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Marimba Four Hands

Daniel deSimone

Ayami Okamura

Tyler Tsunekawa

Christina Cheon
Chapman University

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SCMCS

Southern California Marimba Concert Series

PRESENTS

Marimba Four Hands

Daniel deSimone | Ayami Okamura | Tyler Tsunekawa | Christina Cheon



Friday, July 8th, 2016 | 8pm

Saturday, July 9th, 2016 | 8pm

Salmon Recital Hall, Chapman University
245 E Palm Avenue, Orange, CA 92866

PROGRAM

Solo Quartet (2015) – Daniel deSimone (b. 1991)

Daniel deSimone, Ayami Okamura,
Christina Cheon, and Tyler Tsunekawa

Solo Quartet, which was originally scored for vibraphone, tuba, violin, and percussion, is influenced by the juxtaposition of spoken word and instrumental music. In its theatrical setting, this piece experiments with each of the four performers in their own modules of playing and talking, as if they were in a practice room on their own and working out their ideas to the audience. The concepts explored in Timothy Gallwey's *The Inner Game of Tennis* inspired the characterization of each performer in this piece. Player One acts as "self one," defined in the book as a performer's ego or critical and analytical self. Player Two represents "self two," which is the "body doing" or the muscle memory of a performer. Player Three represents the "student" while Player Four represents the "teacher." Each of the performer's character is exemplified in the chosen text that they speak. The text is presented to the audience in such a way that each performer seems to be "workshopping" his or her own ideas with an unknown other.

– Daniel deSimone

Juke (2013) – Howard Hersh (b. 1940)

Christina Cheon and Ayami Okamura

Juke is scored for two marimbas and was composed in 2013. Like runners on the field, its performers use sudden shifts and unexpected moves – as sportswriter Brian Josephs says, "twitch, step, fake" – to help juke each other, and hopefully, their listeners.

– Howard Hersh

Into the Air (2010) – Ivan Trevino (b. 1983)

Tyler Tsunekawa and Christina Cheon

Into the Air is a marimba duet dedicated to Michael Burritt and written to highlight Burritt's energy while showcasing Ivan's ideas on groove and syncopation. As a whole, this piece portrays an exciting yet peaceful setting that goes back and forth between moments of rapid notes and more spacious music. The piece begins with the moment when someone is preparing for launch, propelled high into the sky, and serenely floating between space and gravity while viewing the world from new heights before falling back towards the ground.

– Tyler Tsunekawa

Octabones for two marimbas (1998) – Adi Morag (b. 1976)

Ayami Okamura and Daniel deSimone

Israeli percussionist, composer and teacher Adi Morag wrote the piece Octabones for his percussion duo, PercaDu, with Tomer Yariv. The piece won the Percussive Arts Society Composition Competition in 1999 and is now considered a standard repertoire for marimba duo. The name Octabones is an intentional misspelling of the word octatones, which make up the octatonic scale that the piece is based on.

– Ayami Okamura

"Octabones requires two highly skilled marimbists. The marimbas are set up facing one another so that each player can reach over and play certain figures on the other player's instrument. The piece is constructed in four distinct sections. The first section is an exciting allegro full of block chords and fast melodic passages; the second section is slower and legato; the third section returns to tempo primo, but the material is played with the mallet handles; the final section returns to the opening material, bringing the work to an exciting conclusion."

– Mario Gaetano (from a review in "Percussive Notes")

--- Intermission ---

Marimba Four Hands (2008) – Daniel Levitan (b. 1953)

- I. In The Night Kitchen – Tyler Tsunekawa and Christina Cheon
- II. Soakin' Wet – Ayami Okamura and Daniel deSimone
- III. Snoozin' Down – Tyler Tsunekawa and Ayami Okamura
- IV. Shortnin' Bread – Daniel deSimone and Tyler Tsunekawa
- V. Goodnight Moon – Christina Cheon and Daniel deSimone

Marimba Four Hands is a cyclical five-movement suite that we chose as the centerpiece for our concert program. The piece is written for 2 players on one marimba, and each movement represents a different aspect of a child's life - more specifically, Dan Levitan's children.

