



## Press Release

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY'S PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE WELCOMES SPECIAL GUEST MARIMBIST THOM BURRITT**

Fort Collins, CO – The Percussion Ensemble of the Department of Music in the School of the Arts at Colorado State University welcomes superb marimbist Thom Burritt for a concert of contemporary music written exclusively for percussion on Sunday, December 2 at 3:00 p.m. in Griffin Concert Hall of the University Center for the Arts at 1400 Remington Street. Tickets are \$10 for the public and \$5 for Colorado State students and may be purchased through the Campus Box Office in person at the Lory Student Center, by phone at (970) 491-4TIX, or online at [www.csutix.com](http://www.csutix.com).

The Colorado State Percussion Ensemble is composed of a select group of 23 music majors who explores past and current trends in percussion performance practice. Their repertoire is eclectic and comprised of music written exclusively for the genre, usually dated within the last 15 years. The variety of sounds and instruments demonstrated in their concerts is vast and ever expanding. Their fall concert will feature special guest artist and renowned marimbist Thom Burritt on a solo piece and “Alabados Song,” a beautiful piece that incorporates solo marimba and 8 percussionists.

Active in the performance of new music for percussion, Burritt has built a reputation in chamber music, as a percussion soloist and a concert marimbist. He has performed regularly at the Leigh Howard Stevens International Marimba Seminar and most recently was a featured faculty performer at the 2007 Zeltsman Marimba Festival. In April 2004, Burritt performed in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall as member of the Hammers and Sticks Ensemble. As a soloist, he has been active performing percussion concertos by Steve Mackey, Joseph Schwantner, Michael Dougherty, David Maslanka and James MacMillan.

Burritt is currently Associate Professor of Percussion and Director of Percussion Studies at the University of Texas at Austin and is a clinician for LLC/Malletech Instruments, Malletech Mallets and Zildjian Cymbals. He received degrees from Ithaca College School of Music (BM in Education and Performance), Kent State University (MM), and Northwestern University (DMA).

Other pieces in the CSU Percussion Ensemble concert include the great minimalist Steve Reich's masterpiece "Music for Pieces of Wood," which includes 5 players using varying lengths of wood to create a seamless and ever changing rhythmic pulse. "The Whole Toy Laid Down," by David Hollinden is based on a electronic toy that is put to rest but still has a life of its own, sputtering, spitting, and jerking back to life, using over 40 instruments to amaze and enthrall audiences.

"Used Car Salesman" by Michael Daugherty is a parody of the pitches and antics of used car salesman, where four players play a variety of pitched and non-pitched percussion instruments to create this wonderful stereotype. "Baron's Dance" by Michael Aukofer, includes 6 players and a variety of sound effects, such as slide whistle, siren whistle, giggle sticks, goat hooves, and ice bells to create a funny and light dance. "Vespertine Formations" by Christopher Deane is a beautiful piece using four marimbas to create the visual representation of bird formations that we often witness in the fall, when thousands of bird swarm in our skies before flying south.

CSU Percussion Ensemble Director Eric Hollenbeck says, "This percussion ensemble concert is sure to be one of the strongest and most interesting concerts within the last decade. Don't miss this!"

For more information, a full performance and event calendar, or to sign up for a free event e-newsletter, visit [www.CSUSchooloftheArts.com](http://www.CSUSchooloftheArts.com).

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