The first part functioning much like an introduction or prologue, and the second, a 3-part movement unto itself. The piece is intended to be a "tour de force" for these two dynamic performers showcasing their versatile skills and impassioned musical voice. The title *Clear Midnight* is a reference to a Walt Whitman poem titled "A Clear Midnight". The poem resonates with one of my most cherished times of day and the hour I tend to set much of my creative work in motion.

-Michael Burritt

Composed by Rick Dior in the summer of 2006 for the UNC Charlotte Percussion Ensemble, ***When Worlds Collide*** brings together several percussion styles, genres and instruments from all over the world to create a world percussion concerto.

Movement one begins with a vibraphone solo containing one of the main motifs used throughout the piece. It then segues into a minimalist groove featuring instruments from Brazil and Cuba. From here we travel to Africa exploring the 6/8 rhythms of Nanigo and Bembe as well as Brazilian Samba. A section of European orchestral percussion intercedes before a marimba choral gives way to the jazz harmonies and Afro-Cuban rhythms of the last movement.

Improvisation plays a large part in each of the three movements. There are several thematic elements, both rhythmic and harmonic which continuously appear throughout the piece. Some of these that you may recognize are ostinatos (repeating patterns) played by the bass marimba and timpani, groups of consecutive chromatic dominant 13<sup>th</sup> chords played by the mallet instruments and extensive use of thematic retrograde (backward and forward motifs). There is also extensive use of odd time signatures and rhythmic hemiola's (a different implied time signature within another). *When Worlds Collide* was premiered by the UNC Charlotte Percussion Ensemble in 2006 at the North Carolina Day of Percussion and is published by TapSPACE.

## About the Director

**Rick Dior** is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music where he studied with renowned timpanist Fred Hinger and jazz composer Bob Mintzer. He also studied extensively with famed jazz drummer Joe Morello. Rick has performed as a percussionist and drummer with some of the greatest artists in the music industry including James Taylor, Aretha Franklin, Roberta Flack, Ray Charles, Bobby McFerrin, Al Jarreau, Marvin Hamlisch, BeBe Winans and Martina McBride. He has added his jazz drum set talents to performances with many great jazz artists including Marvin Stamm, Bill Watrous, Clark Terry, Red Rodney, Chris Potter, Russell Malone and Lionel Hampton. Some of these performances have taken place with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, which he has performed with since 1990 as principal percussionist, section percussionist and timpanist. Rick's recording credits are extensive and include movie soundtracks, CD releases and commercial radio and television spots. As a first call percussionist in Charlotte, Rick has performed in dozens of Broadway show tours. Some of the most recent are *Beautiful*, *Wicked*, *The Producers*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Spamalot*, *Hairspray*, *South Pacific*, *West Side Story* and *Mary Poppins*.

Rick has served as the Professor of Percussion at UNC Charlotte since 2001. He also maintains an active private teaching studio. His private students have gone on to attend UNC Charlotte as well as many other prestigious music institutions such as The Juilliard School of Music, The Manhattan School of Music, The Eastman School of Music, North Texas State University, the Oberlin School of Music and The University of Miami. Many of these students are active as professional musicians and educators.

As a composer Rick has written many compositions and arrangements for Classical, Jazz and Latin ensembles. In 2018 Rick was commissioned to orchestrate his composition *Science Fiction* for a European tour of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, widely considered to be the finest youth orchestra in the world. He is the author of several percussion books including the acclaimed *Advanced Coordination for Drum Set and Hand Percussion*. Rick's books and compositions are published by Tap Space. He is also an artist for Vic Firth Drumsticks, Mike Balter Mallets, Paiste Cymbals, and Doc Sweeney Drums.

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## Robinson Hall Technicians

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# College of Arts + Architecture

## Upcoming Events

### NOVEMBER

Symphonic Band	Tue Nov 19   7:30 pm Anne R. Belk Theater
2D/3D Graphic Design BFA Exhibition Reception	Thu Nov 21   6-8:30 pm Rowe Galleries
Orchestra	Thu Nov 21   7:30 pm Anne R. Belk Theater
Wind Ensemble	Mon Nov 25   7:30 pm Anne R. Belk Theater

### DECEMBER

University Chorale	Mon Dec 2   7:30 pm Anne R. Belk Theater
Men's & Women's Choirs	Tue Dec 3   7:30 pm Anne R. Belk Theater
Jazz Ensemble	Wed Dec 4   7:30 pm Anne R. Belk Theater
The Art of Teaching Exhibition Reception	Sat Dec 7   3-5 pm Rowe Galleries