Along with this piece, Dan writes many of his other works for his family. Marimba Four Hands goes on a journey through his greatest moments with his children in the way that other parents also experience with their own children: new experiences in playing, eating, sleeping, and dreaming.

Each movement has also been named after a nursery tune or a children's book, giving the listener more insight into the nature of the music. In each movement, these tunes are nestled into the music and dance through the music in a child-like and playful way. The performers are forced to chase after Dan's melodies through several key changes and meter changes. This results in exciting, fun, and meaningful music for both the performer and the listener! – Tyler Tsunekawa

Foreign Objects (1975) – John Bergamo (1940-2013)

Ayami Okamura, Christina Cheon, Tyler Tsunekawa, and Daniel deSimone
with special guests from the Boston Conservatory

Foreign Objects was composed in 1975 on a small battery powered Casio VL-Tone synthesizer while Bergamo was hospitalized from a car accident. The title is based on a remark he overheard during surgery. Essentially a distorted pop tune, this short Zappa-esque piece uses the instrumentation of Bergamo's first ensemble, the Repercussion Unit, but can be adapted for any group of willing musicians. With the implied theatrics of the piece, each performance is unique to the style and character of its performers. — Daniel deSimone

Special thank you to

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for hosting SCMCS this 2016 summer season!

Our staff and volunteers who have worked hard to make this happen:

Livestreaming – Kelly Shin
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Concert Manager – Rudi Massman
Photography – Aaron Grisez
Recording Engineer – Sean Atkinson

Percussionists from the Boston Conservatory who
guest performed in the last piece of the program:

Joanna Chen, NianShee Yon, Mark Haygood,
Ryan Aguilar, and Weichen Lin

And everyone else who helped to make these concerts possible!

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MEET THE ARTISTS



Ayami Okamura holds a bachelor's degree from Kyoto City University of the Arts and a master's degree from the Boston Conservatory. She won the 2014 Boston Conservatory Concerto Competition and the marimba category of the 2015 Italy International Percussion Competition. Last year, she premiered "Conversation Piece" by Kurt Schwertsik with guitarist Eliot Fisk. She was invited by Gordon Stout to guest perform with Christina Cheon in his recital at Ithaca, NY. Ayami performs with violinist Izumi Hoshino as

MixUs, who performed at the 2015 Zeltsman Marimba Festival, and also performs with percussionist Dan deSimone as the Shiki Duo.



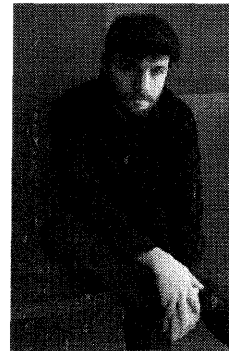
Tyler Tsunekawa teaches and performs percussion from Stockton, California. His active performance career has brought him to venues such as Carnegie Hall, the Yerba Buena Center in San Francisco, and the Mondavi Center in UC Davis. Tyler has premiered several solo and chamber works for marimba, and his most recent project involves commissioning four new marimba solos that will be premiered at California State University, Sacramento this coming September. He earned his bachelor's

degree at CSU Sacramento and is currently obtaining his master's degree in marimba performance with Nancy Zeltsman at the Boston Conservatory.



Christina Cheon has performed as a guest artist in numerous concert engagements in the US, including the 2015 Zeltsman Marimba Festival at New Brunswick, NJ, a trio recital at Ithaca, NY with marimbists Gordon Stout and Ayami Okamura, and a collaborative concert in 2016 with the Korean American Cultural Foundation in Boston, MA. She is the recipient of several awards, such as the 2014 Sigma Alpha Iota Instrumental Scholarship and the 2013 PASIC George Contreras

Scholarship. Christina received her bachelor's degree in 2010 at Chapman University and she recently completed her master's degree this year at the Boston Conservatory.



Daniel deSimone is an active performer, composer and percussionist based out of West Chester, Pennsylvania. Originally drawn to music as a drum set player, he has developed a connection with contemporary music and performance art through percussion. Dan holds a bachelor's degree from Temple University and a master's degree from the Boston Conservatory. In 2013, he made his compositional debut writing music for a dance duet for the Philly

Fringe Festival. In 2014, Dan began working with marimbist Ayami Okamura under the name Shiki Duo, who will tour Japan this August.