Joe Ponder, Percussion Junior Recital

In collaboration with Kyle Huddleston, marimba

SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 7, 2020
SAN MARCOS, TX

4PM | RECITAL HALL
MUSIC BUILDING
Program

Nine French-American Rudimental Solos, Vol. 2

I.

II.

Tambourin Paraphrase

Keiko Abe
(b. 1937)

Intermission

Nine French-American Rudimental Solos, Vol. 2

III. “Hazelnuts”

V.

Sequoia

Alex Stopa
(b. 1986)

Kyle Huddleston, marimba

This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Music degree.
NOTES

Nine French-American Rudimental Solos, Vol. 2 from Joseph Tompkins continues the journey of exploration that expands on the French-American view of the snare drum that was introduced in the first volume. These carefully crafted marches show the rhythmic complexities of groupings of triplets, quintuplets, sextuplets, and septuplets with added 16th and 32nd notes played in long, flowing phrases. Tompkins adds a bass drum ostinato underneath the syncopation of the music to help establish a solid basis of time. When it comes to the composer’s inspiration, he was enamored with the fundamental rhythms and ideas of the American Rudimental style, as well as the finesse and detail-oriented style of the French model. These solos are essentially a combination of those two styles. With all of this in mind, the player should have the physical dexterity to play these pieces as well as being solid in their time and have a smooth flow overall.

Tambourin Paraphrase by Keiko Abe is from a famous collection of pieces called Works for Solo Marimba that was written in the 80’s and 90’s. This piece in particular was composed in 1993 and was premiered in Osaka, Japan that same year. The inspiration behind this piece comes from the old French folk music that Keiko was accustomed to. She expanded upon this music when she transferred it to the marimba. The French influence can be heard through the playful melodies and phrasing, as well as the bassline in the left hand. Keiko adds sections of mixed-meter and some melodic dissonance to add drama and suspense to the piece. She also incorporates different stroke types such as pressing the mallet into the keyboard, hitting the shaft of the mallet on the edge of the bar, and clicking the mallets together. These, along with the dynamic contrast and frequent accents, help to represent the unique style that Keiko has established on the marimba.

Sequoia by Alex Stopa is a duet that was written and premiered in 2016 in Sydney, Australia. The inspiration behind this piece comes from a trip that Stopa had to Northern California to visit the redwood forests. He had a very spiritual and moving experience admiring the trees that were thousands of years old. The nobility and strength of those trees formed the basis of this work. This can be heard in the music, which explores the ambiguities of stable rhythm and harmony. Stopa contrasts major and minor chords within the melody while utilizing melodic consonance and dissonance. He also incorporates the use of polyrythms as well as metric modulation and mixed meter. The quote he uses that embodies this piece comes from the philosopher Aristotle, which states that “The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.” The two marimbas represent that, and they are meant to intertwine seamlessly in a symbiotic way that is unified.

Texas State University is a tobacco-free campus.