Mark Ford is a marimba artist and the Coordinator of Percussion at The University of North Texas. As a Past-President of the Percussive Arts Society and the coordinator of one of the largest percussion programs in the United States at UNT, Ford is an active performer and composer. Mark has been featured as a marimba soloist throughout the United States at universities, festivals and music conferences. He has performed internationally throughout Europe as well as in Japan, China, Taiwan, Australia and South America.

Sculpture 3 is a trio version of the composer’s original marimba quartet, Sculpture in Wood, which was dedicated to the Marimba Art Ensemble Basel. The composer comments that when writing this work it resembled to him the making of a wood sculpture where in his drafts, many parts were cut off, added again, shifted, and intertwined with one another. Not to mention, the semicircular formation of the marimbas quartet is a sculpture of wood in and of itself.

Rüdiger Pawassar has been a percussionist at the Staatsorchester Kassel since 1990. Pawassar studied percussion at the Musikhochschulen in Lübeck and Freiburg and also took lessons on piano and score reading. Through his work as a musician, Pawassar met composers Luigi Nono, Iannis Xenakis and Mauricio Kagel. Marimba became an instrument that Pawassar learned to cherish and in 1982 he attended a master class by world famous marimbist Leigh Howard Stevens.

Bonham is an ode to rock drummers, most particularly Led Zeppelin’s legendary drummer, the late John “Bonzo” Bonham. The core Ostinato of the score, played by the drum set, is reminiscent of Led Zeppelin’s When the Levee Breaks, although there are references to other Led Zeppelin songs as well, such as Custard Pie and Royal Orleans.

Christopher Rouse has won many awards for his compositions, including the Pulitzer Prize for his Trombone Concerto in 1993. Rouse has been described as “the Stephen King of composition,” since many of his works dealt with issues of death, horror, tragedy, and mythology. Rouse was the composer-in-residence for the New York Philharmonic from 2012 to 2015.

Iowa State University Percussion Ensemble Personnel

Collin Bell, Davenport
Emma Davis, Newell
Kyle Dawson, Des Moines
Ann Fehrle, Creston
Joshua Grant, Des Moines
Jake Hitz, Creston
Matthew Hoskins, Storm Lake
Joshua Johnson, Crystal Lake, IL
Samuel Johnson, Marshalltown
Brendan Juarez, Glenwood
Adam Kallal, St. Louis, MO
Brandon Mainock, Hoffman Estates, IL

Tuesday, November 28, 2017
7:30 pm
Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall
Program

(b. 1982)

Shared Space (2015)  Ivan Trevino  
(b. 1983)

Caméléon (1999)  Eric Sammut  
(b. 1968)

Bright Light-Dark Shadows (2016)  Caleb Pickering  
(b. 1990)

Coffee Break (2013)  Mark Ford/Ewelina Bernacka  
(b. 1958)/(b. 1983)

Sculpture 3 (1995)  Rüdiger Pawassar  
(b. 1964)

Bonham (1988)  Christopher Rouse  
(b. 1949)

Andrew Quintana, drumset soloist

Program Notes

Ritual Music uses the numbers two and four to bring order to the primeval timbres and violent counterpoint of the piece. The pitches in the marimba, the rhythmic motifs, and the structure of the phrases were all determined numerically. As such, a friction is created between the mechanical simplicity of the structural elements and the abandon with which the instruments shout, shriek, groan, and wail. The ritual is tightly controlled with respect to its numeric functions, yet it is also an incantation of things far more frantic and powerful.

David Skidmore is a dedicated advocate for the music of our time, having commissioned, premiered, and performed dozens of new works by many of the great composers of the 20th and 21st century. In 2005, David co-founded Third Coast Percussion, a percussion quartet that recently received a Grammy Award for Best Chamber Music/ Small Ensemble Performance, for their album Third Coast Percussion | Steve Reich.

Shared Space was commissioned by the McCallum High School Percussion Ensemble for their 2015 PASIC showcase concert. The piece is scored for seven percussionists who share a setup of one 5.0 octave marimba, one vibraphone, one glockenspiel, one cajon, and two concert toms. At times, up to five players perform on the same keyboard instrument, some standing on the opposite side of the instrument, creating a challenging and fun performing experience.

Ivan Trevino is a multi-award winning recipient of the Percussive Arts Society's International Composition contest and has composed over 30 works for percussion. He's a rock drummer at heart, and he brings that spirit into other avenues of his life, such as classical percussion and composing.

Caméléon is one of Eric Sammut's longer and more ambitious marimba works, containing many examples of advanced marimba techniques. While the piece highlights impressionistic elements, its harmonies are heavily jazz influenced similar to Sammut's other works for solo marimba. This piece is frequently found on the repertoire lists of solo marimba competitions worldwide. A recording of Caméléon can be heard on She-Wu's album “Snapshot” as well as on Sammut's album “Mirages.”

Eric Sammut is an established French percussionist and composer for solo marimba. He has held the position of principal percussionist with the Orchestre de Paris and has taught marimba at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Sammut's contributions to the solo marimba repertoire have become international staples, including: Caméléon, Four Rotations, Three Spirals, Ameline, Italian Song, and Libertango.

Bright Light-Dark Shadows is heavily influenced by the poem “We Must” by Charles Bukowski. While Bukowski's work tends to cover dark subject matter and uses a mix of pessimistic and realist viewpoints, the composer chooses to view this poem in particular in a more positive light.

We Must by Charles Bukowski  
we must bring our own light to the darkness.  
nobody is going to do it for us.  
as the young boys ski down the slopes  
as the fry cook gets his last paycheck  
as dog chases dog  
as the chessmaster loses more than the game  
we must bring our own light to the darkness.  
nobody is going to do it for us,  
as the lonely telephone anybody anywhere  
as the great beast trembles in nightmare  
as the final season leaps into focus  
nobody is going to do it for us.

Caleb Pickering is currently pursuing his Doctorate of Musical Arts degree at James Madison University, where he is a student of Percussionist and Composer Casey Cangelosi. As a percussionist and educator, Pickering has performed frequently in the DFW area and throughout Las Vegas. Pickering has been a performer for a variety of companies, including MGM Grand Entertainment, Hakkasan Nightclub, Chateau Rooftop Club, and Taste of the Nation.

“Music is everywhere and of course coffee has rhythm! After many visits to numerous coffee shops and improvising with cups, we decided to write a composition that brings fun, energy and theatre to the concert stage. Coffee Break is a novelty piece on caffeine!!”  - Mark Ford and Ewelina Bernacka Ford