

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE



# INTERACTIVE PERCUSSION SEMINAR

## *Welcome to UDIPS!*

UDIPS is an immersive weekend of percussion focused on presenter/participant interaction through hands-on sessions, engaging performances, and Q&A hangouts specifically built into the schedule. UDIPS is **FREE** to participants of any age or experience level!

### 2023 Guest Artists

**Michael Burritt**, Concert Artist

**Allison Miller**, Drumset Artist

**Casey Cangelosi**, Concert Artist

**Angela Zator Nelson**, Philadelphia Orchestra

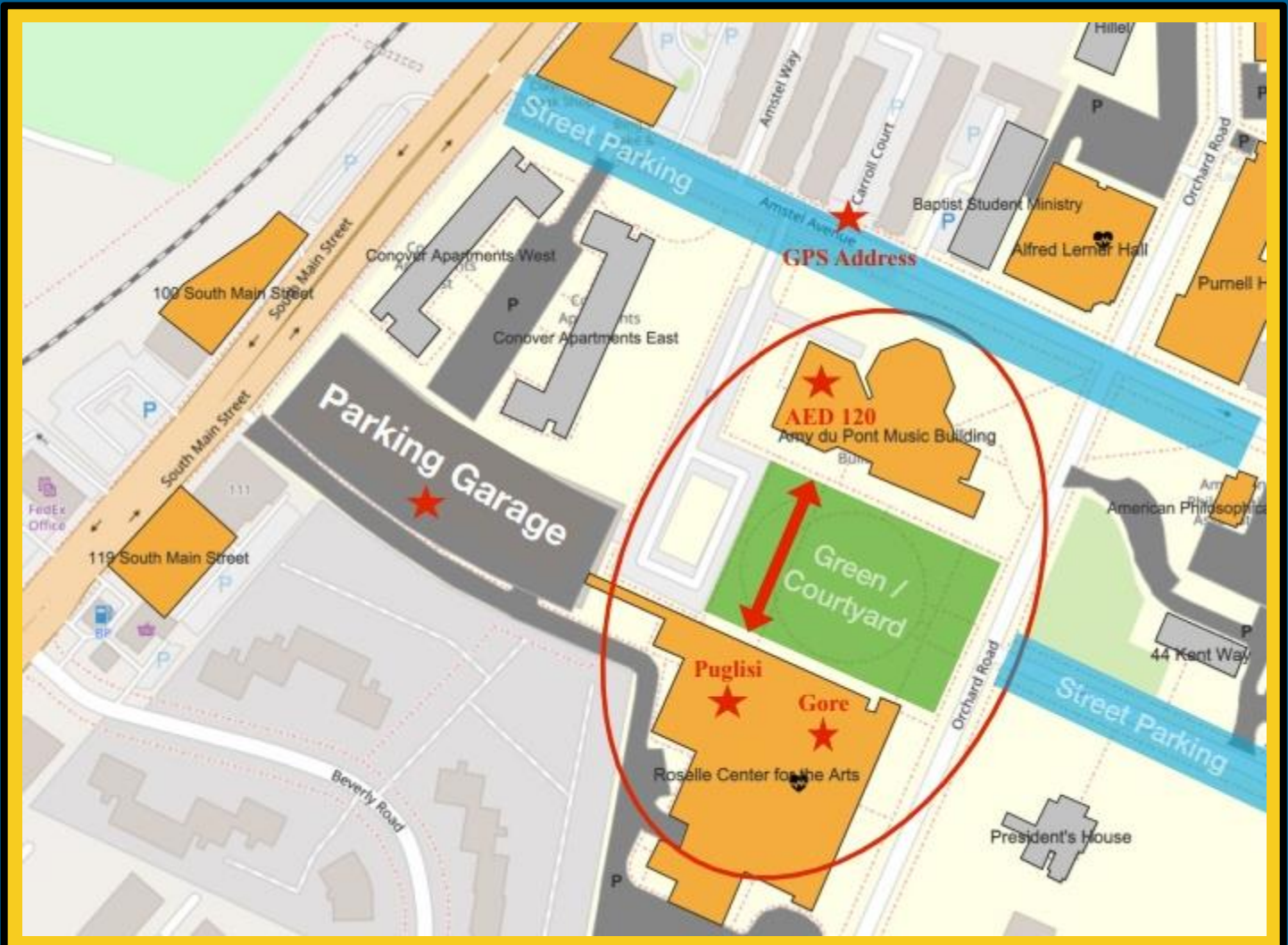
**Josanne Francis**, Steelpan Artist

**Mike Dobson**, Broadway Foley Artist/Percussionist

**Iain Moyer**, Front Ensemble Director for the Boston Crusaders

**Quey Percussion Duo**, Chamber Ensemble

# Area Map



All events will be held at:

- Puglisi Orchestra Hall (Puglisi) and Gore Recital Hall (Gore)
- Puglisi and Gore are located in the Roselle Center for the Arts (CFA)
- Amy E. Dupont Music Building (AED 120 - Percussion Room)

The best GPS address to get to this area is:

**101 Carroll Ct, Newark, DE 19711**

Please see the above map for details.

**PARKING:** There is a nearby parking garage (see map) or street parking  
Please do not hesitate to ask staff and students for directions.

# Local Restaurants

*(Immediately nearby the music buildings)*

Bing's Bake and Brew

Claymont Steak Shop

Buffalo Wild Wings

Tastea 101

Atexquita Restaurant

Pat's Pizza

*(Longer walk or short drive)*

Deer Park Tavern

Grotto's Pizza

Honeygrow

The Greene Turtle

