



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
SENIOR RECITAL

## Justin Respicio, percussion

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### "Contrast"

Distractions (2023)	Jensen L. Thomassie (b. 2001)
Palpitations (2021)	Cody Holmes (b. 1995)
	with Ben Jilbert
Addition, Subtraction (2021)	Sarah Wald (b. 1990)
Variations on Japanese Children's Songs (1982)	Keiko Abe (b. 1937)

### INTERMISSION

Watercolor Sun (2023)	Ivan Trevino (b. 1983)
	with Matt Amato, Evan French, and Ben Jilbert
Thunder (2014)	Joe W. Moore III (b. 1986)
a light at the end . . . (2018)	Chad Floyd (b. 1977)
Skyward (2019)	Adam Tan (b. 1994)

*This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the degree of Bachelor of Music in Percussion.  
Justin Respicio is a student of Dr. Jordan Shippy.*



MONDAY, 6:00 P.M.  
APRIL 14, 2025  
CAPISTRANO CONCERT HALL

## PROGRAM NOTES

***Distractions*** (2023) is a snare drum solo with electronic accompaniment composed by Jensen L. Thomassie. This piece comments on how easily we become distracted by modern technology and social media. Using electronic samples from devices and apps as well as extended snare drum techniques, this piece creates a soundscape that expresses the distracted state we fall into with the everyday use of technology and social media.

***Palpitations*** (2021) is a marimba duet written by Cody Holmes, a co-founder of the Holmes Percussion Duo with his brother, Benjamin. The name of the piece derives from the opening section of the piece, which consists of sweeping and echoing lines that create musical tension and release. The unsteadiness is evocative of heart palpitations. In the program notes, Cody writes, "With moments of stability and instability, *Palpitations* has the opportunity to create a thrilling listening experience to the audience."

***Addition, Subtraction*** (2021) is a solo for multiple percussion composed by Dr. Sarah Wald, a current faculty member at Sacramento State. This was written for percussionist Chris Froh, who performed it at UC Davis in October 2021. This piece has varied irregular grooves that feel organic yet have unpredictable twists and transformations. The piece's namesake comes from the addition and subtraction of the 16th note groupings (ex: the 6+4+3 pattern at the beginning of the piece can be transformed to a 5+4+3 pattern, a 2+3+2+2 pattern, etc.). Despite these complex variations, the grooves Dr. Wald creates an intuitive and improvisatory feel.

***Variations on Japanese Children's Songs*** (1982) is a marimba solo written by world-renowned marimbist Keiko Abe. It explores her childhood memories through variations of two familiar songs (known as warabe uta) that she heard in her youth: Tōryanse and Teru Teru Bōzu. Children often sing Tōryanse when playing a game similar to "London Bridge is Falling Down" in Western culture. Teru Teru Bōzu is a song based on the teru teru bōzu doll which serves as a good luck charm to bring favorable weather in Japanese culture. To Abe, these songs evoke memories and imagery of traveling salesmen and children playing.

***Watercolor Sun*** (2023) is a quartet for shared marimba written by Ivan Trevino. It was commissioned by and written for Third Coast Percussion, a Grammy-winning percussion ensemble. In his program notes for the piece, Ivan illustrates, "There are moments in life that create a feeling I can't quite describe. Like waking up in a sunlight room, or sharing a meal with old friends, or going on a road trip with someone you love. There's a jovial, euphoric feeling to it. I feel it when I catch the sunrise with my family, and I feel it when I play music too. Maybe it is gratitude, or peace, or something in between. Whatever this feeling is, it is at the heart of *Watercolor Sun*."

***Thunder*** (2014) is a timpani solo written by Joe W. Moore III. As the name suggests, this piece evokes sounds of thunder and images of lightning. Moore wrote this piece as part of Project Create 2013, which prompted his Facebook followers to comment suggestions for instruments on one of his posts. Moore composed solo pieces for the first instrument suggestion of each day for a month. This solo was composed for percussionist Kathryn Irwin, who was a graduate student at the University of Kansas around the time of the piece's composition.

***a light at the end . . .*** (2018) is a 2-mallet vibraphone solo written by Dr. Chad Floyd, a current Professor of Percussion at Campbellsville University in Kentucky. This piece requires the performer to use different playing areas of the vibraphone keys to create interesting musical textures. In particular, the notes hit at the nodal points (less resonant areas near the strings) create a rhythmic accompaniment for the melody, consisting of open and closed tones hit in the middle of the bars.

***Skyward*** (2019) is a marimba solo composed by Adam Tan, who is a percussionist, composer, and content creator based in Australia. This piece is based around the idea of pursuing one's dreams and the grand, yet challenging journey to make those dreams a reality. Adam notes that for him, this piece is very introspective in regard to his own journey of creating percussion-related content and being a content creator. In his program notes, Adam Tan describes, "The title 'Skyward' represents the idea of always looking 'skyward' towards dreams that appear lofty, before realizing that they can be reached."