



**COLLEGE OF
PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS**

SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY

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SUU Percussion Festival Explores a World of Rhythmic Wonder

Written by Tracy Solimeno

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah: The Department of Music will share some of the variety and wonder of music at their annual SUU Percussion Festival on Friday and Saturday, April 13 and 14, 2018. This two-day event culminates with a community concert on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in Thorley Recital Hall located in the SUU Music Building. Admission is free and open to the public.

Powerful performer and educator, Fernando Meza, will perform with students and Dr. Vartan. The musical numbers will include “Sakura”, an arrangement based on a Japanese folk song, “Journeys” by Patrick Bailey, and “Marimba Spiritual” by Minoru Miki, featuring alumni soloist, Joe Howe.

“This year’s Percussion Festival is truly a worldwide music extravaganza!” said Dr. Lynn Vartan, Professor of Music. “All of the pieces have some element of travel or world music, from the fiesta piece ‘Duende’ by Francisco Perez to the Peruvian landscape depicted in ‘Windows of the Maloca’ by Jim Casella.”

During the day, students from SUU and regional high schools have the opportunity to interact and learn from professional percussionists. This includes hands-on instruction and unique insights on new and unique musical styles.

“My interest in percussion started when I was 14 years old. My passion did not start with a specific kind of music - I just felt a connection with the instrument. Coming to SUU has made my dream of studying music in the United States a reality” said Alexandre Di Pasquale, a music major, originally from France. “The SUU ensembles and professors have given me many opportunities to increase my experience.”

The goal of the SUU Percussion Ensemble is to perform historically significant works for percussion, contemporary percussion literature, novelty percussion and traditional non-western percussion music. The ensemble is comprised of both music majors and non-majors and welcomes students with a variety of levels of experience. Several performance opportunities are available to members of the Percussion Ensemble throughout the year.

Journey with us as we explore the percussive sounds of culture and customs from around the world. For more information on SUU’s Music Department, please visit www.suu.edu/pva/music.

About the College of Performing and Visual Arts

The College of Performing and Visual Arts (CPVA) at Southern Utah University comprises 26 academic programs including liberal arts (BA/BS) and professional (BFA, BM) degrees in art, design, dance, music and theatre. It offers graduate programs in the fields of arts administration, music education, and music technology. More than 60 full- and part-time faculty and staff are engaged in teaching and mentoring over 600 majors in the College. CPVA presents over 100 performances, lectures, presentations, and exhibitions each year and is affiliated with the Southern Utah Museum of Art (SUMA), Utah Shakespeare Festival, and the Center for Shakespeare Studies. Southern Utah University is an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Art & Design (NASAD), National Association of Schools of Dance (NASD), and the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM). For more information about the College of Performing and Visual Arts, visit www.suu.edu/pva.

For Calendar Editors: SUU Percussion Festival Explores a World of Rhythmic Wonder

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- Who:** Department of Music, College of Performing and Visual Arts, Southern Utah University
- When:** Saturday, April 14, 2018
- Time:** 7:30 p.m.
- Where:** Thorley Recital Hall, Music Building, Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah
- Tickets:** Admission is free and open to the public.
- Info:** For more information, please visit www.suu.edu/pva/music.

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