

THE 47th ANNUAL  
FESTIVAL OF NEW AMERICAN MUSIC

METAPHOR PERCUSSION

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 7:00 P.M.

“Shades”

Wildlings (2017)	Ivan Trevino (b. 1983)
Coloring Sheet (2007)	Josh Gottry (b. 1965)
Visions of the Balete Tree (2024)	Josiah Catalan (b. 1991)
Factory Reset (2024)	Jordan Shippy (b. 1991)

INTERMISSION

Painting the Roses Red (2024)	Vivienne Boudreaux (b. 1993)
Nephology (2024)	Evan French (b. 2002)
Polychrome (2024)	Sarah Wald (b. 1990)
The Treasure You Seek (2024)	Emily Joy Sullivan (b. 1984)

Metaphor Percussion  
Jordan Shippy  
Vivienne Boudreaux

"Shades" is a multimedia experience that merges acoustic instruments, electronic sounds, video, and lighting elements to explore the rich spectrum of color. Each piece in the program is inspired by different shades of the color spectrum, allowing the audience to experience music as a vivid visual journey. The performance features new and diverse repertoire that highlights the unique qualities of each color, using percussion instruments to evoke a range of textures and emotions. Electronic soundscapes intertwine with live playing, creating a dynamic listening environment. Specially crafted videos and dynamic lighting effects align with the music, illuminating the performance space in hues that correspond to the thematic elements of each section. As the colors shift and blend, *Shades* invites audiences to immerse themselves in a sensory exploration of sound and color.

A duo comprised of Dr. Vivienne Boudreaux and Dr. Jordan Shippy, **Metaphor Percussion** recently completed their inaugural U.S. tour including an artist residency at Eastern New Mexico University. Formed in 2023, Metaphor was founded with the goal of commissioning and championing new and innovative percussion repertoire from upcoming and underrepresented composers.

**Wildlings** is a percussion duo written for Michael Burritt, Professor of Percussion at Eastman School of Music. He asked me to compose a drum piece that we could perform together, something that would complement the mallet pieces in our duo repertoire. Michael and I both began learning music on drums (as opposed to mallet instruments), and I wanted to write a piece that reflected this; something groovy, fun and something we could let loose on. The piece features solo and improvisational sections that create a wild, energetic, and sometimes chaotic environment." - *Ivan Trevino*

Ivan Trevino is a Mexican-American composer, percussionist, writer and arts advocate. He has shared his music with audiences around the world, from Asia to South America to Madison Square Garden in New York City. As a composer and songwriter, Ivan's music has been performed on five continents in over 25 countries. He is a multi-award-winning recipient of the Percussive Arts Society's International Composition Contest and has

Over the past several years, Sarah Wald's music has been featured at various festivals and other programs, including the Nief-norf Summer Music Festival, the Brevard Music Center, the TALIS Festival, the Oregon Bach Festival, the Bowdoin International Music Festival, the SPLICE Institute, the Sofia Symphonic Summit, and the Composers Conference. Her work was also performed at Sävellyspaja in Finland and has been featured on radio stations such as WFMT (Relevant Tones) and CJSR.

Sarah has received several honors, awards, and commissions. She graduated from Columbia magna cum laude and received Columbia's Rapaport Prize in 2012. In 2015, she was awarded professional development grants from the Illinois Arts Council Agency and Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events.

***The Treasure You Seek*** is inspired by the hero(ine)'s journey and Joseph Campbell's quote: "The cave you fear to enter holds the treasure you seek." Different elements and stages of the hero's journey, such as "ordinary world" and "friends, allies, and enemies," loosely inspire the piece. Most importantly, the slower middle section, especially the improvisational section (which is the center minute of the piece) are a "cave" of sorts. A general sense of journey is also kinetically and visually present in the performers' movements across the stage to different instruments and through the spatialization in the electronics. Enjoy the sonic storytelling!" - *Emily Joy Sullivan*

Emily Joy Sullivan is a composer, educator, and choral director based in Northern California. Her music is animated by the spirit of song, dance, and storytelling, and is grounded in various vernacular traditions. Sullivan's works have been performed in New York, Chicago, Memphis, Vancouver, Valencia, and Cape Town. She holds a master's degree in music composition from SUNY Fredonia and a BA in music from Amherst College, where her feminist musicology thesis was "Envoicing Eve: Femmes Fatales in Carmen, Salome, and Lulu." She is currently working on a musical theater project retelling fairy tales from the heroines' points of view.

