



# Third Coast Percussion

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center  
Presenting Series

**FRI, OCT 30 AT 7 P.M.**  
LEIGHTON CONCERT HALL

University of Notre Dame  
Notre Dame, Indiana

Third Coast percussion at Notre Dame made possible  
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## PROGRAM

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*Donner* (2015)

David Skidmore (b. 1982)

*a Sound uttered, a Silence crossed* (2014)

Nathan Davis (b. 1973)

I. subSong

libretto by Laura Mullen (b.1958)

II. Dawn

III. Letters

IV. Babel

V. Dusk

VI. openSong

Notre Dame Collegium Musicum

Daniel Stowe, director

Josh Aerie, conductor

*Agreed* (2015)

Skidmore

*Blindnesses* (2012)

Isaac Schankler (b. 1979)

*Take Anything You Want* (2015)

Skidmore

*Torched and Wrecked* (2015)

Skidmore

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### Notre Dame Collegium Musicum Roster

#### **Soprano**

Faith Fleming

CJ Jones

Sharon Kniss

Morgan Rice

#### **Alto**

Suze Kim-Villano

Joan Ball

Kirsten Anderson

Dorothy A. Pedtke

#### **Tenor**

Michael Prough

Michael Ball

Sean O'Brien

Sean Martin

#### **Bass**

Michael Driscoll

Douglas Hall

Andrew Hoffmann

Daniel Stowe, director

Josh Aerie, conductor

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WSBT-TV is the official media sponsor of  
the 2015-2016 Presenting Series.

Visiting artist accommodations provided  
by the **Morris Inn**.

**Express Press Incorporated** supports  
the Presenting Series by underwriting  
the printing of this program.



The compositions of Third Coast Percussion member **David Skidmore** are performed regularly in concert halls and universities across the country. His *Unknown Kind* was premiered in Carnegie Hall in 2007, and his multi-movement work *Common Patterns in Uncommon Time* was commissioned in 2011 for the 100th anniversary of Taliesin, site of the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture.

The new collection of works premiered on tonight's program expand on ideas from Skidmore's 2014 composition *Trying*, and share in common a fascination with the idea that the same piece of music can move at several different speeds at the same time. The pieces take their names from memorable Third Coast Percussion touring experiences or inside jokes.

**Nathan Davis** is a percussionist with the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE) and a composer whose work is increasingly performed around the globe. His music is inspired by natural phenomena and the abstraction of simple stories, exploring both the natural acoustics and unforeseen possibilities of traditional instruments, and creative incorporation of new technology into the concert experience. His work has been featured in NPR's *All Things Considered*, the Lincoln Center Tully Scope Festival, Carnegie Hall and Sylvia Milo's acclaimed monodrama *The Other Mozart*.

The works of poet **Laura Mullen** have appeared in *Fence*, *Bomb* and *The Nation*, and have been anthologized in collections from Norton, Wesleyan and Omnidawn. Her eighth collection is forthcoming from Solid Objects in 2015. A MacDowell and Karolyi Foundation Fellow, a featured poet at the International Poetry Festival in Taipei, a Rona Jaffe Award recipient and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellow, Laura has been a visiting poet at Naropa, Brown and Columbia College, and she currently directs the Creative Writing program at Louisiana State University.

***a Sound uttered, a Silence Crossed*** (or *Ask*), composed for choir and percussion quartet, explores the human desire to communicate and connect. Its six movements trace the human relationship with language over the course of a lifetime, from the sounds we hear in the womb, to the questions we wish we could ask to our departed loved ones. Along the way, the piece moves through the discovery of shared meaning, the repetitive drills through which we learn to write, the standard pleasantries that make up much of our cultural vocabulary (which at times serve to both bring us closer and fend off closeness), and the overwhelming confusion or even entrapment in the very language we all work to master. Much of the percussionists' role in the work comes through colors that are also forms of communication—typewriters, bells, telephones, and radios—and rhythms that are derived from spoken words, the writing of letters, or Morse code. Mullen's libretto is drawn in large part from external source material: old letters, a selection of “first words” solicited from friends, and answers to the question, “What would you say to your dead?” from members of the La Jolla Symphony Chorus.

***There is an additional level to the musical experience that is only accessible through your mobile phone. If you wish to participate and listen, familiarize yourself with the instructions on the enclosed card and wait for a prompt from the supertitles.***

*a Sound uttered, a Silence crossed* was commissioned by The University of Notre Dame's DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, Williams College, and the La Jolla Symphony Chorus.

A special thank you to Rickey Charbonnet for his questions for "James," and to Sylvia Milo, Sara Fellini, Vanessa Bartlett, Kerrie Scarff and others for contributing recorded voices.

**Isaac Schankler** is a composer, pianist, accordionist and electronic musician based in Los Angeles. He writes music inspired by improvisation, indeterminacy, repetition, language, narrative and puzzles, creating work that is "experimental" while still engaging with the foundational elements of music: harmony, melody, time, timbre; music that is "beautiful" while still allowing space for more unsettling experiences: uncertainty, anxiety, humor, horror.

*"Being close to someone can mean agreeing not to see parts of them, and in some sense Blindnesses is about the absences that this mutual understanding contains."*  
-Isaac Schankler

**Blindnesses** is scored for four percussionists—sharing one vibraphone—and electronic sound processing. The electronic component of the piece at times adds a cavernous artificial resonance to the sound, while at other times, it plays back distorted fragments of music performed by the live musicians earlier in the piece. The four percussionists, whose movements must be meticulously choreographed to perform together on a single instrument, create their own stark sonic contrasts with a variety of mallets and acoustic pitch bending effects.

