

ANAM AT THE CONVENT: DARK FULL RIDE

FRIDAY 16 MAY 7PM
ROSINA AUDITORIUM, ABBOTSFORD CONVENT

Julia WOLFE (b. 1958) *Dark Full Ride* (2002) 20'

Part 1

Part 2

Jamie Willson* (TAS) percussion
Steven Bryer* (QLD) percussion
Caleb Goldsmith* (NZ) percussion
Jonathan Parker* (WA) percussion

Danny ELFMAN (b. 1953) *Percussion Quartet* (2019) 20'

i. -

ii. -

iii. -

iv. -

Jamie Willson* (TAS) percussion
Steven Bryer* (QLD) percussion
Jonathan Parker* (WA) percussion
Caleb Goldsmith* (NZ) percussion

Stewart COPELAND (b. 1952) arr. Chris BRANNICK *The Gene Pool* (1994) 10'

Steven Bryer (QLD) percussion
Jamie Willson* (TAS) percussion
Jonathan Parker* (WA) percussion
Caleb Goldsmith* (NZ) percussion
Peter Neville (ANAM Faculty, Head of Percussion) percussion

Approximate duration: 60 minutes

Peter Neville's Faculty position is supported by Kerry Landman

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ROCK MUSIC CAN'T DO THAT!

Inspiration doesn't spring out of nowhere, and the world surrounding each artist undeniably influences their art. What does that mean for artists growing up in our pop-culture saturated world, especially those who come to art music of their own accord? Suddenly works written today take on not only Mozart, Beethoven and Mahler as influences but Springsteen and Led Zeppelin, Joni Mitchell and Count Basie, Aretha Franklin and ARCA. Tight rhythms, repeating cells and new colours find a natural home in percussion ensembles, where the technical limits have always been pushed and the boundaries between genres frequently blurred.

Julia Wolfe might be the most 'typical' composer in this concert, with a Pulitzer under her belt and as the co-founder of a publishing house (Red Poppy Music) and record label (Cantaloupe Music). But the co-founder of boundary-pushing contemporary ensemble Bang on a Can scarcely lets her music settle into the status quo. Taking its name from a description printed on the bottom of a ride cymbal, *Dark Full Ride* embraces the drum kit by putting four of them on stage. The piece explores the whole drum kit: the first seven minutes are all on the hi-hat, before adding cymbals and more of the drums until all four kits are in thrumming cacophony. It's as much timpanic virtuosity as metal shredding, and demands the energy to match.

You're most likely to recognise **Danny Elfman** from his scores written for Tim Burton's films (and even crooning Jack Skellington's songs in *The Nightmare Before Christmas*), but the self-taught composer has been taking on the concert hall in recent years. His richly coloured scores give the sense of rigorous training and studious apprenticeship, but Elfman got his start as songwriter and frontman for new wave band Oingo Boingo, and Burton took a leap of faith asking him to score his debut film, *Peewee's Big Adventure* (1985). Elfman is an unashamed stylistic chameleon, soaking up the works of Prokofiev, Stravinsky and Korngold and reforming their language into his own. The Percussion Quartet pays homage to American minimalists Steve Reich, Terry Riley, Philip Glass and the experimental Harry Partch, but keeping Elfman's characteristic melodism through plentiful pitched percussion.

The last composer on this program might surprise you – the drummer from British band The Police is a surprising person to have a growing catalogue of art music. **Stewart Copeland** was introduced to everything from Carl Orff to Glenn Miller by his father, amateur jazz trumpeter and CIA spy, and a fascination with these diverse influences initially fed his drumming in The Police and served him as he started scoring films and video games. In a turn to the concert hall, Copeland realises the opportunity he has to bring audiences together, both in getting rock fans into concert halls and broadening tastes of those already in concert halls to wider rhythms and popular ideas. Gene Pool puts Copeland's drum kit front and centre, fusing rock licks with the wider possibilities of orchestral percussion, calling for especially virtuosic marimba playing from the four percussionists.

Written by Alex Owens, ANAM Music Librarian, Robert Salzer Foundation Library