

ALABAMA WIND ENSEMBLE

Thursday, September 21, 2023
BAMA Theater
7:30 p.m

KEN OZZELLO, CONDUCTOR
GUEST ARTIST, EPOCH PERCUSSION QUARTET
GUEST COMPOSER, JULIE GIROUX

PROGRAM

Orbital (2021)

John Psathas
trans. Mike Lebias
(b. 1966)

Epoch Percussion Quartet
Andrew Lunge, Oni Lara, Cory Fica & Nigel Fernandez
Film by Annie Fletcher
Jordan Walsh, Sound Engineer

INTERMISSION

The Blue Marble (2022)

- I. The Blue Marble
- II. Voices in Green
- III. Let There Be Life

Julie Giroux
(b. 1961)

Music & Film by Julie Giroux in collaboration with Ion Concert Media

PROGRAM NOTES

New Zealand-Greek composer **John Psathas** (b. 1966) shot to worldwide attention when his music was heard by an audience of more than a billion during the Opening Ceremony of the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece. During the intervening years his music has been commissioned and performed by top musicians around the globe.

Psathas was a popular faculty member at the New Zealand School of Music, Victoria University Wellington for 25 years, before closing the door on that chapter in 2019 to devote all his time to composing and performing onstage. One element that stands out in Psathas' career is the sheer variety of his collaborations, from a Billboard classical chart-topping album with System of a Down front man Serj Tankian, to feature-film scores, to jazz in projects with luminaries Michael Brecker and Joshua Redman. He has collaborated with the Grand Mufti in Paris's Grand Mosque, and on an e-book project with Salman Rushdie. Few composers cross the boundaries of musical genres to the extent that Psathas does.

Percussion has always been a strong feature of Psathas' output, with a consistent schedule of new percussion commissions from many of the world's top players. The emergence of COVID-19 only broadened the scope of Psathas' work, with the 2020 release of long-distance collaborative albums *It's Already Tomorrow*, and *Last Days of March*.

Psathas wrote *Orbital* in 2021 as a commissioned work for the Westdeutscher Rundfunk Köln and the percussion ensemble Repercussion. Reviewer Daniel Janz said of the work, "These 20 minutes of pure ecstasy really have it all. Thundering samba rhythms, high tech at its finest, spherical mixed sounds, and even a recurring theme in the bass line. A thoroughly ingenious work of art that you have to see, hear, feel, and marvel at live."

-Program Notes by the composer

Julie Ann Giroux (1961) was born in Fairhaven, Massachusetts. She graduated from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge LA in 1984. She started playing piano at 3 years of age and began composing at the age of 8 and has been composing ever since. Her first published work for concert band, published by Southern Music Company was composed at the age of 13. Julie began composing commercially in 1984. She was hired by Oscar winning composer Bill Conti as an orchestrator, her first project with Conti being "North & South" the mini-series. With over 100 film, television and video game credits, Giroux collaborated with dozens of film composers, producers, and celebrities including Samuel Goldwyn, Martin Scorsese, Clint Eastwood, Madonna, Liza Minnelli, Celene Dion, Paula Abdul, Michael Jackson, Paul Newman, Harry Connick Jr. and many others. Projects she has worked on have been nominated for Oscars, Emmys, Grammys and Golden Globe awards. She has won individual Emmy Awards in the field of "Outstanding Individual Achievement in Music Direction". When She won her first Emmy Award, she was the first woman and the youngest person to ever win that award. She has won it three times.

Giroux has also published a large category of classical works with emphasis on original compositions for Wind Band which are published by Musica Propria and distributed internationally. She is greatly sought after as a composer and recently completing her 5th Symphony “Sun, Rain & Wind” which premiered in June, 2018. Her music has been recorded and reviewed internationally receiving top reviews and her music has been performed at major music festivals the world over. Giroux has been a true force in a male dominated field and has accrued many previously male only awards. She is a member of ASCAP, The Film Musicians Fund, Kappa Kappa PSI, Tau Beta Sigma and a member of the American Bandmasters Association. She is a recipient of the Distinguished Service to Music Medal Award, Emmy Awards and was the first female composer inducted into the American Bandmasters Association in 2009.

Symphony No. 6: The Blue Marble (2022). The Blue Marble is an image of Earth taken on December 7, 1972, from a distance of about 29,000 kilometers (18,000 miles) from the planet’s surface. It was taken by the crew of the Apollo 17 spacecraft on its way to the Moon, and is one of the most reproduced images in history.

