



UNIVERSITY *of*
ROCHESTER

presents

The
University of Rochester

Percussion Ensemble

Thursday, April 30, 2015
8:00 PM
Strong Auditorium

**University of Rochester
Percussion Ensemble**

Matthew Witten, Conductor

Nadine Javier

Will Keefer

Harshita Narang

Katherine Ormsbee

Yiran Shan

Michelle Trojan

Shuaida (David) Zeng



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Raptures of Undream

(1998)

Bruce Hamilton (b. 1966)

Gradient 2.0

(2012)

Baljinder Singh Sekhon II

Guest Soloist - Mark Kraszewski, alto-saxophone

Volume Pig

(1992)

Gareth Farr (b. 1968)

Fratres

(1977)

Arvo Part (b. 1935)

arr. Vambola Krigul

For your comfort and safety, please locate the exit nearest your seat. There are two exits at the front and rear of the auditorium, and two exits at the rear of the balcony. Please be aware that eating, drinking, smoking, and the use of recording devices are all prohibited in Strong Auditorium. Please turn off all pagers and portable phones.

Thank you and enjoy the concert!

Acknowledgements

**John Covach, Chair of the College Music Department
Music Interest Floor, for ushering this concert
Music Department Stage Crew**

Matthew Witten, director, UR Percussion Ensemble

Dr. Matthew Witten is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music, where he received his DMA (2014), BM (2000) degrees, and the coveted Performer's Certificate. In May 2001, Matt received an MM (2001) degree from Rowan University (NJ), where he studied with Philadelphia Orchestra timpanist, Don Liuzzi. His teachers also include, Michael Burritt, John Beck, William Cahn, Gordon Stout and Dean Witten.

Matt is on the faculty at Monroe Community College and is in his seventh year as the director of the University of Rochester's Percussion Ensemble and in the spring of 2015 he will also join the faculty of Alfred University. Matt has performed on Broadway for shows like *Little Women*, *La Boheme* (Baz Lurhmann version), *The Light in the Piazza*, *Phantom of the Opera* and *Beauty and the Beast*. Notably, Matt completed a year tour of the US with the first national company of *Little Women - The Musical*, has worked with Ben Varen, Rosie Odonnell and Randy Newman, and performed at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention and with the Erie Philharmonic. Locally Matt has also performed with NAZ Theatre, The JCC Theatre, Geva Theatre and the Garth Fagan Dance Company.

In March 2002, Matt performed Joseph Schwantner's Concerto for Percussion with the Rowan University Wind Ensemble at the Queens College (NYC) PAS Day of Percussion. He has been the first place winner of multiple competitions including the MTNA, The Crane School of Music New Music Competition, The Midland-Odesa Symphony Concerto Competition, the Yamaha Young Performing Artist Competition, and the Aspen Music Festival Percussion Soloist Competition.

As a proponent of contemporary music, Matt is a member of the JAM percussion duo and Fracas, a new music quartet consisting of percussion, guitar, saxophone and piano and has taken part in numerous commissions for solo and chamber music. In 2015 Matt will premiere Adam Silverman's Marimba Concerto Carbon Paper and Nitrogen Ink with the Rowan University Wind Ensemble.

Mark Kraszewski, guest soloist (alto saxophone)

Mark Kraszewski received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Saxophone Performance and Literature with a minor in Jazz Studies from the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester. He also received his Master's degree and Bachelor's with High Distinction from the Eastman School. Prior to his appointment at the University of Rochester he taught saxophone at Cornell University, as well as saxophone and clarinet at the Eastman Community Music School and the Hochstein School of Music.

Dr. Kraszewski has given lecture recitals at various conferences including the North American Saxophone Alliance biennial national conference and the International Saxophone Symposium on topics ranging from John Coltrane's modal period to rhythm and blues saxophone style. He has also given performances and master classes at many schools, colleges and universities.

Dr. Kraszewski won first place in a Concerto Competition at the Eastman School of Music in 2007, performing as soloist with Eastman Philharmonia. Active as a chamber musician, he is a member of the Vertex Saxophone Quartet. He performed with the Eastman Wind Ensemble during its 2004 Asia Tour, traveling to Japan, Taiwan and Macau, and appears on the ensemble's recording *Danzante* on Summit Records.