

COLLEGE OF ARTS + ARCHITECTURE

2025/26 PERFORMANCES



Welcome!

We are pleased that you have come to our theaters to support the performing arts at UNC Charlotte. At a time when so much of life is experienced through screens, we celebrate the opportunity to be in this place together.

Live performance is different. There is an energy, a connection with the performers and with fellow audience members that is special.

These are days in which it is important to gather, to share space and stories, to witness beauty, to feel and to learn in the presence of others. Thank you for being here! You are a vital part of the performance experience, and we are grateful for your curiosity and participation.

Look for us, too, throughout the Charlotte community, where you will frequently encounter the creativity and expertise of our faculty, students, and alumni.

We hope you will join us again soon! Stay up to date with our College news and programming on our website at coaa.charlotte.edu.

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UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE
COLLEGE OF ARTS + ARCHITECTURE

The Department of Music presents

Percussion Ensemble

Rick Dior, director

Anne R. Belk Theater
Robinson Hall for the Performing Arts
Monday, April 27, 2026 | 7:30 pm
coaa.charlotte.edu

Program

The Highway

Daniel Montoya, Jr.

Escape Velocity

Dave Hall

Six Children's Songs

Chick Corea
arr. David Steinquest

No. 9

No. 2

No. 14

No. 12

No. 13

No. 18

Dancing at the Gates

Dave Mancini

Why Not

Michel Camillo
arr. Chris Brooks

Evelyn Mathis, solo keyboard

The Black Page

Frank Zappa
arr. Rick Dior

Part 1: The Rhythms

Part 2: The Melody

Part 3: The New York Funky Teenage Version

Jack Applegate, solo drum set

Evelyn Mathis, solo keyboard

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 mallet keyboard instruments and augmented throughout the piece. The electric bass adds depth and color to this inventive work. The piece has 2 distinct sections consisting of a driving drum/bass guitar theme followed by a floating melodic section. The composition resembles the music of several 1970's progressive rock groups including Yes and Emerson Lake and Palmer.

Another Béla Bartók influenced piece, ***Escape Velocity*** was composed in the Spring of 2008. The quartet features keyboard percussion with Djembe accompaniment. Each player also performs on several other instruments including bowed crotales, spiral cymbals, snare drum and hi hat. There is a strong "drum 'n bass" influence in several sections of the composition mimicking artists such as Venetian Snares and Aphex Twin.

The arrangements of Chick Corea's ***Children's Songs*** come from the 1984 album and collection of 20 short, vignette-like piano pieces, mostly written in 1971 to convey "simplicity as beauty". Inspired by Béla Bartók, these pieces blend jazz and classical influences with childlike innocence. They are arranged for different combinations of mallet percussion instruments including Vibraphones, Glockenspiel, Marimbas and Xylophone.

The Dave Mancini composition ***Dancing at the Gates*** opens with a melodious piano solo and soon breaks into an up-tempo Brazilian rhythm called a Baion. This segues into a Calypso which introduces the next piece, *Why Not*.

Why Not is an energetic Calypso based jazz tune by Dominican Latin jazz pianist Michel Camillo. It features intricate syncopated rhythms and a dense chord structure. The composition has become a jazz standard

since its release in 1985 and has been arranged for performance by many types of ensembles.

The Black Page is a legendary musical composition by Frank Zappa. The composition is renowned in the music world for its extreme technical difficulty. It earned its title because the sheet music is so densely packed with notes that the paper appears almost entirely black. Originally written in 1976 as a drum solo for Terry Bozzio, Zappa later added a melody and chords for other instruments as well as a groove version where the melody is performed in halftime. The piece is considered a “musician’s nightmare” due to its complex nested polyrhythms (such as 11-note groupings) and rapid time signature shifts. Zappa sometimes used the composition to audition drummers for his band.

We are performing the entire sequence for you tonight as it was originally performed on the Zappa album *Live in New York*.

Percussion Ensemble Personnel

Jack Applegate

James Cruz

Conner Ernst

Renee Loomis, bass guitar and electric guitar

Evelyn Mathis

Ethan Morton

Conner Oglesby

Evan Schmit

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 has also performed with several other orchestras including the Cleveland Orchestra, The Charleston Symphony and The Opera Carolina Orchestra. 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 including *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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The Music Department's Chair's Excellence Fund supports student welfare, class supplies, scholarship assistance, recruiting, lecture series, school-wide events, promotion, and related needs.

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College of Arts + Architecture

Upcoming Events

APRIL

[Women's & Men's Choirs](#)

Tue Apr 28 | 7:30 pm (W) & 8:30 pm (M)
Anne R. Belk Theater

[University Chorale](#)

Wed Apr 29 | 7:30 pm
Anne R. Belk Theater

MAY

[Odyssey/Odissi](#)

Sat May 2 | 2 pm & 7 pm
Sun May 3 | 2 pm & 7 pm
Anne R. Belk Theater

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About the College of Arts + Architecture

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Through investigations in the performing and visual arts, design and affiliated pursuits, we provoke thought, cultivate aesthetic sensibilities, make space for memory and reflection, instigate creative action, and help build communities.

Established in 2008, the College of Arts + Architecture represents over 1,000 students and more than 100 full-time faculty members in five creative disciplines: art and art history, architecture, dance, music, and theatre.

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