Snap Custom Pizza and Salads

Brew HaHa!

Home Grown Cafe

Little Goat Coffee

Five Guys

Klondike Kate's

Santa Fe Mexican Grill

Hot Bagels Cafe

Wayback Burger

Grain Craft Bar & Kitchen

Capriotti's Sandwich Shop

Drip Café

Margherita's Pizza

# Saturday, March 11th

## *Schedule of Events*

8:30am - 11:00am: High School Honors Percussion Ensemble Rehearsal  
(Gore and AED 120)  
[**Not** open to the public]

11:00am - 12:30pm: Michael Burritt Clinic / Q&A Hangout  
(Puglisi Hall)

12:30pm - 2:00pm: LUNCH BREAK (on your own)

2:00pm - 3:30pm: Angela Zator Nelson Clinic / Q&A Hangout  
(Gore Hall)

3:30pm - 5:00pm Allison Miller Clinic / Q&A Hangout  
(Puglisi Hall)

5:00pm - 6:30pm Josanne Francis Clinic / Q&A Hangout  
(AED 120)

8:00pm ***Artist Collage Concert***

*featuring*

The University of Delaware Graduate Percussion Group, Casey Cangelosi, Quey Percussion Duo Josanne Francis and Allison Miller with the UD Faculty Jazz Ensemble and Friends  
(Puglisi Hall)

# Sunday, March 12th

## Schedule of Events

8:30am - 11:00am:	High School Honors Percussion Ensemble Rehearsal (Gore and AED 120) [ <b>Not</b> open to the public]
11:00am - 12:30pm:	Iain Moyer Clinic / Q&A Hangout (Puglisi Hall)
12:30pm - 2:00pm:	LUNCH BREAK (on your own)
2:00pm - 3:30pm:	Casey Cangelosi / Q&A Hangout (Gore Hall)
3:30pm - 5:00pm	Mike Dobson Clinic / Q&A Hangout (Puglisi Hall)
5:00pm - 5:45pm	UDIPS High School Honors Percussion Ensemble Performance <b>Door Prize Giveaways</b> (Gore Hall)
6:00pm	<b><i>Michael Burritt in Concert</i></b> with members of the UD Percussion Ensemble (Puglisi Hall)