**Nephology** is a multimedia composition for marimba duo and audio/video playback. On a partly cloudy day during the summer of 2024, I found myself gazing up at the sky as clouds of all shapes and sizes danced around in a never-ending empyrean spectacle. After watching various time-lapses I had filmed of the sky that day, I was inspired to write Nephology. Nephology is the study and/or contemplation of clouds, and it is just as much a branch of meteorology as it is a favorite pastime of children and adults alike. There is something beautifully complex about a word like nephology; its various connotations seem to defy each other, and yet they make sense together in a strange way. Is nephology a strictly scientific field of study? Or is it a carefree way to spend a summer afternoon? Why can't it be both? – *Evan French*

Evan French is a Sacramento-based composer and percussionist. Through his compositions, French seeks to explore (and sometimes challenge) the confines of different acoustic, electronic, and electroacoustic sonic mediums. Having written for ensembles of various sizes, he tends to favor unusual or obscure instrumentation choices for much of his work. French's musical language has been shaped by composers like Stravinsky, Ravel, Shostakovich, Bartók, and Ligeti, among many others. Besides composing, French is an active performer in and around the greater Sacramento area. He is the principal percussionist of the Sac State Symphony Orchestra and has performed with groups such as the Sacramento Symphonic Winds and the Camellia Symphony Orchestra. Outside of music, French enjoys cooking/baking, watercolor painting, photography, and playing video games. He is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in music theory & composition at Sac State.

**Polychrome** is an exploration of rhythmic freedom and sonic texture, crafted for drum set and live-triggered sounds by composer Sarah Wald. The piece incorporates a series of flexible "figures," which can be played in any order, repeated, or manipulated, allowing performers to create a unique interpretation with each performance. This open-ended approach invites spontaneity and personal expression, as musicians can navigate the figures with varying dynamics, making choices that reflect their artistic vision. The result is a vibrant, multi-faceted soundscape that explores the boundaries of structure and improvisation.

over 70 compositions and songs to his name. Most recently, he was the featured composer on American Public Media's Performance Today. Ivan's work spans various media including storytelling, poetry, and film scoring. His collection of online writings is regularly circulated throughout the arts community, including "My Pretend Music School", a blog post that has sparked debate about music school curriculum and has become required reading for collegiate courses around the U.S. Ivan currently lives in Austin, TX with his wife, Amanda, and their children, Henry and Oscar.

Even in the hands of a child, a piece of paper with the simple outline of a figure can become an amazing artistic creation. A coloring sheet is, in its simplicity, a wealth of possibilities. This is the concept behind the composition of this challenging percussion duet, **Coloring Sheet**. Every phrase is 10 bars. Harmonically, the piece uses repetitions, variations, and transpositions of only one progression. The instrumentation is limited and commonplace – marimba, vibraphone, ride cymbal, and snare drum. The intent was simply to create a multitude of colors and combinations from within that outline. - *Josh Gottry*

Josh Gottry earned his Bachelor of Music in Percussion Performance at Northern Arizona University, his Master of Music in Composition at Arizona State University, and has successfully established himself as a respected educator, an accomplished percussionist, and an internationally recognized composer.

For more than two decades, Mr. Gottry has been creating innovative, pedagogical, and engaging new compositions and arrangements. During that time, he has been selected for numerous ASCAP Plus awards and has created over 100 published works. Having come to composition through his musical pursuits as a performer and educator, he is uniquely able to create brilliantly creative and idiomatic works that have been performed throughout the world at schools, festivals, and international conventions.

