

Membership Meeting



LYNN UNIVERSITY

Friends of the *Conservatory*

LYNN UNIVERSITY
Amarnick-Goldstein Concert Hall

January 24, 2007

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Membership Meeting

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2 p.m.

The Percussion Studio of Michael Parola

Doubles for Marimba Duo Thomas Gauger
Monica Herrera, David Pierce

Letter from Home for Solo Vibraphone Pat Metheny
Arr. Francisco Abreu
Piero Guimaraes

Concertino for Marimba Paul Creston
First Movement
Christopher Tusa, marimba
Yang Shen, piano

Rock Blood for Percussion Duo P.Q. Phan
Christopher Tusa, Monica Herrera, Piero Guimaraes, David Pierce



Refreshments

Michael Parola

Michael Parola is artist faculty for percussion at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music. He is the founding member of the Aequelis Ensemble which toured in every region of the United States and Asia. He also founded the Core Ensemble which features the unusual instrumental combination of cello, piano, and percussion. The Core Ensemble has appeared with the Cleveland Chamber Symphony and the Florida Philharmonic and tours widely. Dr. Parola has been heard nationally and internationally on radio with both Aequelis and with the Core Ensemble and on CD, with multiple releases on New World and Albany Records. Dr. Parola has commissioned many new works for percussion and has performed in the American Premieres of works by Verdi, Donizetti and Shostakovich.

Dr. Parola received his Bachelor of Music degree from State University of New York at Purchase and his Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. His primary teachers were Raymond Des Roches and Richard Horowitz.

Christopher Tusa

A native of Burlington, New Jersey, Christopher Tusa has been playing percussion since he was a child. In 1995, Chris began his percussion studies with Christopher Marousek with a focus on solo marimba. In 2004, Christopher began his studies at Lynn University Conservatory under Dr. Michael Parola, artist faculty and founder of the Core Ensemble. In the summer of 2005, Christopher began studying with Richard Horowitz, Principal Tympanist of the New York Metropolitan Opera. He has had master classes with Richard Horowitz, James Baker, Principle Percussionist of the New York City Ballet; and with Neil Grover

An active free-lance percussionist, Chris has played with some of the leading orchestras of South Florida including the Southwest Florida Philharmonic, the Palm Beach Opera Symphony Orchestra, the Boca Raton Philharmonia, the Hollywood Symphony, and the Symphony of Deerfield. Christopher has also premiered *Face Off* by Andrew Houckins, *Percussion Duo* by Manuel de Murga, and *Fling* by Phillipe Bodin. In the summer of 2006, Chris was principle tympanist at the Las Vegas Music Festival. He is currently seeking his Bachelor of Musical Arts at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music.

Monica Herrera

Monica was born in Havana, Cuba and raised in Miami, Florida. She began to show an interest in music in early childhood and began studying percussion at twelve years of age. She was the principle percussionist of the South Florida Youth Symphony for four years. In 2006, Monica was awarded a scholarship by the New World Symphony to attend the Aspen Music Festival where she studied with Jonathan Haas, Ben Herman, Doug Howard, and Tom Stubbs of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. She has played in master classes with Ben Herman and Tom Stubbs. Monica is currently seeking her Bachelor in Musical Performance under Dr. Parola at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music.

Piero Guimaraes

Piero began his music studies in his native Brazil with Wallace Silva. In 2000, he continued his studies at the Carlos de Campos Dramatic and Musical Conservatory with Luiz Marcos Caldana and Ricardo Bologna. In 2003, Piero joined the Sao Paulo University Symphonic Orchestra and was selected for the Academy Project as percussionist in the six Tchaikovsky symphonies with the same orchestra, he played in M. Camargo Guarnieri's *Concert for Strings and Percussion*. Additional first tympanist appointments include the Curitiba Music Festival and the Campos do Jordao Music International Festival in July 2005.

For four years, Piero was a member of the Percussion Group of UNESP percussion course, which focused on contemporary music. He was a guest musician in the Symphonic Orchestra of Sao Paulo Municipal Theatre and the State of Sao Paulo Symphonic Orchestra. Piero placed first in the Young Soloists Competition of the Sao Paula State Youth Symphonic Band, The Young Soloists competition of the Repertoire Experimental Orchestra and won the Art Critics Sao Paulo Association prize for best chamber music group. Piero graduated in Percussion from the Sao Paulo State University and is now studying with Dr. Michael Parola for a Professional Performance Certificate at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music.

David J. Pierce

David J. Pierce grew up in Boxborough, Massachusetts, with an uninhibited passion for music. He studied piano in second and third grade, and then in fourth grade became a percussionist. He played in the school band until half way through sixth grade when he quit to start his first (of many) rock bands due to the unchallenging nature of the school band. He took private drum set lessons from fourth grade on and played in various groups through college, where his skills in the genre of funk became noteworthy. At the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, his alma mater, he studied classical percussion with Jeff Fischer, and jazz drum set with Fred Buda (famous set player for the Boston Pops for over 30 years). It was here that he began to practice, and to realize that in order to fulfill his dream of rock stardom, he would have to work hard to become a skilled musician. He is now studying with Dr. Michael Parola at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music in order to achieve a Master's degree in classical percussion. Upon graduation he wishes to study other styles and to bring them together to create a new style which will bring wisdom and happiness to as many people as possible through sending a message of love and compassion which people can identify with and will be drawn to.

Yang Shen

Pianist Yang Shen has given concerts and recitals in Asia, North America, Europe and Israel to critical accolades. She earned her Doctoral of Musical Arts degree at the University of Southern California, where she also received her Master of Music degree, studying with renowned pedagogue John Perry. Prior to moving to California, she graduated Summa cum Laude from the Conservatory of Music at Lynn University with a Bachelor of Music degree as a student of Roberta Rust. She is currently on the faculty of the Preparatory Division of the Conservatory at Lynn University. Ms. Shen has been awarded top prizes in numerous competitions including the National Society of Arts and Letters Piano Competition, the Josef Hoffman International Piano Competition, and the Los Angeles Liszt Piano Competition. She has also been invited to participate in some of the most prestigious piano events in the world, including The Arthur Rubenstein International Piano Master Competition, The Leeds International Piano Competition, and she was a semi-finalist in the 2004 Sydney International Piano Competition in Australia.

In 2002, Ms. Shen attended the Aspen Music Festival as a recipient of the prestigious New Horizon Fellowship. She has also participated in the Pianofest in the Hamptons and The Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara with full scholarships.