# Michael Burritt

*Snare Drum Basics:*

*A Path to Developing a Style and Approach to Fundamental Musicianship*

**Clinic and Q/A, Saturday 11:00am - 12:30pm**

**Puglisi Hall**

## Michael Burritt

Having performed on four continents and more than forty states, Michael Burritt is one of his generation's leading percussionists. He is in frequent demand, performing concert tours and master classes throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, Australia and Canada. Mr. Burritt has been soloist with the United States Air Force Band, Dallas Wind Symphony, Omaha Symphony, Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra, Richmond Symphony Orchestra,

Nexus, Third Coast Percussion, Ju Percussion Group (Taiwan), Percussion Art Quartet (Germany) and the Amores Percussion Group (Spain). Mr. Burritt has three solo as well as numerous chamber recordings. In 2018 he recorded his *Home Trilogy* with the world-renowned percussion group Nexus, and is soon to release a new recording of solo and chamber works by Alejandro Viñao with the Grammy Award-winning Third Coast Percussion. In 2006 he recorded the Joseph Schwantner Percussion Concerto with the Calgary Wind Ensemble on the Albany label.



He has been a featured artist at nine Percussive Arts Society International Conventions. In 1992 he presented his New York solo debut in Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall and in 1998 performed his London debut in the Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall. Mr. Burritt has extensive chamber and orchestral experience and has performed with the Chicago Chamber Musicians, The Chicago Symphony, Nexus, Third Coast Percussion and the The Peninsula Music Festival Orchestra.

Mr. Burritt is also active as a composer, with three concertos to his credit as well as numerous solo and chamber works for marimba and percussion. His works for solo marimba have become standard repertoire for the instrument, and are frequently required repertoire on international competitions.

Commissions include The World Marimba Competition in Stuttgart Germany, The Paris International Marimba Competition, Nexus and the Paris Percussion Group. Mr. Burritt is published with Keyboard Percussion Publications, C. Alan, Masters Music, and Innovative Percussion. Burritt is also an artist/clinician and product design/consultant for Mallettech, where he has developed his own line of marimba mallets and the MJB Signature Marimba. He is an artist/educational clinician with the Zildjian Company, Evans Drum Heads, and Yamaha Drums. Mr. Burritt is the President Elect of Percussive Arts Society, was a member of the Board of Directors from 1996 to 2008, a contributing editor for *Percussive Notes* magazine from 1991 to 2006 and was chairman of the PAS Keyboard Committee from 2004 to 2010.

Michael Burritt is currently Professor of Percussion and chair of the Winds, Brass, and Percussion department at the Eastman School of Music. He is only the third person in the history of the school to hold this position. Prior to his appointment at Eastman, Mr. Burritt was Professor of Percussion at Northwestern University from 1995 to 2008, where he developed a program of international distinction. Mr. Burritt received his Bachelor ('84) and Master of Music ('86) Degrees, as well as the prestigious Performers Certificate, from the Eastman School of Music.



# Angela Zator Nelson

*Sticks, Strokes, and Style: The Interpretation of Orchestral Repertoire*

**Clinic and Q/A, Saturday 2:00pm - 3:30pm**

**Gore Hall**

About the Clinic:

In my presentation, I will explain how the choice of our sticks, strokes, and character help portray the correct character of specific orchestral repertoire. I will use xylophone, glockenspiel, snare drum, and timpani to demonstrate.

## Angela Zator Nelson

Angela Zator Nelson, associate principal timpani and section percussion, joined The Philadelphia Orchestra in 1999 as the first female percussionist ever hired by the Orchestra.

Along with performing classical music, Ms. Nelson is an active chamber musician with a forte in new music. She has premiered and recorded the first five of George Crumb's American Songbooks written for the chamber group Orchestra 2001 and scored for four percussion, piano, and voice. The premieres took place at the Salzburg Music Festival, in Carnegie Hall, and in the Perelman Theater at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia. Ms. Nelson also performs regularly with the Network for New Music and the Philadelphia Orchestra Percussion Group.

