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XAVIER UNIVERSITY PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE TO HOST DIVERGENT GUEST
ARTISTS IN AVANT-GARDE MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM

Music, Video, Dance, Performance Art, and real time Computer Animation combine
in Concert with Cutting Edge New Works and "Traditional" Staples of Classic
Percussion Repertoire

April 30, 2011- Guests artists Brad Meyer and members of MamLuft&Co. Dance will perform with the Xavier University Percussion Ensemble at 8:30 PM on Saturday, April 30, 2011, center stage at Xavier University's Gallagher Theater. Admission is free and open to the public.

With over 150 instruments on stage, ranging from flower pots, a typewriter, and aluminum cans to grand piano, multiple drum sets, and a five octave marimba, the fifteen member group, led by artistic director, Brady Harrison, will perform a wide cross section of percussion literature of the 20th and 21st centuries with special emphasis on involving other artistic disciplines.

The program will open with New York composer Christopher Rouse's "Ogoun Badagris" accompanied by a riveting video created especially for the piece by intermedia artist John Pobjewski of the Chicago based design firm, Thirst. Coordinated through a computer controlled click track that is split among all the performers, Pobjewski's video echoes in perfect synchronicity the deeply colorful and brutally powerful score inspired by Haitian Voodoo ritual.

This will be followed by three early percussion ensemble milestones: "Ostinato Pianissimo" by Henry Cowell, "Toccatà" by Carlos Chavez, and Lou Harrison's "In Praise of Johnny Appleseed". "In Praise of Johnny Appleseed" features a small battery of instruments specifically constructed for the piece, including tuned metal pipes, large resonant boxes, and even mounted clock coil springs. In keeping with the work's original indication as a ballet for percussion ensemble, joining the group will be dancers from the Cincinnati-based MamLuft&Co. Dance led by choreographer Susan Honer.

The most daring piece of the evening is "Straitjacket" by Mark Applebaum. This groundbreaking new work for percussion quartet and soloist features Brad Meyer, an up and coming Lexington-based percussionist. This truly avant-garde four movement work pushes artistic boundaries. Case in point, in one movement of the work, the soloist supplies only a series of silent physical gestures, for which the quartet, each of whom is armed with an arsenal of sounds, provides the sonic backdrop, as a band of cinematic foley artists. In the final movement, all members of the group draw on large pads of paper in rhythm, with the sound amplified through the use of contact microphones.

Rounding out the evening will be a performance of Stacey Bowers's open scored minimalist composition, "Pattern Study No. 2," realized by fourteen musicians on a multitude of keyboard percussion instruments. Bowers's score is accompanied by a live digital visualizer projection that reacts in real time to the sounds that each performer produces live. The result is a beautiful and stunningly sensitive collaboration between man and machine.

The Xavier University Percussion Ensemble is a student instrumental group dedicated to performing works from a diversity of styles and composers. Admission is free and open to the public.

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For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact Brady Harrison at 513 745-3842, or harrisonw@xavier.edu.