

UC SANTA BARBARA
Department of Music



CONTACTS:

Adriane Hill
Marketing and Communications Manager
Department of Music
(805) 893-3230
adrianehill@ucsb.edu
music.ucsb.edu

Una Mladenović
Community Relations Specialist
Department of Theater and Dance
(805) 893-3022
una@ucsb.edu
theaterdance.ucsb.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / February 8, 2019

UC SANTA BARBARA MUSIC AND DANCE DEPARTMENTS PRESENT INTERSECTIONS

Collaborative concert to explore intersections of chamber music and dance with original choreography set to contemporary music by David Lang, Andy Akiho, William Bret Dietz, and more

Santa Barbara, CA (February 8, 2019)—The UC Santa Barbara Department of Music and Department of Theater and Dance will present a unique collaborative concert featuring chamber music and dance on Saturday, February 23, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in Lotte Lehmann Concert Hall on the UC Santa Barbara campus. The program will feature original choreography by UCSB Department of Theater and Dance faculty and students set to music by contemporary luminaries such as David Lang and Andy Akiho, with performances by UCSB Department of Music faculty and students. The program is being sponsored by the Music and Theatre and Dance departments, with matching funding from the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center.

“This concert stems from a two-decade-long collaboration between myself and Director of Dance Christina McCarthy, that includes us as performers, choreographer, and music director, and faculty coaches for student performance,” said UCSB Music faculty member and concert director Jon Nathan. “The choice of music reflects using existing Music Department students, alumni and faculty performing contemporary repertoire reflecting current trends in dance performance, including such instruments as electric violin, solo snare drum, percussion ensemble, and traditional chamber music configurations.”

The program will begin with “Learn to Fly,” an excerpt from David Lang’s larger three-movement work *Take These Broken Wings* for flute, clarinet, violin, piano, and percussion. Commissioned by Eighth Blackbird in 2008, each of the movements in the work focus on various physical and musical challenges, with the rhythmic complexity and intensity of “Learn to Fly” evoking a sense of momentum and drive

- MORE -

“INTERSECTIONS” 2-2-2

requiring great concentration on the part of the performers. Senior BFA dance major Elicia Kraus offers exciting original choreography as a final thesis work for the concert.

Next up will be Andy Akiho's *Stop Speaking* for snare drum and digital playback, performed by UCSB Department of Music faculty member Jon Nathan. Commissioned by Tom Sherwood for the 2011 Modern Snare Drum Competition hosted by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the virtuosic line of the snare drum plays off of the rhythmic line generated by the voice of the electronic narrator, Vicki. *Stop Speaking*, choreographed by UCSB Dance Director and faculty member Christina McCarthy, is a dance based on the arc of a relationship between two people, but also a reverie on what it is to be alive and human.

UCSB College of Creative Studies alumnus and composer Alysia Michelle James—also a dancer and aerialist—presents a unique take on the captivating story of the ill-fated puppet, Petrushka, in her piano quartet, *Love Petrushka*. McCarthy has restaged *Love, Petrushka*, a puppet/dance/theater work based on the classical ballet *Petrushka* investigating themes of fate and identity.

Based on a Native American war song in the “fish-step” style (said to have inspired the Charleston in the 1920s), William Bret Dietz's percussion quintet *Sharpened Stick* (2000), choreographed by McCarthy, incorporates elements of the original Native American song by having performers shout “Yo-Ho” to signify a change in the direction of the music and dance. A xylophone and marimba ensemble also made up of students from the UCSB Percussion Ensemble will perform *Ragtime Medley* by George Hamilton Green—one of the most prolific xylophone soloists of the 1920s—with choreography by UCSB Dance faculty member Brandon Whited.

Cellist Katrina Agate, a double major in Music and Engineering, will perform movement three, “Intermezzo e danza finale,” of Spanish cellist and composer Gaspar Cassadó's Suite for Solo Cello. Written in 1926, the complete suite blends the formality of the Baroque period with the Spanish style of Cassadó's heritage, with the final movement based largely on the Spanish *jota*, a dance similar to the *flamenco* and traditionally accompanied by castanets. Choreographed by Senior BFA dance major Rachel Harris as her final thesis project.