Ms. Nelson has participated in the Tanglewood, Pacific, and Peninsula music festivals, the National Repertory Orchestra, and the Saratoga Chamber Music Festival. As a marimba soloist she has performed with the Temple University Symphony, Bay-Atlantic Symphony, Main Line Symphony, Philadelphia Classical Symphony, and Orchestra 2001.

Ms. Nelson joined the faculty at Temple University as adjunct professor in 2001. She has given masterclasses to numerous students of all ages and has presented classes at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, the Oberlin Percussion Institute, and at the annual Alan Abel School of Orchestral Studies.

A native of the Chicago area, Ms. Nelson graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree from Northwestern University's School of Music, where she studied with James Ross and Patricia Dash of the Chicago Symphony and marimba virtuoso Michael Burritt. While in Chicago Ms. Nelson was principal percussion of the Civic Orchestra for three years. She then earned a Master of Music degree from Temple University, where her principal instructor was former Philadelphia Orchestra member Alan Abel.





Ms. Nelson and her husband, percussionist David Nelson, enjoy working as a percussion duo performing recitals and educational concerts for both children and adults. They are also members of the Bob Beach Trio performing blues, folk, and rock in local coffeehouses and regularly at Philadelphia's World Café Live. They are also proud parents of three daughters.

Ms. Nelson is a Zildjian Performing Artist and endorses their cymbals. She also endorses Grover Pro Percussion

# Allison Miller

## *How to Practice Efficiently - The Melodic Way* Clinic and Q/A, Saturday 3:30pm - 5:00pm Puglisi Hall

### About the clinic:

How often do you sit down at the kit for a practice session and have no idea how to get started and stay on task? How often does the list of "what to practice" become so long that it feels impossible to complete even one task? Allison Miller has developed a practice method that guarantees to keep you on task and focused on developing musicianship.



Instead of separating exercises into different categories during a practice session, why not unite them with one overarching musical theme. In this clinic Miller will demonstrate how to apply a simple melodic phrase to multiple exercises, allowing melody and musicality to guide the entire practice session. She will give examples by demonstrating specific coordination, rudimental, groove, solo and polyrhythmic concepts. Miller's practice method improves musicianship and gives drummers a deeper sense of the interconnection between melody and drumming.

### Allison Miller

NYC-based drummer/composer/teacher Allison Miller engages her deep roots in improvisation as a vehicle to explore all music. Described by critics as a "Modern Jazz Icon in the Making", Miller won *Downbeat's* 67th Annual Critics Poll for "Rising Star Drummer" and *Jazz Times's* 2019 Critics Poll for

"Best Jazz Drummer." Boom Tic Boom, Miller's longtime band, won Jazz Journalists Association's 2019 award for "Best Mid-Sized Ensemble." Her composition, "Otis Was a Polar Bear", is included on NPR's list of *The 200 Greatest Songs by 21<sup>st</sup> Century Women+*. She is also the first recipient of the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation's Commissioning Grant. The commissioned work, *Rivers In Our Veins*, explores multimedia performance (live music, dance, and interactive video) as a vital form of knowledge production through the poetic interpretation of historical events and their association with the geography, ecology and flow of specific rivers.

Miller, a three-time Jazz Ambassador for the U.S. State Department and Monterey Jazz Festival Artist in Residence alumni, has released five albums with her longtime band, Boom Tic Boom. Their most recent release, *Glitter Wolf*, was met with critical acclaim, including "Best Jazz Of 2019" lists from NPR, *Rolling Stone* and *Jazz Times* magazine.

NPR's Kevin Whitehead says, "All the parts fit together like clockwork on Allison Miller's new album." The band has toured extensively throughout the US, Europe and Asia as well as being featured on such programs as NPR's *Fresh Air* with Terry

Gross, *Tiny Desk* with Bob Boilen, WNYC's *Soundcheck* and *New Sounds* with John Schaefer, and *Jazz Night* in America with Christian McBride.

