Gary Cook, percussion

Gary Cook is professor of music and has been director of percussion studies in the School of Music since 1975. He is well known in the music profession as a recognized percussion authority and author of the world-wide used text Teaching Percussion, published by Schirmer Books. He was timpanist and principal percussionist with the Tucson Symphony Orchestra for over two decades and has held similar posts over the years with the Arizona Opera, Arizona Ballet, Tucson Pops, and Flagstaff Festival orchestras. During the summer he is principal percussionist with the Crested Butte Music Festival and has performed with the Music in The Mountains in Colorado and with the Las Vegas Music Festival. From 1994 to 1999 he served as director of the School of Music. He holds degrees from the University of Michigan and has traveled widely studying, teaching, and performing throughout the United States, Europe, Trinidad, Bali and Chile.

Prof. Cook was recognized as an outstanding teacher as the first recipient of the coveted Putnam Excellence in Teaching Award in the College of Fine Arts at The University of Arizona. His former students hold distinguished professorships in colleges and universities around the country, perform professionally around the world, and are successful teachers and performers in all areas of music and the arts. He is contributing author to such publications as the Percussive Notes and The Encyclopedia of Percussion Instruments, and has been listed in the Marquis Who’s Who in the West, Who’s Who in American Education, Who’s Who in America and Who’s Who in the World. He served as vice president of the Percussive Arts Society (PAS), and will become president in 2007-2008. He also chaired the PAS College Pedagogy Committee for nine years. In addition to his active teaching and performing schedule, Professor Cook is engaged in ongoing empirical research for enhancing music learning and performance. He integrates a diversity of techniques into his teaching, has chaired symposia on the topic, and gives “Integrated Performer Workshops” on the subject of excellence in performance.

NEW FACE NEW SOUNDS

Brian Sacawa
Saxophone

with
Wenli Zhou
piano
&
Gary Cook
percussion

Praised by “The New York Times” as
“...an inventive musician... fresh and surprising... vividly lyrical”

A Faculty Artist Series Recital

Wednesday, October 12, 2005
Crowder Hall, 7:30 p.m.
Brian Sacawa, saxophone
Wenli Zhou, piano
Gary Cook, percussion

NEW FACE, NEW SOUNDS

Brian Sacawa, saxophone
Praised by The New York Times as “an inventive musician,” “fresh and surprising,” and “vividly lyrical,” saxophonist Brian Sacawa has firmly established himself as an important contemporary voice for his instrument. Named Baltimore City Paper “Critics’ Choice” for classical music in 2002 for his evocative and engaging performances of music by Karlheinz Stockhausen and Luciano Berio, Sacawa has premiered over forty new works by both established and emerging composers, including Philip Glass, Michael Gordon, Bright Sheng, Jo Kondo, Beata Moon, Ken Ueno, Hillary Zipper, and David T. Little. His versatile career has led to appearances with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the St. Petersburg (Russia) Philharmonic, the New World Symphony, Bargemusic, and at major festivals and venues across the United States, including Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall, Merkin Concert Hall, Miller Theater, and the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. With percussionist Timothy Feeney, Sacawa is the co-founder of the new music duo Non-Zero. He has recorded for the Innova, Naxos, Equilibrium, and BiBimBop record labels, and currently serves on the faculty at the University of Arizona School of Music.

Wenli Zhou, piano
Demonstrating consummate musicianship and enthusiastic commitment to the art of music-making, pianist Wenli Zhou brings a world-class technique, a deeply-embedded musicality, and infectious excitement to her playing. She is the recipient of prizes and awards from international and regional competitions, including the World Piano Competition, Frinna Awerbuch International Competition of the New York Congress of Piano Teachers, Grace Welch International Piano Competition in Chicago and in the Kankakee (Illinois) Concerto Competition, and the Rislov Foundation Award. Ms. Zhou holds degrees and diplomas from the University of Michigan, Western Michigan University and Sichuan Conservatory of Music (Pre-College). She is currently pursuing her Doctor of Musical Arts at Rice University in Houston. Her primary teachers include Robert Roux, Logan Skelton, Arthur Greene, Lori Sims, and Hanguo Yang.

PROGRAM

San Antonio (1994) ........................................... John Harbison (b. 1938)
1. The Summons
2. Line Dance
3. Couples’ Dance

Balafon (1994) ........................................... Christian Lauba (b. 1952)

descanso (after omega) (2004) ....................... David T. Little (b. 1978)
(world premiere)

Kendra Dawson, Scott Shinbara
and Sarah Whitley, crystal glass

Quintet (2005) ............................................ Per Bloland (b. 1969)
(world premiere)

INTERMISSION

Aeolian Song (1955) ............................... Warren Benson (1924-2005)
(in memory)

Walimai (2005) ................................. Michael Djupstrom (b. 1980)
(workshop performance)

Divertimento (1982) ........................ Charles Wuorinen (b. 1938)