# Boyer College of Music and Dance

# Temple University Percussion Ensemble

Phillip O'Banion, director Cameron Schreiber, assistant conductor

> Monday, November 3, 2025 at 7:30 PM Temple Performing Arts Center 1837 North Broad Street Philadelphia, PA 19122

### Program

Ionisation Edgard Varese

Second Construction John Cage

Death Wish Gemma Peacocke

VV Juri Seo

Intermission

"Groundswell" from Bathymetry Matt McBane

Shell Emma O'Halloran

The First Circle Pat Metheny arr. McDonald, Kingan, Rivera

Mason McDonald and Tzu-Fan Huang, vibraphone Carynn O'Banion, vocals

# Temple University Percussion Ensemble Phillip O'Banion, director

Christian Borges Tristan Bouyer Joseph Fiore Tzu-Fan Huang John Laun Jaewon Lee Rei Lim Livi Keenan Ethan Marshall Mason McDonald Shawn Pierce Cameron Schreiber Jose Soto Jacob Treat Lorenzo Williams Sam Wylie

#### About the Director

**PHILLIP O'BANION** is Professor of Instrumental Studies and Artistic Director of Percussion Studies at Temple University. He directs the Temple University Percussion Ensembles. O'Banion performs with the Philadelphia Orchestra and other symphonic orchestras, new music groups, and theater productions regularly. He is a percussionist with Orchestra 2001 and Network for New Music. O'Banion has appeared in programs presented by the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society and as guest with the Philadelphia Orchestra Percussion Group (POPG).

Involved in the commission or premiere of over sixty-five new works in the solo and chamber music genres to date, O'Banion remains committed to expanding the musical repertoire for percussionists. He has appeared internationally in Europe, Canada, South America, and across the United States. As a soloist he has performed and/or recorded notable percussion concerti by Joseph Schwantner, Jennifer Higdon, Michael Daugherty, Adam Silverman, Daniel Spalding, and others.

Mr. O'Banion can be heard on multiple recordings with the Philadelphia Orchestra on the Deutsche Grammophon label, including the 2022 GRAMMY-winning "Florence Price: Symphonie Nos. 1 & 3," as well as albums on the Bridge, Gasparo, Zomba, Naxos, and BCM+D record labels. His solo album for percussion and electronics, *Digital Divide*, and his recording of Adam Silverman's marimba concerto Carbon Paper and Nitrogen Ink received critical acclaim from peers.

As conductor of the Philadelphia Percussion + Piano Project, O'Banion leads exciting chamber music projects from the 20th and 21st centuries, collaborating with talented colleagues from the greater Philadelphia area. The group's recent releases include Radiant Outbursts: (In)Human Progress in 2020 and No Strings Attached: Percussion Music by Marc Mellits in 2021. Both discs feature world premiere recordings by living composers, as well as celebrated 20th century classics such as Leonard Bernstein's Halil and George Antheil's Ballet Mècanique.

Professor O'Banion has been involved with the Percussive Arts Society international conference for many years, as chair of the symphonic committee, contributor to the new music and literature review column for its publication *Percussive Notes*. He is currently a member of the percussion ensemble committee. O'Banion has appeared at numerous PAS conventions, regional 'Days of Percussion', and international music festivals. He proudly endorses musical instruments and percussion products made by Pearl/Adams, Sabian, Evans, Vic Firth, and Grover Pro Percussion.

#### About the Ensemble

The **TEMPLE UNIVERSITY PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE** aims to inspire and enrich both its audience and members through quality chamber music experiences. The group's performances feature both 'established' and modern literature for percussion in a variety of styles, while simultaneously encouraging the composition of brand-new works for the medium. Ensemble members hail from all music degree tracks in the college: performance (classical and jazz), education and jazz education, theory, technology, and therapy. The ensemble is under the direction of Phillip O'Banion, Professor and Artistic Director of Percussion Studies.

The ensemble has been featured on the Philadelphia Orchestra's chamber music series at the Kimmel Center performing Steve Reich's *Drumming* among other works. They gave the Philadelphia premiere of Reich's *Music for 18 Musicians*, with a live video recording from the Temple Performing Arts Center that has amassed over a million digital views. In November of 2023, the group won first place in the Percussive Arts Society's collegiate chamber music competition at PASIC in Indianapolis.

Temple's Percussion Ensemble has worked with composers and artists such as Jennifer Higdon, Emma O'Halloran, John Mackey, Augusta Read Thomas, Michael Daugherty, Russell Hartenberger, Michael Colgrass, Bob Becker, Adam Silverman, Gordon Stout, Stanley Leonard, Michael Burritt, Ivan Trevino, Daniel Levitan, and the NEXUS and MOBIUS Percussion Quartets.

The group has been involved in the commission and premiere of a number of new works for the genre, including Alejandro Vinao's sextet *Water*, Marc Mellits *Gravity*, Adam Silverman's *Sparklefrog*, a new choreography of *Mass* by John Mackey, *Volcanic Eruption* by Rolando Morales-Matos, Russell Hartenberger's *Cadence*, *Four Faces* by Gordon Stout, *Stargazer* by Tony Miceli, *La Been Been* by Alonzo Davis, Maurice Wright's *Sextet*, and Emma O'Halloran's *Little Magics*.

Frequent collaborations also inform the group's work, most recently a world premiere with Philadelphia's premier contemporary dance company Ballet X, featuring the music of Steve Reich. With their colleagues in the Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts at Temple collaborations have included choreographed performances of Stravinsky, Mackey, and Rouse, various sculpted and video art installations, and readings and premieres of new works by a diverse group of student and alumni composers.