While breaking from leading Boom Tic Boom, Miller focuses on collaborations, co-directing Lower Chamber with Wendy Eisenberg and Nick Dunston, Science Fair with Carmen Staaf, Tues Days with Jane Ira Bloom, and Bluenote recording supergroup Artemis. Artemis was named Jazz Journalists Association's 2020 "Mid-Sized Ensemble of the Year" and will be releasing their followup album with Bluenote records in May 2023. Miller is also the musical director for Camille A. Brown's *Ink* and composes for the gaming company Cloud Chamber/2K.

As a side-musician, Miller has been the rhythmic force behind such artists as Sara Bareilles, Ani DiFranco, Natalie Merchant, Brandi Carlile, Indigo Girls, Toshi Reagon, Dr. Lonnie Smith, Patricia Barber, Marty Ehrlich, Ben Allison, and Late Night with Seth Meyers.

Miller teaches at the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music (where she is a Melba Liston Fellow), Stanford Jazz Workshop, Centrum, Geri Allen Jazz Camp, Carnegie Hall's NYO Jazz, Jazz Education Abroad - Arts Envoy to Thailand, and is the Artistic Director of Jazz Camp West. She is the 2022 director for Jazz Educator's Network *Sisters In Jazz* program and a featured clinician at PASIC's 2022 International Convention. Miller is also a contributor to the groundbreaking book, *New Standards: 101 Lead Sheets by Women Composers*, published by Berklee Press/Hal Leonard and proudly endorses Yamaha drums, Zildjian cymbals, Vic Firth sticks, Evans drumheads and Sunhouse percussion.

"Miller and Bloom guide and prod each other into consistently interesting sound patterns. They do not sound like anyone else." -Jazz Record

"...Glitter Wolf is undeniably accessible, gloriously melodic and funky as hell."

**-New York City Jazz Record**

"...Miller's craftiness as a percussionist is met by her ingenuity as a composer and group conceptualist."

**-The New Yorker.**

"Ms. Miller is a drummer, bandleader and composer with an aesthetic of limber poise, drawn at once to brisk maneuvers and deep grooves."

**-The New York Times**

"Ten years into the band's existence, these musicians are firing on all cylinders... Glitter Wolf sounds like an album by Boom Tic Boom-and no one else."

**-Downbeat**

"...the album defies expectations with a mix of head-bobbing grooves and rich melodies..."

**-The Los Angeles Times**

# Josanne Francis

## *The 'Feel Good' of Steelband Playing* Clinic and Q/A, Saturday 5:00pm - 6:30pm AED 120

### About the Clinic:

In this interactive presentation of research and experiences in steelband teaching, participants will explore the sensitivities of steelband learning and teaching, as well as approaches to achieving that right "feel" in steelband performance without appropriation.

### Josanne Francis

Award-winning artist, composer and educator Josanne Francis began playing steelpan at age 9 in her native Trinidad & Tobago. She delivers unmatched technical mastery and an energetic and emotional complexity that enchants listeners across the world. Josanne approaches steelpan with great reverence for its versatility, a perspective through which she promotes cultural exchange on and off the bandstand.

She has appeared at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Strathmore Music Center, Times Square and Port-au-Prince International Jazz Festival. She has performed with David Rudder, Etienne Charles, Negah Santos, John Batiste, Kes, Andy Narell, and Liam Teague; appeared with the Michigan Philharmonic and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra; and recorded on projects for Charles, Victor Provost, The Mawasi Experience, and Afro Bop Alliance.

In 2022, Josanne received the Vanguard Award presented at Caribbean American Heritage (CARAH) Gala & Awards, and the Rising Leader Award, presented by his excellency Anthony Phillips-Spencer, Trinidad & Tobago Ambassador to the United States. She has garnered grants from U.S. Artists International, Maryland State Arts Council and Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council; delivered a TEDx presentation; and recently received a commission from the San Jacinto College Central Steelband to complete a multi-movement gesture for steelband. Josanne received her Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Southern Mississippi, and her Master of Music in steelpan performance from Northern Illinois University, and is pursuing her doctorate in music education from the University of Maryland.