In Filipino folklore, the iconic balete tree, is thought to hold various diwata, or spirits, through its various intertwined visible and invisible roots that grow outward and down toward the ground. There is a reverence toward these trees still to this day where it commonly taught that it should not be disturbed, otherwise it is believed that the spirits dwelling within these trees may cause illness or misfortune upon you.

I have found Balete trees to embody a certain unexplainable charm and aura about them, and ***Visions from the Balete*** looks to explore some of the mystical energy these trees contain.

Josiah Tayag Catalan (he/him) is a Filipino-American composer born in New York City and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. Recently, his compositional interests have become centered around discovering the intersects of music influenced by traditional, avant-garde, popular, and indigenous Philippine musics. He has been a finalist in the Thailand International Competition Festival and has been awarded prizes from NACUSA, the Sacramento State Festival of New American Music, the Megalopolis Saxophone Orchestra, the American Prize Composer's Awards, and the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players.

Dr. Jordan Shippy's ***Factory Reset*** is a percussion duo with a limited setup, making use of four splash cymbals and a shared octave of crotales. Loosely inspired by imagery of the Industrial Revolution, the piece employs interlocking rhythms that create descending melodies passed seamlessly between players evoking a sense of motion and precision, reminiscent of factory work. The bright metallic tones of the splash cymbals complement the ethereal quality of the crotales, enhancing the industrial theme while adding a rhythmic texture to support the melodic material. *Factory Reset* was written for Metaphor Percussion and the Festival of New American Music.

Percussionist Dr. Jordan Shippy is an active performer and educator that has presented in venues across the United States including Texas Tech University, UT Arlington, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, and Arkansas Tech University. He has also performed at events such Northwest Percussion Festival, and the National Conference on Percussion Pedagogy. Most recently, Dr. Shippy served as an artist in residence at Eastern New Mexico University with Metaphor Percussion, a duo focused on commissioning and championing new music from underrepresented and emerging composers.

In addition to performing, Dr. Shippy serves as the percussion faculty at Sacramento State, Sacramento City College, and American River College. He conducts clinics at local high schools in the greater Sacramento area and is a Black Swamp Percussion Educator. Jordan also serves as a

member of the Competition Committee with California Chapter of the Percussive Arts Society. He holds a DMA and MM in Percussion Performance from the University of Oklahoma and Sacramento State respectively.

***Painting the Roses Red*** was originally a sketch written for myself and my duo partner Jordan Shippy. While the piece itself is not completely programmatic, *Painting* was inspired by our experiences in graduate school together and navigating the professional world. Even though sometimes running the "rat race" of paperwork, defenses, and general graduate studentdom could tire us out some days, we stuck true to who we were and what we wanted to stand for, eventually leading to the birth of Metaphor Percussion. The title is a reference to Alice in Wonderland where the phrase is literal, but also references the modern meaning of the phrase in which we sometimes lean on political correctness rather than confronting our struggles and hard resolutions head on." - *Vivienne Boudreaux*

Dr. Vivienne Boudreaux is a Sacramento-based performer and educator. She currently serves as the Adjunct Assistant Professor of Percussion at Cosumnes River College and as an Assistant Percussion Instructor with Folsom High School. Vivienne has performed and presented her research in a variety of settings including the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, The Midwest Conference, and the National Conference on Percussion Pedagogy. She has also premiered new works at the annual Pensacola Composerfest, the National Conference on Percussion Pedagogy, and the Oklahoma Percussion Festival.

Vivienne also regularly conducts outreach performances and education presentations across the country, including California State University: Sacramento, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, and Eastern New Mexico University, among others. She is a founding member of the Metaphor Percussion Duo along with Dr. Jordan Shippy (CSU: Sacramento), with whom she frequently travels across the country commissioning and premiering new works, presenting concerts, and participating in artist residencies. In her time away from performing, she enjoys teaching and participating actively with the California Chapter of the Percussion Arts Society. Vivienne holds a D.M.A in Percussion Performance from the University of Oklahoma.