



# DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

## SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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Saturday, November 12, 2016 • 3:00 P.M.

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# PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

*Michael Kozakis, director*

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DePaul Concert Hall  
800 West Belden Avenue • Chicago

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## PROGRAM

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Christopher Rouse (b.1949)

**Ku-Ka-Ilimoku**

Blake Tyson (b. 1969)

**Ceiling Full of Stars**

Steve Reich (b.1936)

**Clapping Music**

Glenn Kotche (b.1970)/Steve Reich

**Clapping Music Variations**

Jennifer Higdon (b. 1962)

**Splendid Wood**

Brett Dietz (b. 1972)

**Sharpened Stick**

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## PROGRAM NOTES

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Christopher Rouse (b. 1949)

### **Ku-Ka-Ilimoku**

*Duration: 6 minutes*

*Ku-Ka-Ilimoku* was completed in 1978 on commission from the Syracuse Symphony Percussion Ensemble. The composer has written:

*“In Hawaiian mythology, Ku is perhaps the most fundamental and important of gods, occupying a place similar to that of Zeus in Greek mythology or Odin in Norse legend. Ku is manifested in several forms: as Ku-Ka-Ilimoku he represents the god of war. Thus this work for percussion ensemble is best viewed as a savage, propulsive war dance.”*

Hawaiian chants are often based on as few as two pitches, and Hawaiian percussion emphasizes short, repetitive patterns. Underlying this surface simplicity is a wealth of subtle rhythmic inflection and variation. Rouse incorporates this diversity to great effect, creating a tightly knit, exhilarating work. Although indigenous instruments are not employed, the timbre of their voices is evoked. The dynamic power of the Western instruments adds an intense level of ferocity to the proceedings.”

*Notes by Christopher Rouse*

Blake Tyson (b. 1969)

### **Ceiling Full of Stars**

*Duration: 8 minutes*

When I was young, my dad and I found something incredible at the toy store. We took home a small planetarium made of yellow and black plastic and suddenly I could power an entire universe with just a couple of batteries. Moon landings were a recent memory and the space shuttle was just around the corner. Star Wars was in theaters and shows like *Battlestar Galactica* and *Space:1999* were on TV. It was impossible to avoid an obsession with outer space. Looking back, it is hard to believe that those shows were so short lived and that I probably saw Star Wars only once. With my planetarium creating a ceiling full of stars above me I was able

to live out my own adventures every night, flying my spaceships through the galaxy, exploring new worlds, and getting into some pretty serious battles with storm troopers and Cylon warriors.

*A Ceiling Full of Stars* is a journey through space as seen through the eyes of a child. There is a sense of wonder and amazement. There are struggles to break free of unseen forces and there are moments of weightlessness. A sense of speed simmers beneath a slowly moving surface, depicting the awe-inspiring infinity of space.

*Notes by Blake Tyson.*

Steve Reich (b.1936)

### **Clapping Music**

*Duration: 3 minutes*

*Clapping Music* was written by Steve Reich in 1972. This piece uses the minimalist technique of phasing where one player plays a constant motive and the other phases out of time and then returns. This effect is achieved in *Clapping Music* by presenting one rhythmic idea in the first bar which is 12 eighth notes in length. Half of the players continue to play this bar throughout the whole piece and then the other half move one eighth note away in each bar so that 12 bars later the piece is back to where it started. Each bar is repeated many times depending on the performer's choice.

Glenn Kotche (b.1970)/Steve Reich

### **Clapping Music Variations**

*Duration: 5 minutes*

*Clapping Music Variations* was written by Glenn Kotche, most notably known as the drummer of the Chicago rock band, Wilco, and a prominent composer. Glenn has always been fascinated by the music of Steve Reich and he often played *Clapping Music* as a warm up with each hand playing the two different parts. As he further experimented with the piece, he got the idea of arranging the piece to have pitches and variations instead of just drumming or clapping. *Clapping Music Variations* was first conceived and performed on one of Glenn's solo CD's and later was arranged for Percussion Ensemble.

