



SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 03/09/15

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**SUU'S DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC OFFERS
FREE INFORMAL PERFORMANCE
FEATURING TALA RASA PERCUSSION
SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2015**

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah: Spend an afternoon experiencing the unique and lively sounds of collaborative percussion when the innovative **Tala Rasa Percussion** ensemble joins SUU's **Dr. Lynn Vartan** for an informal performance. Scheduled for **Saturday, March 14, 2015, at 4pm** in **South Hall** (across from SUU's Music Building), this remarkable performance features a series of solos, duos, trios and quartets. **The informal performance is free and open to the public.**

Since its founding in 2012, **Tala Rasa Percussion** has rapidly set into motion a new age of percussion chamber music through the vast exploration of sound and a consistent open minded analysis of the art form. Originally when Tala Rasa was conceived at Michigan State University, their goal was to utilize the existing repertoire and present an exciting, fresh, new take on the already iconic 20th century percussion standards. The ensemble quickly discovered that their passions lie in the advocacy of new music, and sought to continuously explore its possibilities. In its short lifespan the ensemble has brought a profound expression to the music of John Cage, Paul Lansky, Iannis Xenakis, Fredrick Anderson and Toru Takemitsu, and many others. Tala Rasa is currently in the process of commissioning composers Roshanne Etezady and Alejandro Viñao, as well as previously commissioning composers Andrea Mazzariello and Thomas Childs.

The members of Tala Rasa – **James Beauton, Brendan, Betyñ, and Steve Wulff** – have been awarded degrees in music performance from Michigan State University, University of South Carolina, and Stony Brook University. They have studied with teachers Robert van Sice, Gwen Burgett, Eduardo Leandro, Tom Freer, Eldad Tarmu, Dr. Scott Herring, Dr. Jon Weber, and the world renowned percussion quartet, Sō Percussion. Each member of Tala Rasa Percussion is endorsed by the Vic Firth Young Artist Program and performs exclusively with Vic Firth sticks and mallets.

Dr. Lynn Vartan performs regularly and is percussionist for Southwest Chamber Music, two-time Grammy® nominee in the “Best Classical Album of the Year” and “Best Small Ensemble with or without a conductor” categories. Vartan has been featured on the Los Angeles Philharmonic Green Umbrella Series, the Different Trains Series and has soloed with the Music and the Court series in Pasadena, California, and the Sierra Wind Symphony. She recently released her first solo recording, *Dancing on the Head of a Pin*. Vartan received her master’s and doctorate degrees from the University of Southern California with special honors and recognition. She teaches percussion at Southern Utah University.

Experience a new wave of contemporary percussion by attending this informal performance. For more information on the SUU College of Performing and Visual Arts events, please visit www.suu.edu/pva/arts.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

The Southern Utah University College of Performing and Visual Arts is comprised of nationally accredited departments of Art and Design, Music, Theatre Arts and Dance, as well as a graduate program in Arts Administration. The College offers 16 different degree areas, including liberal arts Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees; professional Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Fine Arts in art and theatre degrees; and a Master of Fine Arts in Arts Administration degree. More than 60 full- and part-time faculty and staff are engaged in teaching and mentoring over 550 majors in the College. Over 1100 students enroll each year in over 195 arts classes on the SUU campus. The College presents 100 performances, lectures, presentations, and exhibitions each year. The College’s affiliate organizations include the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery, Utah Shakespeare Festival, and the SUU Ballroom Dance Company. For more information about the College of Performing and Visual Arts, contact the Office of the Dean (435) 865-8561 or by e-mail at cpvamktg@suu.edu.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS: TALA RASA PERCUSSION

- WHAT:** Spend an afternoon experiencing the lively sounds of collaborative percussion when the innovative Tala Rasa Percussion ensemble joins SUU’s Dr. Lynn Vartan for an informal performance. This remarkable performance features a series of solos, duos, trios and quartets.
- WHO:** Southern Utah University, Department of Music
- WHEN:** March 14, 2015
- TIME:** 4pm
- WHERE:** South Hall, Southern Utah University, Cedar City, UT
- INFO:** www.suu.edu/pva/arts
- PRICES:** Free and the General Public is encouraged to attend.