The 1st movement titled “The Big Blue Marble” is a visual and audio introduction to Earth. The visuals span the globe including everything from religions to recreation and from sky to below ground. With the seemingly endless Covid 19 restrictions impacting nearly every aspect of our daily lives, The Blue Marble was composed to serve one purpose – to remind everyone just how beautiful and fragile life on Earth is.

I spent hours, simply listening to recordings of the Amazon Jungle by George Vlad, who is a professional sound engineer. The recordings he made were during the rainy season when humidity is at its highest and birds are most vocal. The recordings transport you into the heart of the jungle which feels incredibly – alive. The exotic calls of the birds and the echoes from other birds of the same species, the insects, the frogs and the rain; you can practically feel and smell the rain. It is very much like music, the music of nature, of Earth. The density of growth with every shade of green is the backdrop for this beautiful, strange opera. I knew I wanted to write music to it. I composed *Voices in Green* with the Amazon jungle sounds playing as a backdrop while I composed. It influences every note and phrase. In my mind and heart, I was there, adding my voice to theirs.

Violence, death, murder, birth, life, and the mysteries that are common running through them all make for the center of many of the greatest stories ever told. I wanted to capture the same commonality, only with music in the finale. There is a recurring theme throughout the finale which we experience in the many forms: dark, low to high, major, minor, in every dynamic and instrument section. It travels through the music, transporting us from one musical setting to the next ending in majestic style.

The miracle of Earth is life. Life is fragile, silken thread that holds the entire world together. As with the famous Blue Marble photograph, I hope this symphony reminds people just how fragile and beautiful Earth is. I hope it fills our hearts with renewed love for our planet, for our one and only home: Earth.

-Program notes by the composer

Our Soloists

Four percussionists with a passion for performing challenging new percussion works, the Epoch Percussion Quartet came together at The University of Texas at Austin in 2016. Members Dr. Andrew Lyngé (The University of Alabama), Nigel Fernandez (New York, NY), Dr. Oni Lara (The United States Army Band “Pershing’s Own”), and Cory Fica (Miami, FL) were students when they created the quartet to perform Dinuk Wijeratne’s *Invisible Cities* with Jerry Junkin and The University of Texas at Austin Wind Ensemble. Epoch has appeared throughout the US in residencies and has appeared as soloists at the American Bandmasters Association, the World Youth Wind Symphony at the Interlochen Arts Camp, and the Dallas Winds, in addition to universities.

For booking information and inquiries, please contact Dr. Andrew Lyngé via email at amlyngé@ua.edu. The Epoch Percussion Quartet offers multiple residency activities that can be combined with any performance engagement that includes, but is not limited to, master classes, lectures, and open rehearsals.

PERSONNEL

Piccolo/Flute

Sara Reeves
Cullman, AL
B.S. Music Education

Flute

Greg Lucero, Co-Principal
Huntsville, AL
M. M. Music Performance

Tyree Wilson, Co-Principal
Hamilton, AL
B.M. Music Performance

Laura Tillman
Harvest, AL
B.M. Music Performance

Anna Chong
B. S. Biology
San Diego, CA

Oboe

Michael Tijerina, Principal
San Antonio, TX
M.M. Music Performance

Brett Stafford
Muscle Shoals, AL
B.M. Music Performance

Eli Sivel
Birmingham, AL
B.S. Music Education

English Horn

Brett Stafford
Muscle Shoals, AL
B.M. Music Performance

E-Flat Clarinet

Megan Amrine
Hoover, AL
B.S. Music Education

B-Flat Clarinet

Jorge Diez, Principal
Medellin, Columbia
M.M. Music Performance

Hayden Purser
Madison, AL
B.S. Music Education

Will Wenger
Mechanicsville, VA
B.S. Music Education

Yash Trivedi
Surgoinville, TN
B.M. Music Performance

Olivia Van Fleet
Naperville, IL
B.S. Musical Audio Engineering

Eliana Leonard
Helena, AL
B.S. Music Education

Bass Clarinet

Chandler Myhan
Muscle Shoals, AL
B.M. Music Performance & B.S. Music Ed.

