

Classical Marimba League Composition Contest Winners Concert

Steven Mackey

See Ya Thursday
ADAM RAPPEL, MARIMBA

Ross Edwards

Marimba Dances
III.
BRITTANY PIATZ, MARIMBA

Robert Schumann
arr. Stevens

Remembrance
ERIC NESETH, MARIMBA

Leander Kaiser

Minotaurus 4.3
Winner, CML Classical category
SCOTTY HOREY, MARIMBA

Jens Schliecker/Nils Rohwer

ConcorDance
Honorable Mention, CML 21st Century category
ADAM RAPPEL, MARIMBA
LEAH SILTBERG, PIANO

Kit Mills

Three European Folksongs
Winner, CML Romantic category
I. French
II. English
III. Spanish
JENNIFER KLUKKEN, BRITTANY PIATZ,
AND ETHAN SHERVEY, MARIMBAS

Special Event

Wed, Apr 1, 2009, 7:30 pm
Lloyd Ultan Recital Hall

PROGRAM NOTES

The Classical Marimba League (CML) accomplishes its mission through the promotion of new classical music composed by the most creative emerging talents in the arts today.

As the majority of the marimba's standard repertoire has been composed in the past 70 years, there is a wide stylistic gap in the music literature for the instrument. In comparison to the piano or violin, each having developed repertoire going as far back as the 1600s, the marimba has been at a significant disadvantage in the classical concert arena due to the void of comparable music from the earlier time periods.

The CML holds an annual Composition Competition to inspire new works composed for the marimba. This endeavor has as its primary purpose to stimulate a rebirth of these styles of music for the instrument, aimed at augmenting a repertoire suited for the classical concert stage and music competition.

The CML also holds the Marimba Artist Competition for marimba performers to showcase their talents.

Tonight's concert showcases the winners of the categories Classical and Romantic, as well as the Honorable Mention in the competition in the 21st Century category.

Leander Kaiser

Leander Kaiser was born in 1961 in Stuttgart, Germany. He studied with several well known Professors of Percussion. From 1986 to 1988 he taught percussion at the University of Cologne and has taught at the Musikschule Starnberg from 1988 until the present. He began composing for percussion in 1990 and has since published over 30 compositions.

His awards for composition are numerous: in 1997 he won the first prize of the 24th Composition Contest of the Percussive Arts Society-USA with his work *Black Sphinx* for Marimba Solo. In 2003 he won the Special Prize for a pedagogical composition at the first Wolkersdorf composition contest with his composition *Die Sitzgruppe*, for Percussion Quartet. He won the third Prize of the Giornate della Percussione 2006 in Fermo, Italy with his work *Kick-Box 261* for Marimba solo. His work *Minotaurus 4.3* for Marimba Solo won the first prize of the 2008 Classical Marimba League International Composition Competition. His work *Desert Express* commissioned by Brian West and the Percussion Ensemble of the Texas A&M University-Commerce was premiered at PASIC 2000 in Dallas, TX and had its European Premiere at Tübingen in November 2001.

He is also well known as a performer. In July 1999 he won the first prize in the International Challenge for Creative Percussionist category at Percfest in Laigueglia, Italy. For this contest he exclusively played his own works. In fall 1999 he played at PAS Euro Meeting '99 in Tübingen/Germany. He and his ensemble INDEX4 played at two World Drum Festivals, 1999/2000 in Hamburg, Germany. In 2001 he gave a Percussion Clinic at PAS Euro Meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria.

His mallet-series "Leander Kaiser" is manufactured and distributed by Ernst Hosner. Since 2003 he is an endorser of ADAMS Musical Instruments in Thorn, The Netherlands.

—From the composers' website

Kit Mills

Composer and percussionist Kit Mills received a Bachelor of Music in Composition from Wheaton College (IL), where he studied composition with Drs. Howard Whitaker and Daniel Sommerville and orchestral percussion with Dr. Kathleen Kastner. In recent years, he has also studied drum set technique with jazz drummer Fred Taylor and fusion drummer Garey Williams. Mills maintains a teaching studio (percussion, composition) on Whidbey Island, Washington and also teaches and presents clinics throughout the northern Puget Sound area.

Mills continues to dabble in composing and arranging, as time permits. He has composed works in a number of genres for a wide variety of instruments and voices. Some of his recent compositional efforts include his first orchestral work (*In Dulci Jubilo*, premiered in December 2007); jazz and funk tunes for a small combo; contemporary choruses for Church use; a Pastoral string quintet; two short *Nocturnas* for violin, two violas, and cello; a variety of chamber compositions for middle-school band students; and material for a forthcoming book on Drum Set technique.

Jens Schliecker and Nils Rohwer

For 16 years, Jens Schliecker (piano) and Nils Rohwer (vibraphone) and marimba, have been working together very successfully, at home as well as abroad. *Piano meets Vibes* is a name and program in one. An unusual combination of two instruments on the one hand is equaled by the broad and open horizon of the duo on the other. Years of working in different band projects and with different styles of music have given the musicians an unmistakable maturity.

Their music today is thus characterized by a large repertoire and powerful compositions stemming from their own pen. Elements from jazz, Latin-American, folk, classical, and modern music are combined in the compositions of this duo. Melodies and themes form the foundation on which highly polished harmony and exciting rhythms vary.

A remarkable style has clearly emerged from their inspired creativity and very fine feeling for atmospheres. Juggling between the worlds of music, they appeal to a large audience between classics and jazz with their impressive and visual compositions.

—From the composers' website