



UNC CHARLOTTE
College of Arts + Architecture

The Department of Music presents

The Percussion Ensemble

Rick Dior, director

The Highway

Daniel Montoya, Jr.

Promise Music

Clif Walker

Flesh and Bone

Rick Dior

Daniel Ferreira and Chris Merida, solo percussion

Not Far From Here

Blake Tyson

Donnerkreis

Paul Sarcich

Feast

Bill Douglas

Symphonic Percussion Ensemble

Jacob Bohan

Dallas Holder

Evan Corey

Charles Mashburn

Megan Elmore

Chris Merida

Daniel Ferreira

Raven Pfeiffer

Nick Francis

Peyton Wulff

Brandon Hawkins

Anne R. Belk Theater
Robinson Hall for the Performing Arts
Wednesday, April 25, 2018 | 7:30 pm
arts.uncc.edu

Program Notes

The Highway was composed by Daniel Montoya in 2003. The piece is built around a running D minor motive that is echoed around the keyboards and augmented throughout the piece. Several players create a “larger than life” drum set throughout the ensemble with the use of various cymbals and drums. The bass marimba adds depth and color to this inventive work.

Written in 2007, **Promise Music** is a beautiful composition that was originally conceived as a solo work for marimba. It was later revised and expanded into the version you will hear tonight. The piece features elements of minimalism (repetitive rhythmic and harmonic motifs), as well as jazz-like harmony and rhythmic complexity. Several unique sounds can be heard in the introduction such as bowed vibes and crotales. A hypnotic ride cymbal pattern drives the piece and may remind some of the music of Jazz composer Pat Metheny.

Flesh and Bone was composed in 2017. The title refers the sounds of both hard and soft objects (hands and sticks) hitting various percussion instruments. The piece is a solo vehicle for two highly skilled percussion soloists performing on a variety of ethnic hand drums and marching percussion. In this way the piece is a collision of modern percussion techniques. The soloists are accompanied by a mallet ensemble consisting of glockenspiel, vibraphone and marimbas. There is also an element of improvisation performed by the vibraphone player. Metric modulation is employed throughout and the piece contains many odd time signatures. At certain points the players are performing in different meters at the same time, giving the piece an unpredictable rhythmic flow. This is the world premiere of *Flesh and Bone*. It will be published in 2018 by Tapspace.

Not Far From Here is a lovely mallet ensemble composition written for a student friend of the composer whose mother passed away after a long battle with cancer. The final Amen cadence represents faith, hope, and acceptance.

Donnerkreis: (Thunder for 8 Timpani) explores the modern pedal timpani's full capabilities rhythmically, harmonically and melodically. Many unusual effects are explored including pitch scoops, wiggles and glissandos, muffled tones, super ball rolls, finger plucks and rim shots. The piece contains very intricate rhythmic interplay and dramatic dynamic elements.

Feast contains an interesting mix of Jazz, Celtic and Afro-Cuban influences. The composition revolves around a main theme in 6/8 time that is Celtic in its origin. Marimba, vibraphone and xylophone perform this theme while accompanied by an Afro-Cuban percussion section playing an African rhythm called Nanigo. There are several sections throughout the piece that feature improvisation by the ensemble members.

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 with some of the greatest artists in the music industry including James Taylor, Aretha Franklin, Ray Charles, Bobby McFerrin, and Marvin Hamlisch. He has added his drum set talents to performances with many great jazz artists including Marvin Stamm, Bill Watrous, Clark Terry, Red Rodney, Chris Potter 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 *Wicked*, *The Producers*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Spamalot*, *Hairspray*, *South Pacific*, *West Side Story* and *Mary Poppins*.

As an engineer and producer Rick has been involved in hundreds of projects, many of which are currently available on CD and Video. He has worked with several outstanding artists including Harry Connick Jr., Branford Marsalis, Delfeayo Marsalis, Cyrus Chesnut, Michael Spiro and Ed Thigpen. You can see a partial list of his award winning recordings as a performer and engineer on line at [Artist Direct.com](http://ArtistDirect.com). Rick has also been involved in several high profile live recordings including projects for NPR, ESPN, The Charlotte Symphony and Opera Carolina.

In addition to teaching full time at UNC Charlotte, Rick also maintains an active private teaching studio. His 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 Jazz and Latin ensembles, the Charlotte Symphony, the UNC Charlotte Percussion Ensemble and the Charlotte Symphony Percussion Ensemble. He is the author of several percussion books and DVD's the including the acclaimed *Advanced Coordination for Drum Set and Hand Percussion*. Rick's books and compositions are published by Tap Space.

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Upcoming Events

APRIL

Symphonic Band	Thu Apr 26 7:30 pm Anne R. Belk Theater
Chamber Orchestra	Fri Apr 27 7:30 pm Anne R. Belk Theater
Men's & Women's Choirs	Sat Apr 28 7:30 pm Anne R. Belk Theater
Wind Ensemble	Mon Apr 30 7:30 pm Anne R. Belk Theater

MAY

Jazz Ensemble & Combos	Tue May 1 7:30 pm Anne R. Belk Theater
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CoA+A Performing Arts Services

Dean Adams, Associate Dean for Performing Arts Services
Christopher Buess, Lecturer, Production Manager
Beverly Lueke, Performing Arts Operations Manager
Liz Paradis, Audience Services Manager
Beth Rucker, Business Services Coordinator
Rachel Engstrom, Lecturer, Costume Shop Manager and Costume Designer
Matthew B. Fraiser, Lecturer, Technical Director
Hali Hutchison, Costume Lab Cutter / Draper
Rick Moll, Senior Lecturer, Master Electrician
Gordon W. Olson, Lecturer, Lighting Designer
Benjamin G. Stickels, Senior Lecturer, Sound Engineer and Asst. Production Manager
Rachel Watkins, Lecturer, Stage Management

Robinson Hall Technicians

Gianna Agostino, Hannah Coleman, Michael Coston, Deanna Glen,
Theodore "TJ" Maynor, Joseph Sanders, Noah Tepper