Contra Clarinet

Paul Troxler
Orange City, FL
B.S. Music Education

Bassoon

Clara Cagle
Hoover, AL
B.M. Music Therapy

Nelson Menjivar
D.M.A Music Performance
San Salvador, El Salvador

Katelyn Thomas
Kimberly, AL
B.M. Music Performance

PERSONNEL

Contra Bassoon

Clara Cagle
Hoover, AL
B.M. Music Therapy

Katelyn Thomas
Kimberly, AL
B.M. Music Performance

Alto Saxophone

Jackson Smith, Principal
Langston, AL
B.S. Music Education

Yukino Schichinohe
Cullman, AL
B.M. Music Performance

Sarah Blakney
Northport, AL
B.M. Music Performance

Jason Wimsett
Huntsville, AL
B.S. Music Education

Tenor Saxophone

Kody Mincey, Principal
B.S. Music Education
Buena Vista, GA

Logan Bentley
Placentia, CA
B.S. Music Audio Engineering

Baritone Saxophone

Jackson Smythe
Murfreesboro, TN
B.M. Jazz Studies

Trumpet

Nathan Shadix, Principal
Mobile, AL
D.M.A. Music Performance

Nathan Sanderson
Hamilton, AL
B.S. Music Education

Travis Quesenberry
Moody, AL
B.S. Music Education

Will Pettry
Guntersville, AL
B.S. Music Education

Conner Hughes
Hartselle, AL
B.S. Music Education

Horn

Matt Meadows, Principal
Jasper, AL
D.M.A. Music Performance

Emily Jones
Dudley, MO
D.M.A. Music Performance

Tyler Winningham
Kimberly, AL
B.S. Music Education

Inman Herbert
Prattville, AL
B. M. Music Performance

Ryan Ortakales, Asst. Principal
Huntsville, AL
B.M. Music Performance

Trombone

Isaiah Vasquez, Principal
Harvest, AL
B.S. Music Education

James Diffey
Birmingham, AL
B.M. Music Performance?

Jackson Parker
Leitchfield, KY
M.M. Music Performance

PERSONNEL

Bass Trombone

Walker White
Madison, AL
B.M. Music Composition

Euphonium

Jon Buchholz, Principal
Lawrenceville, GA
D.M.A. Music Performance

Aaron Easdon
Trussville, AL
M. M. Music Performance

Chris Wilson
Helena, AL
B.S. Music Education

Tuba

Andrew Gambrell, Principal
Blythewood, SC
M.M. Music Performance

Hampton Neugent
Helena, AL
B.S. Music Education

Issac Crawford
Trussville, AL
B.S. Music Education

String Bass

Lauren Erwin, Principal
Birmingham, AL
B.M. Music Performance

Bailey Lynn
Tuscaloosa, AL
B.A. Creative Media

Percussion

Michael Rivera Gonzalez, Principal
Crossville, AL
M.M. Music Performance

Charlotte Daughtery
Mansfield, OH
D.M.A. Music Performance

Aaron Hyatt
Acworth, GA
M. M. Music Performance

Scarlett Maples
Tuscaloosa, AL
B.S. Music Education

Wyatt Pettry
Guntersville, AL
B.S. Music Education

Todd Quinn
Guntersville, AL
B.S. Music Education

Dawson Welch
Forney, TX
B.M. Music Performance

Aidan Wilson
Greenville, SC
B.S. Music Education

Christopher Lawhorne
D.M.A. Wind Conducting
Woodstock, GA

Piano

Luke Turner
Mountain Brook, AL
B. S. Management Information Systems
and B.M. Music Performance

Piano

Sarah Crocker
Nashville, TN

Media Technology

Chris Lawhorne
Woodstock, GA
D.M.A. Wind Conducting

Sam Sager
Birmingham, AL
D.M.A. Wind Conducting
B. M. Music Performance

UPCOMING EVENTS

United States Army Band Brass Quintet

Sunday, September 24
5:30 p.m., Concert Hall

Huxford Symphony Orchestra

Tuesday, September 26
7:30 p.m., Concert Hall

Symphonic Band

Wednesday, October 4
7:30 p.m., Concert Hall,

Guest Artist Recital: José Ottonello

Thursday, October 5
7:00 p.m., Concert Hall

Don Giovanni

Thursday, October 5
7:30 p.m., Bryant Jordan Hall

Don Giovanni

Sunday, October 8
3:00 p.m., Bryant Jordan Hall

Guest Artist Recital: Gerald Welker and John Mcguire

Thursday, October 12
7:30 p.m., Concert Halln

Trombone Choir

Thursday, October 19
7:30 p.m., Concert Hall

Jazz Ensemble

Tuesday, October 24
7:30 p.m., Concert Hall

Tuba Ensemble

Wednesday, October 25
7:30 p.m., Concert Hall

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