She has taught at venues and institutions across the nation, including the University of Delaware, the University of Maryland and the Cultural Academy for Excellence. She has held artistic residencies at University of Michigan, Strathmore Music Center and Johns Hopkins Peabody Institute, and served on a number of prestigious panels. In 2022, Josanne co-created the thriving performance outfit Elite Pan Consortium and, in 2019, launched *Steel on*



*Wheels LLC*, an all-inclusive educational program that eliminates barriers for the creation and development of steelbands, and varied percussion ensembles.

To keep up with Josanne's performance and teaching schedule, visit her website [josannefrancis.com](http://josannefrancis.com) and follow her on social media [@josannefrancis](https://www.instagram.com/josannefrancis).

# Iain Moyer

*Developing the Complete Front Ensemble Exercise and Etude Program*  
**Clinic and Q/A, Sunday 11:00am - 12:30pm**  
**Puglisi Hall**

About the clinic:

Iain Moyer and five members of the 2023 Boston Crusaders Front Ensemble will demonstrate how to develop proficiency and excellence through exercises, etudes, and pit tunes.

## **Iain Moyer**

Dr. Iain Moyer has served as the Front Ensemble Arranger for The Boston Crusaders since 2017. Previously, Moyer has served on the Percussion Staff of The Cadets as an arranger and instructor. During Moyer's tenure The Cadets won their 10th DCI World Championship in 2011 and the Cadets Percussion section received the 2013 Fred Sanford Award for Best Percussion Performance.

Moyer is the Director of Athletic Bands and Music Programs Recruiter at Widener University. As Director of Athletic Bands, he oversees all aspects of the Widener University Marching Band and Basketball Pep Band. Moyer also directs the Widener Percussion Ensemble and teaches private lessons.

Iain Moyer is a signature artist with Vic Firth and is endorsed by Remo, Pearl/Adams, and Zildjian.



# Casey Cangelosi

## *Current Projects and Q&A*

Clinic and Q/A, Sunday 2:00pm - 3:30pm  
Gore Hall

### About the Clinic

I'd like to chat with you about some of my latest and current projects; how I might approach a new piece and how I create practice exercises for myself. I'd be thrilled to answer any of your questions and chat about composition and/or interpretation as well.

### Casey Cangelosi

Percussionist & Composer, Casey Cangelosi is the Director of Percussion Studies at James Madison University. As a visiting guest-artist, he is commonly hosted world-wide by educational institutions, music



festivals, and educational music seminars. Since 2011, Casey has performed solo recitals in Italy, Germany, Costa Rica, Mexico, Argentina, Australia, Croatia, Sweden, Taiwan, Portugal, and widely across the U.S. at events: The Midwest Clinic, several PASIC Showcase Concerts, and over 40 universities. Casey adjudicates percussion performance and composition competitions, and is regularly commissioned for new works. Casey is the creator of the @Percussion Podcast, and is sponsored by Majestic/Mapex, Innovative Percussion, Zildjian, Grover Pro Percussion, Remo, and Beiner Bags.



# Mike Dobson

*The Percussionist as Foley Artist*  
Clinic and Q/A, Sunday 3:30p - 5:00p  
Puglisi Hall



## About the Clinic

I will discuss the history and current practices of live sound effects in theater.

## Mike Dobson

Mike Dobson is a Tony award nominated percussionist, composer, foley artist, and sound designer. Dobson designed and performed the live foley in Broadway's *SpongeBob SquarePants* musical, for which he was nominated for the 2018 Tony award in sound design. Other theater and circus

productions: off-Broadway's *Old Hats*; *Vegas Nocturne* at The Cosmopolitan Hotel of Las Vegas; *The Big Apple Circus*; *Fun House* at the Brisbane Festival (AU), Festival Der Traume (AT); Writer, composer, and performer for *Room 17B* (Drama Desk nom.); *Cut to the Chase*; *Big Love*; *Sisters' Follies*; *The Old Comedy*; *Time Step*. Television: *The Late Show with David Letterman*; *Today Show*; *Tony Awards*.