Members of the ensemble were featured in a recording of George Antheil's iconoclastic *Ballet Mècanique* and Bernstein's *Halil* as part of another one of Prof. O'Banion's creative ventures, the Philadelphia Piano + Percussion Project. Ensemble members and percussion faculty also championed and recorded the work of American composer Marc Mellits on an album titled 'No Strings Attached.'

Alumni of Temple's percussion ensemble work professionally as world-class performers, university professors, teaching artists, therapists, administrators, executives, and creative thinkers within the arts economy locally, nationally, and globally.

## About the Percussion Program

The Boyer College of Music and Dance is part of the Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania - home to a thriving arts community located near the city's celebrated cultural institutions. The Boyer College offers BM (performance|education|therapy|jazz), MM, diploma, and the terminal DMA degrees in percussion.

Temple's percussion program provides students performing opportunities in symphony orchestra, percussion ensemble, wind symphony, concert bands, mixed new music chamber ensembles, marching band, big bands, jazz combos, and Latin music ensembles. Students are immersed in an academic environment that is challenging but rewarding. A diverse, flexible curriculum compliments private instruction and coaching by world-class faculty who are highly active performing artists and seasoned professionals.

Individually, the percussion faculty maintain notable international reputations. Temple's percussion program is under the direction of Professor Phillip O'Banion. Adjunct faculty include Christopher Deviney, James Wyman, Charlie Rosmarin, William Wozniak, Rolando Morales-Matos, Justin Faulkner, Tony Miceli, Steve Fidyk, and Dan Monaghan. The graduate program in orchestral percussion, coordinated by Prof. Deviney (Principal Percussionist of the Philadelphia Orchestra) was initially established by PAS Hall of Famer Alan Abel. This track of study has a particularly distinguished history with over 75 graduates performing full-time in symphony orchestras across the globe, and training the next generation of orchestral percussionists.

Alumni of Temple's percussion program hold professional playing appointments and teaching positions, and are active performers and scholars in their own right. Recent graduates have secured positions with symphony orchestras, 4-year universities, conservatories, service bands, clinical positions (music therapy), at elementary and secondary schools, toured with notable jazz groups, served as community teaching artists, or continued graduate study at respected peer institutions. They've been winners of the Modern Snare Drum Competition and the TROMP international percussion competition, and performed with groups such as the Philadelphia Orchestra, LA Philharmonic, National Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic, Sarasota Orchestra, Seoul Philharmonic, Seoul National Radio Orchestra, New World Symphony, Naples Philharmonic, Atlanta Symphony, Colorado Music Festival, Guangzhou Symphony, San Diego Symphony, President's Own Marine Band, and shows on and off Broadway in NYC.

The College frequently hosts visiting percussion artists and lecturers. Recent guests have included Russell Hartenberger, Gordon Stout, Michael Burritt, Colin Currie, Gwen Dease, NEXUS, Douglas Howard, Don Liuzzi, Bob Becker, She-e Wu, Dr. Aiyun Huang, Ray Dillard, Shannon Wood, Eriko Daimo, Ryan Dilisi, David Friedman, Fernando Meza, Ivan Trevino, Frank Epstein, Leigh Howard Stevens, Brian DelSignore, Joseph Petrasek,

Thomas Sherwood, Dr. John Lane, Pablo Rieppi, Timothy Adams Jr., Michael Rosen, Pius Cheung, James Wyman, Iain Moyer, Ted Atkatz, MOBIUS Percussion, Square Peg/Round Hole, Warren Wolf, John Piper, Ignacio Berroa, Victor Provost, Clarence Penn, and Jeff Hamilton.

#### Boyer College of Music and Dance

The Boyer College of Music and Dance offers over 500 events open to the public each year. Students have the unique opportunity to interact with leading performers, composers, conductors, educators, choreographers and guest artists while experiencing a challenging and diverse academic curriculum. The Boyer faculty are recognized globally as leaders in their respective fields. Boyer alumni are ambassadors of artistic leadership and perform with major orchestras, opera and dance companies, teach at schools and colleges and work as professional music therapists, choreographers and composers. Boyer's recording label, BCM&D records, has produced more than thirty recordings, five of which have received Grammy nominations.

boyer.temple.edu

#### The Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts

The Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts consists of the Boyer College of Music and Dance, School of Theater, Film and Media Arts, the George and Joy Abbott Center for Musical Theater and the Temple Performing Arts Center. The School of Theater, Film and Media Arts engages gifted students with nationally and internationally recognized faculty scholars and professionals. A hallmark of the School of Theater, Film and Media Arts is the Los Angeles Study Away program, housed at historic Raleigh Studios. The George and Joy Abbott Center for Musical Theater engages visiting performers, guest artists, set designers, playwrights and other Broadway professionals. The Temple Performing Arts Center (TPAC), a historic landmark on campus, is home to a state-of-theart 1,200 seat auditorium and 200 seat chapel. More than 500 concerts, classes, lectures and performances take place at TPAC each year.

arts.temple.edu

#### Temple University

Temple University's history begins in 1884, when a young working man asked Russell Conwell if he could tutor him at night. It wasn't long before he was teaching several dozen students—working people who could only attend class at night but had a strong desire to make something of themselves. Conwell recruited volunteer faculty to participate in the burgeoning night school, and in 1888 he received a charter of incorporation for "The Temple College." His founding vision for the school was to provide superior educational opportunities for academically talented and highly motivated students, regardless of their backgrounds or means. The fledgling college continued to grow, adding programs and students throughout the following decades. Today, Temple's more than 35,000 students continue to follow the university's official motto—Perseverantia Vincit, or "Perseverance Conquers"—with their supreme dedication to excellence in academics, research, athletics, the arts and more.

temple.edu