Originally written for modified Pierrot ensemble and prepared vibraphone in 2008 at Bang on a Can Summer Festival, *to wALK Or ruN in wEst harlem* was reimagined by Akiho for percussion sextet, drum set, and piano in 2016 for Dave Hall and the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Percussion Ensemble. The urgency and drive of the original work come through in an entirely new way thanks to Akiho's introduction of crotales, temple bowls, and thunder sheet, while McCarthy's choreography provides a stunning visual.

The program will come to a dramatic close with the final section of David Lang's *Re-III*, “Killer,” featuring UCSB graduate student Besnik Yzeiri on electric violin and UCSB faculty member Jon Nathan on percussion, both accompanied by an electronic recording. Written in 2009, the movement is reminiscent of a guitar solo in a rock show, with the composer going as far as to notate the tempo as “angry and aggressive with unstoppable force” in the score, guaranteeing a wild ride for the listener and a memorable finale for the program. Originally choreographed by international dance artist Shen Wei, *Re-III*'s section “Killer” is restaged by Brandon Whited with current UCSB dance students. Whited will also be setting selected sections of *Re-III* on students at Sam Houston State University in Texas in April.

EVENT LISTING

Intersection: an evening of Chamber Music and Dance
Saturday, February 23, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
Lotte Lehmann Concert Hall, UC Santa Barbara

- MORE -

“INTERSECTIONS” 3-3-3

PROGRAM

David Lang: “Learn to Fly” from *Take These Broken Wings* (2008)
Andy Akiho: *Stop Speaking* (2011)
Alysia Michelle James: *Love Petrushka* (2015)
William Bret Dietz: *Sharpened Stick* (2000)
George Hamilton Green: *Ragtime Medley*
Gaspar Cassadó: Suite for Solo Cello, Mvt 3, Intermezzo e danza finale (1926)
Andy Akiho: *to wAlk Or ruN in wEst harlem* (2008|arr. 2016)
David Lang: “Killer” from *Re-III* (2009)

TICKETS

General admission (\$10), non-UCSB students with ID (\$5), UCSB students with ID (FREE), children ages 12 and under (FREE). Tickets are available at music.ucsb.edu/news/purchase-tickets or by calling (805) 893-2064.

MORE INFORMATION

music.ucsb.edu/news/event/1682

ABOUT THE UC SANTA BARBARA DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

From an institution that began life dedicated to training the next generation of music educators, to what is now a multi-faceted department with a fully established research and professional graduate program with degrees in composition, ethnomusicology, musicology, music theory, and performance, the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music has produced many hundreds of graduates who have distinguished themselves both nationally and internationally. Alumni have gone on to teach on faculties of major colleges and universities in the United States and abroad, or in outstanding secondary school positions. Many graduates of the program have published extensively and become widely renowned, prize-winning scholars, while others are award-winning and frequently performed composers writing for television and film. Alumni are also establishing fine reputations as conductors of orchestras, opera, and choruses. Graduates of the instrumental programs have gone on to solo and orchestral careers with leading orchestras, and graduates of the voice program can be heard in opera companies around the world.

With over 150 events presented annually, the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music offers something for every music lover. The department boasts 26 unique performing ensembles, each with a quarterly concert calendar. Chamber music, large ensembles, opera, contemporary groups, world music, and jazz ensembles make up the department’s rich performance calendar, along with lectures, master classes, and presentations from the ethnomusicology, musicology, theory, and composition programs. For a complete listing of performances and lectures for the quarter, please visit the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music website at music.ucsb.edu.

ABOUT THE UC SANTA BARBARA DEPARTMENT OF THEATER AND DANCE

The Department of Theater and Dance fosters a vibrant and stimulating environment that encourages creative self-expression and critical thinking. Undergraduate programs include intensive, conservatory-style training for actors and dancers, as well as general degrees with a focus on Dance, Design, Directing, Playwriting, Theater and Community, and Theater and Performance Studies. The department’s nationally recognized and highly ranked graduate program offers a diverse array of interdisciplinary approaches to performance research within a global orientation. The department provides a lively forum for faculty to integrate teaching and research, at the cutting edge of their areas of expertise.

###