Dobson frequently accompanies silent films, providing sound effects with the Paragon Ragtime Orchestra, as well as performances at MOMA and The Brattle Theater. Other credits as a musician include Nelly KcKay, Shaina Taub, Paul Anka, Clay Aiken, Dawn Upshaw, Ira Sullivan, American Composer's Orchestra, SEM Ensemble, and *1776* on Broadway. Dobson teaches privately and gives masterclasses on sound design, foley, and percussion. He holds degrees in percussion performance from The Hartt School (BM) and The Mannes College of Music (MM).

# Quey Percussion Duo

## Performance, Saturday 8:00pm

### Puglisi Hall

#### Quey Percussion Duo

For nearly 20 years, Quey ["Kway"] Percussion Duo has dazzled audiences worldwide with their unmistakable style that blends traditions of contemporary, cross-cultural, classical, and popular music to create colorful sound worlds that often

place focus on interlocking counterpoint and musical multi-tasking. Their presentations have a reputation for elevating the basic acts of striking, shaking, and scraping into a blast of energy, a splash of curiosity, with a pinch of whimsy.



Comprised of members [Gene Koshinski](#) and [Tim Broscius](#), QPD has performed in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, the Czech Republic, China, France, Jordan, the UK, and extensively throughout the US. They have worked with music festivals, art galleries, chamber music series', conferences (including 5 PASIC appearances), professional orchestras, and have engaged in more than 100 university residencies worldwide. They also can be heard in the score of the award-winning short film *The Passage*, which was premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2018.

As new music advocates, QPD has generated nearly 200 new works written for the duo (or by the duo), many of which become instant "earworms" for audiences and staples in the repertoire for percussionists worldwide. They have collaborated with renowned composers including Pulitzer

Prize recipient John Luther Adams, Emmanuel Séjourné, Alejandro Viñao, Molly Joyce, Alyssa Weinberg, Stuart Saunders Smith, Adam Silverman, Phyllis Chen, David Macbride, David M. Gordon, Ben Wahlund, and Casey Cangelosi. The result of such collaborations can be seen in the group's recordings for the Innova, Naxos, Centaur, and Equilibrium record labels. A review of their most recent album, *soniChroma*, stated, "one cannot help but stand in awe of the Quey Percussion Duo." (Percussive Notes)

QPD holds the only full-time residency by a percussion duo in the US at the University of Delaware where they co-direct the percussion program, deliver various chamber ensembles, coordinate applied lessons, and present joint studio classes. Their side-by-side approach to teaching has led to many performance and recording opportunities for their students. In addition, their focus on creating high-level social media video content has led to nearly 2 million views of their performances. QPD is endorsed by Pearl/Adams Instruments, Sabian Cymbals, Vic Firth Sticks and Mallets, Remo Drumheads, and Schoenhut Toy Pianos.

# Artists Collage Concert

Saturday, March 11, 8:00pm  
Puglisi Hall

*Extremes (2009)*

Jason Treuting (b. 1977)

University of Delaware Graduate Percussion Group

*Glitch (2022)*

Eric Guinivan (b. 1979)

*Meditation No. 1 (2011)*

Casey Cangelosi (b. 1982)

Casey Cangelosi

*Impressions of Chinese Opera (2012)*

Gene Koshinski (b. 1980)

III. Da

Quey Percussion Duo

*Selections Announced from the Stage*

Josanne Francis, steelpan

Allison Miller, drumset

with *UD Faculty Jazz and Friends:*

Tom Palmer, piano

Dave Bozenhard, guitar

Lawrence Trice, bass

Tim Broschious, percussion

Gene Koshinski, percussion

**UDIPS High School Honors Percussion Ensemble**  
**Sunday, March 12, 5:00p**  
**Gore Hall**

*Welcome*

*Streamline (2011)*

Gene Koshinski (b. 1980)

*Starfall (2022)*

James Vilseck (b.1992)

