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[Press Room](#)



Images of Sō Percussion are available for download from the Cal Performances [press room](#).

CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
SŌ PERCUSSION
IN THE KEYBOARD REIMAGINED
FEATURING NEW MUSIC INSPIRED BY STEVE REICH'S *MALLET QUARTET*,
INCLUDING WEST COAST PREMIERES
BY JASON TREUTING AND DAN TRUEMAN
SUNDAY, APRIL 7 AT 7PM IN HERTZ HALL

Berkeley, February 28, 2019 — Cal Performances at UC Berkeley presents acclaimed new-music ensemble **Sō Percussion** in a concert of recent works and West Coast and Bay Area premieres, on Sunday, April 7 at 7pm in Hertz Hall. *The Keyboard Reimagined*, the group's latest commissioning

initiative, is inspired by Steve Reich’s classic *Mallet Quartet* from 2009 and was designed to challenge contemporary composers to create a new body of “keyboard” music for mallet quartet—the instrumentation of two marimbas and two vibraphones. **Vijay Iyer**, **Donnacha Dennehy**, and the quartet’s own **Jason Treuting** have each composed new music for the combination of wood and metal, and the program features the West Coast premiere of Treuting’s *Nine Numbers 4*, and the Bay Area premieres of Iyer’s *Torque* and Dennehy’s *Broken Unison*. Other works in the concert will feature Bitklavier, the software engine that drives the prepared digital piano (in selections from Dan Trueman’s *Nostalgic Synchronic*, West Coast Premiere), or combine keyboard instruments with non-pitched instruments such as flower pots (Caroline Shaw’s *Taxidermy*) and the inside of a piano (Suzanne Farrin’s *a diamond in the square*, Bay Area Premiere).

The adventurous repertoire takes full advantage of Sō Percussion’s unique ensemble chemistry, rhythmic vitality, and interpretive precision, honed over many years performing complex works by Steve Reich, Iannis Xenakis, and John Cage, among others. Dennehy’s *Broken Unison* is a 22-minute fantasy on a series of tightly wrought canons, which unfolds in nine movements. Iyer has said that he composed *Torque* with the rhythmic interplay of his own jazz trio in mind; the four-movement work features abrupt accelerations, asymmetrical grooves, a lyrical marimba chorale, and moments of soul-inflected color. Trueman’s *Nostalgic Synchronic* has the quartet interacting with a prepared digital piano, its natural sounds warped and retuned in real time. *Nine Numbers 4*, the latest work in ensemble member Jason Treuting’s “Sudoku” series of pieces for variable numbers of percussion instruments, is a three-movement composition exploring the possibilities of the mallet quartet. Shaw’s *Taxidermy* has become a staple of the ensemble’s repertoire since it was commissioned in 2012.

Ticket Information

Tickets for *Sō Percussion, The Keyboard Reimagined* on Sunday, April 7 at 7pm in Hertz Hall are \$42 (prices subject to change). Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at calperformances.org, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to calperformances.org/discounts.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, April 7, 7pm, Hertz Hall

New Music

Sō Percussion

The Keyboard Reimagined

Hertz Hall
Bancroft Way at College Avenue
UC Berkeley campus

Program*:

Vijay Iyer/*Torque* (Bay Area Premiere)

Caroline Shaw/*Taxidermy*

Jason Treuting/*Nine Numbers 4* (West Coast Premiere)

Suzanne Farrin/*a diamond in the square* (Bay Area Premiere)

Dan Trueman/Selections from *Nostalgic Synchronic* (for prepared digital piano) (West Coast Premiere)

Donnacha Dennehy/*Broken Unison* (Bay Area Premiere)

** Please note that this program has changed from what was originally announced.*

Tickets: \$42 (prices subject to change)

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