

CU ★ PRESENTS

2022-23 Season



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Faculty Tuesdays

Snow in June: Music for Cello and Percussion Ensemble

Meta Weiss, cello

Michael Tetreault, Sean Case, Justin Douté, and Andrew Ferdig, percussion

7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023

Grusin Music Hall

Program

a leaf falls

Erik Griswold (b. 1969)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Meta Weiss, cello

Mike Tetreault, Sean Case, Justin Douté, and Andrew Ferdig, percussion

The Bird That's Flown Into My Room

Ivan Trevino (b. 1983)

Meta Weiss, cello

Mike Tetreault, Sean Case, Justin Douté, and Andrew Ferdig, percussion

—Pause—

Elegy: Snow in June

Tan Dun (b. 1957)

Meta Weiss, cello

Mike Tetreault, Sean Case, Justin Douté, and Andrew Ferdig, percussion

Program notes

a leaf falls

Erik Griswold (b. 1969)

The title *a leaf falls* is taken from the e.e. cummings poem with the first line “I(a.” I once set that poem to music in a piece for men’s choir. It reads “I (a leaf falls) oneliness.” Though I’ve never really lived in a place with an autumn, I nevertheless feel a sense of nostalgia for the coming of autumn, the leaves turning bright oranges and reds, and is it a sense of emptiness when the leaves fall? Eugene Carchesio captured something like this sense beautifully in his “Dead leaves of Tokyo” series. I enjoy raking the leaves in my backyard, it’s a kind of meditation. And who doesn’t love jumping into a pile of leaves?

—*Program note by Erik Griswold*

The Bird That’s Flown Into My Room

Ivan Trevino (b. 1983)

The Bird That’s Flown Into My Room (2016) is scored for cello soloist and percussion quartet. The piece was written for Meta Weiss, an internationally renowned cellist and educator. The piece is based on a poem I wrote during the composition process:

The bird that’s flown into my room
sits still, quiet and scared.
She stares at my window
and I stare at her,
scared, quiet and still.

The bird that’s flown into my room
flies onto my shoulder.

I am still scared,
and smiling for some reason.
I quietly stare at my window
and she quietly stares at me, smiling,

and for some reason,
still.

The bird that's flown into my room
sits still on my shoulder, staring at the window.

I reach for her, but she is still scared.
She quietly flies away, closing the window behind her.

She turns around and stares at me,
quiet, smiling and still,
and I quietly stare at her,
still smiling.

—Program note by Ivan Trevino, 2016

Elegy: Snow in June

Tan Dun (b. 1957)

The image of *Snow in June* comes from the 13th-century Chinese drama by Kuan Han-Ching; in it a young woman, Dou Eh, is executed for crimes she did not commit. Even nature cries out for her innocence: her blood does not fall to earth, but flies upward; a heavy snow falls in June; and a drought descends for three years. Tan Dun's *Elegy: Snow in June* likewise sings of pity and purity, beauty and darkness, and is a lament for victims everywhere.

The work is a set of free variations. Beginning with fragmentary phrases, the piece builds to a complete thematic statement in the middle, then disperses again. The voice of the cello both opposes and joins four groups of percussion; here, the cello confronts the sounds of tearing paper, the roughness of stones and cans.

The cello and percussion writing in *Elegy* is at once complex and very idiomatic of Tan Dun's work. For his unique approach to instrumental writing focuses on the sound textures and fiddling techniques found in Chinese ritual music and folk opera, familiar to Tan Dun from his own experiences growing up in China.

—Program note by Tan Dun

Personnel

Text that is bold and underlined is a hyperlink and can be clicked or tapped for more information.

Meta Weiss, cello

Michael Tetreault, percussion

Justin Douté, percussion

A native of Denver, Colorado, Justin Douté attended the Denver School of the Arts High School for music, earning an arts-endorsed diploma, as well as the Manhattan School of Music. While an undergraduate, he overcame three leukemia diagnoses and later completed his bachelor's degree in music performance at the University of North Florida. He then went on to achieve a master's degree in Music from Shepherd School of Music at Rice University, and recently completed an Artist Diploma from University of Denver.

His awards include winning the Aspen School of Music Solo Percussion Competition, semi-finalist for Young Concert Artist Guild in NYC, winner of the Manhattan School of Music's Concerto Competition, Gold Medal and Grand Prize at Young Texas Artist Music Competition 2018, winner of Emerging Young Artist Award for Chamber Orchestra of the Springs 2020 and winner of Timpani Solo Category of PASIC 2021. In 2018, Douté attained the Charlie Owen Fellowship at The Aspen School of Music and Festival. He was also the Winner of Shepherd School of Music Concerto Competition, second-place winner of Blackswamp Percussion Solo Percussion Competition, winner of the Denver Concert Bands Concerto Competition, finalist in the PRISMA concerto competition, finalist in Denver Young Artists Orchestra Concerto Competition and has published through Bachovich Music Publications and Tapspace Publications. Recently, he was featured on CPR during the pandemic.

Douté plays as a section member of Boise Philharmonic Orchestra and often performs with Colorado Symphony, Boulder Philharmonic, Colorado Springs Philharmonic, and has a piano/percussion duo called JUKINO.duo. They have commissioned and performed for nine years together. Douté is a Salyers Percussion Endorsee.

Andrew Ferdig, percussion

A native to Denver, Andrew Ferdig holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Denver and a Master of Music degree from Duquesne University. His primary teachers include Ed Stephan, Christopher Allen, John Soroka and John Kinzie. Ferdig performs regularly with the Colorado Symphony and Louisiana Philharmonic orchestras under acclaimed batons such as Andrew Litton, Brett Mitchel and Carlos Miguel Prieto. As a member of the IRIS Orchestra based in Memphis, Ferdig has been rewarded with many incredible performance opportunities such as a recent concert featuring Bernstein's Serenade for Violin and Orchestra with the fabulous Midori Goto, conducted by Michael Stern. Ferdig is principal percussionist of the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra in Pennsylvania. He was a festival fellow and soloist in the National Repertory Orchestra and has attended the Aspen Music Festival and School and the Colorado College Summer Music Festival. Ferdig has performed in masterclasses with applauded artists such as Cynthia Yeh, Jake Nissly, Chris Deviney, Ted Atkatz, Svet Stoyanov, Gwendolyn Dease, Casey Cangelosi and Gordon Stout, among others.

CU ★ PRESENTS



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