*Samba Batucada*

Traditional Brazilian

***Door Prize Giveaway***

**Ensemble Members**

**Dia Bonsu**, Elizabeth Seton High School

**Joseph (JT) Clancy IV**, Catalina Foothills High School

**Haydn King**, Northwestern Lehigh High School

**Will Leonard**, King George High School

**Katherine Weber**, Havre de Grace High School

***Ensemble directed by UD Faculty, Dr. Gene Koshinski and Dr. Tim Broschious***

# Michael Burritt in Concert

Sunday, March 12, 6:00pm

Puglisi Hall

*spero* (2019)

Michael Burritt (b. 1962)

with the University of Delaware Graduate Percussion Group

Daniel Albertson

Jake Grimsley

Bensen Kwan

Gabriel Labell

*The Island* (2013)

Burritt

*Sweet Dreams and Time Machines* (2017)

Burritt

with Sae Bin An, Marimba

*Violin Sonata No 1 in G Minor (BMV 1001)*

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

1. Adagio

*White Pines* (2015)

Burritt

with members of the University of Delaware Percussion Ensemble

Bryce Cotton

Natalie DiTommaso

Emerson Forbes

Mackenzie Wiseman

# Michael Burritt Concert Program Notes

## ***spero* (2019)**

*spero* means hope in Latin and comes from the phrase, “Dum spiro, spero” - while I breathe, I hope. During my time writing this piece I was reflecting on the need for hope. It struck me that when I do think of hope, I think of my students and young people everywhere who give hope. Hope for the future of music and so much more!

I have wanted for some time to write a piece for solo drum and chamber ensemble. *spero* features muted tenor drum and snare drum in addition to cajon. The work is a nod to one of my favorite pieces in the repertoire, *Mudra*, by Eastman graduate and percussion legend Bob Becker.

*spero* is dedicated to Liz and Stephen Biggar for their kindness and enthusiasm for the arts.

## ***The Islands* (2013)**

*The Islands* is a work that continues to develop in its structure in the years since as a result of its improvisational foundation. It is named for the Thousand Islands region of the St. Lawrence River in Up State New York. The St Lawrence River connects the Great Lakes and the Atlantic Ocean and is one of my favorite places on the planet! I have wonderful memories of spending summers there with my grandparents as a child. *The Islands* is a reflection of the sanctuary I feel whenever I visit that magical place. This short solo work was written following a visit to the Thousand Islands in 2012 and completed in 2013. It is meant to be a peaceful and introspective work exploring various textures at the marimba moving in and out of rhythmic and metric cohesion.

## ***Sweet Dreams and Time Machines* (2017)**

*Sweet Dreams and Time Machines* is dedicated to the memory of my friend, colleague and former Dean of the Eastman School of Music, Doug Lowry. From the time I interviewed with him for the position at Eastman, to Doug introducing me as “Buzz Saw” Burritt after a memorable performance with the Eastman Wind Ensemble in Chicago (One of my most cherished memories with him), there isn’t a week that goes by at Eastman when I don’t think of Doug. Doug was a person who always allowed you to feel yourself in his presence through his warm demeanor and casual sense of humor.

There are no real time machines, outside of science fiction novels and movies. True time machines are the memories we carry with us of people and moments shared. I find certain memories so poignant that you can almost step into them as though you are living that moment again. Sweet dreams to those who have passed, touched us forever, and live eternally in our time machines.

### ***White Pines* (2015)**

*White Pines* was inspired by the power, crispness, and majesty of the snow-covered pine trees in the winter months near my home in upstate New York. It is the 2nd movement to a larger 3 movement work titled *Home Trilogy* and is dedicated to and commissioned by the internationally renowned percussion group Nexus.

It was premiered on a concert celebrating sustainability and environmental awareness at the Eastman School of Music on May 1, 2015. This sextet version of "*White Pines*" was orchestrated for the Inaugural All Star International Collegiate Percussion Ensembles performance at PASIC 2015.

All program notes by MJB



# Thank You!

We would like to extend a very special “thank you” to these sponsors for allowing us to offer this event free to all participants and for supplying amazing door prize giveaways!

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