We are presenting this piece today in honor of Steve Reich's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday and will be performing more of his works this school year in future Percussion Ensemble concerts.

*Notes by Michael Kozakis*

Jennifer Higdon (b. 1962)

**Splendid Wood**

*Duration: 10 minutes*

*Splendid Wood* is a joyous celebration of the sound of wood, one of nature's most basic materials, a part of all sorts of things in our world, but used most thrillingly and gloriously in instruments. Wood is the material that gives the marimba its unique sound, with a "round" sort of attack and a tone that blossoms out. This work reflects the evolving patterns inside a piece of wood, always shifting, and yet every part is related and contributes to the magnificence of the whole. This is a celebration of the splendor of the marimba. This work was commissioned in 2006 by Bradford and Dorothea Endicott, for Frank Epstein and the New England Conservatory Percussion Ensemble.

*Notes by Jennifer Higdon.*

Brett Dietz (b. 1972)

**The Sharpened Stick**

*Duration: 6 minutes*

*The Sharpened Stick* is a Native American war song and dance that is in the "fish-step" style. It is said that the popular 1920's dance craze, the "Charleston", was derived by this dance. At certain points of the composition, the performers shout "YO-HO" – in Native American music, this is sounded by the 'head singer' and signifies a change of direction in the music as well as a change in the direction of the dance.

*Notes by Brett Dietz.*

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**PERSONNEL**

**DEPAUL PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE**

*Michael Kozakis, director*

Paul Brumleve

Yulia Cherpanova

Thomas Farnsworth

Christian Hughes

Norbert Kosinski

Rebecca Laurito

Mark Linley

Christian Moreno

Miyu Morita

Sarah Christianson

George Tantchev

Leo Taylor

Sarah Weddle

Carley Yanuck

## BIOGRAPHY

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**Michael Kozakis** is an active percussionist and educator in the Chicago area. As a performer, Michael has played with many different groups including the Chicago Symphony, Lyric Opera Orchestra, Grant Park Symphony, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Chicago Chamber Musicians, Ars Viva, Chicago Philharmonic, Joffrey Ballet, Illinois Philharmonic, Elgin Symphony, Chicago Sinfonietta, and MusicNOW. He has played in the studio for many national TV/radio commercials and accompanied well-known personalities such as Sting, Il Divo, and Johnny Mathis. Michael held two one-year positions as a full-time percussionist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra from 2005-2007.

As an educator, Michael is a certified K-12 teacher in Illinois and enjoys teaching all levels of students from Junior High through College. Michael serves on the percussion faculty of DePaul University and Carthage College and is a private teacher/drumline coach at two NW suburban high schools near his home. Michael is often giving master classes and adjudicating at local high schools, youth orchestras, and Days of Percussion.

As a marimba concerto soloist, Michael has soloed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Rockford Symphony.

Michael received his Bachelor's Degree from the Eastman School of Music with a double major in Music Education and Performance and a Master's Degree in Performance from DePaul University.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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Saturday, November 12 • 8:00 P.M.  
Concert Hall  
**DePaul Wind Ensemble**

Sunday, November 13 • 3:00 P.M.  
Concert Hall  
**Ensemble 20+**

Sunday, November 13 • 8:00 P.M.  
Concert Hall  
**DePaul Guitar Ensemble Festival**

Monday, November 14 • 8:00 P.M.  
Concert Hall  
**Composers Forum**

Tuesday, November 15 • 8:00 P.M.  
DePaul Student Center • 2250 N. Sheffield Ave.  
**Jazz Ensembles**

Tuesday, November 15 • 8:00 P.M.  
Concert Hall  
**Wind Chamber Concert II**

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*As a courtesy to those around you, please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices. Flash photography is not permitted. Thank you.*

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