## THIRD COAST PERCUSSION

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Hailed by *The New Yorker* as "vibrant" and "superb," Third Coast Percussion explores and expands the extraordinary sonic possibilities of the percussion repertoire, delivering exciting performances for audiences of all kinds. Formed in 2005, Third Coast Percussion has developed an international reputation with concerts and recordings of inspiring energy and subtle nuance.

These "hard-grooving" musicians (*New York Times*) have become known for groundbreaking collaborations across a wide range of disciplines, including concerts and residency projects with engineers at the University of Notre Dame, architects at the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture, astronomers at the Adler Planetarium and more. The ensemble has also designed free iPhone and iPad apps that allow audience members to create their own musical performances and take a deeper look at the music performed by Third Coast Percussion.



Third Coast Percussion is the Ensemble-In-Residence at the University of Notre Dame's DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, a position they assumed in 2013. They have the honor of being the first ensemble at the University of Notre Dame to create a permanent and progressive ensemble residency program at the center. Third Coast Percussion performs multiple recitals annually as part of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center's Presenting Series, engages with the local community and leads interdisciplinary projects in collaboration with a wide range of disciplines across campus.

Third Coast's recent and upcoming concerts and residencies include the Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), De Doelen (Rotterdam), the Barbican (London), Museum of Contemporary Art (Chicago), Town Hall Seattle, Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival (Colorado), Eastman Kilbourn Recital Series (New York), St. Paul Chamber Orchestra Liquid Music Series (Minnesota), Ensemble Music Society of Indianapolis, National Gallery of Art (D.C.), University of Chicago Presents, the Austin Chamber Music Festival and more. Third Coast has introduced percussion to chamber music audiences in Texas, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Illinois, securing invitations to return to many of these series.

Third Coast's passion for community outreach includes a wide range of residency offerings while on tour, in addition to a long-term residency with the Holy Cross/Immaculate Heart of Mary Marimba Ensemble on Chicago's South Side. In addition to its national performances, Third Coast Percussion's hometown presence includes an annual Chicago series, with four to five concerts in locations around the city. The ensemble has collaborated in concert with a wide range of artists and performing ensembles including Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, eighth blackbird, the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble Signal and video artists Luftwerk.

The members of Third Coast Percussion—Sean Connors, Robert Dillon, Peter Martin and David Skidmore—hold degrees in music performance from Northwestern University, the Yale School of Music, the Eastman School of Music, the New England Conservatory and Rutgers University. Third Coast Percussion performs exclusively with Pearl/Adams Musical Instruments, Zildjian Cymbals, Remo Drumheads, and Vic Firth sticks and mallets.

[thirdcoastpercussion.com](http://thirdcoastpercussion.com)

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NOTRE DAME COLLEGIUM MUSICUM  
Daniel Stowe, Director

The Collegium Musicum is a small vocal ensemble specializing in sacred and secular music from the Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque eras. It is open to all members of the Notre Dame and greater South Bend community. The Collegium Musicum performs programs each spring and fall in the Reyes Organ and Choral Hall in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center and periodically in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

## JOSH AERIE

Josh Aerie is a sought-after symphonic conductor, cellist, music educator and arts advocate.

Josh is the newly appointed music director with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra in Columbus, Indiana, and frequently guest-conducts throughout the Midwest. Since moving to South Bend in 2013, Josh has served as a mentor for the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Association, taught Advanced Conducting at Saint Mary's College, was music director of the Hyde Park Youth Symphony in Chicago and artistic director of the Elkhart County Youth Honors Orchestra program at Goshen College.

In 2013, Josh relocated from Duluth, Minnesota where he served on the music faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Superior and the College of St. Scholastica. He held music directorships of the Mesabi Symphony Orchestra, the Heartland Symphony Orchestra and the Red Cedar Symphony Orchestra. In 2010 he co-founded the North Shore Philharmonic, a summer festival orchestra, and in 2007 he founded the Woodland Chamber Music Workshop, an annual immersive opportunity for adult musicians of all abilities.

As cellist, Josh has performed throughout the country as a soloist, chamber and orchestral musician. He is a founding member of the Sylvan Trio and the Gichigami Piano Trio. He has numerous recording credits, appeared on nationally syndicated television programs and performed at venues such as the Kennedy Center, the Walt Disney Concert Hall, Tanglewood, Strathmore Hall, the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian museums. He is currently working with Cincinnati composer Rick Sowash to record an album of new music featuring the cello.

In addition to performing and conducting, Josh is currently executive director of The Music Village, a musical arts alliance and school. TMV celebrates music, dance and cultural expressions rooted in the traditions of diverse local and global communities in the heart of downtown South Bend, Indiana.

Josh received his Master of Music degree in Cello Performance from the University of Colorado where he was the cellist in the Graduate String Quartet, a fellowship program with the Grammy Award-winning Takacs Quartet. Josh completed his undergraduate work at Oberlin Conservatory of Music and Oberlin College where he received both a Bachelor of Music in Cello Performance and a Bachelor of Arts with Honors in Anthropology.

For more information please visit Josh's website, [www.cellistry.com](http://www.cellistry.com).



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