



COLLEGE OF PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS

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**SUU'S SATELLITE SALON SERIES RETURNS
"POWER PLAY: AN ELECTRIC EVENING OF MUSIC"
JANUARY 30, 2016**

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah: The return of SUU's most innovative music program promises to spark creativity in more ways that you can imagine. SUU's ground-breaking **Satellite Salon Series** presents *Power Play: An Electric Evening of Music*, a performance built around the works of electronic composer **Jason Francesco Heath**. Developed by series creator **Dr. Lynn Vartan**, the evening will feature guest artists **Alma Fernandez**, violist, and Heath along with SUU's **Shane Summers**, pianist, and **Dr. Lucas Goodrich**, tenor, and percussionist Vartan. These artists will participate in a joint concert on **Saturday, January 30 at 7:30pm**. On **Friday afternoon, January 29**, Heath, Fernandez and Vartan will participate in a master class for SUU students, high school students or anyone interested in electric composition. This event takes place at **3pm**. The concert and master class will take place at **Thorley Recital Hall** in SUU's **Music Building**. **All events are free and opened to the general public.**

A diverse concert in its musical variety, *Power Play: An Electric Evening of Music* showcases the music of Jason Francesco Heath and includes the premiere of two new works. Alma Fernandez performs "Rain Ceremony" for viola and live electronics, she joins Summers for "Alchemy of Everyday Things, a piece for viola, piano and electronics. Fernandez collaborates with Vartan on a new work for viola, percussion and live electronics. Lucas Goodrich sings "Broken Machines" which features solo and duo performers and live electronics. Summers solos on "Color Variations," a work for re-tuned keyboard. Vartan premieres a new composition by Heath for solo percussion and live electronics.

Jason Francesco Heath, Ph.D., is a Los Angeles based composers and electronic media artist. His music has been heard at such diverse venues as Bang on a Can, Pacifica radio's "Global Village," KPCC with Steven Cuevas, "Sacred Mondays" on KXLU 88.9, People Inside Electronics (P.I.E.), Hear Now,

What's Next Ensemble's "Los Angeles Composers Project," Villa Aurora," UC Berkeley's CNMAT (Center for New Music and Audio Technologies), Pepperdine University, Chapman University, Cal State Fullerton, Carnegie Mellon University and many more. As a highly sought-after composer, he recently received commissions from the Ray-Kallay Duo, The Varied Trio, Brightwork New Music, The Lyrus Quartet, The Barbara and Art Culver Center of the Arts, cellist Maggie Parkins, and Grammy-nominated pianist Aron Kallay. From 2010-2014, Dr. Heath developed and implemented a series of music technology outreach programs that have engaged thousands of people of all ages. His programs make use of gaming controllers, Wacom tablets, various custom-built electronics, and original software. In 2013, he founded UCR Gluck Laptop Ensemble. As a dedicated music educator, Dr. Heath has lectured at Pomona College, Chapman University, Pepperdine University, UC Riverside, Cal State San Bernardino, the Colburn School of Music and Cal State Long Beach. He currently teaches Electronic Music, Counterpoint, and applied Music Composition at Los Angeles City College (LACC).

Alma Fernandez, violist, attended the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and UCLA, where she received a Master's Degree in Viola Performance. She performs regularly with such ensembles as the Los Angeles Opera Orchestra, LA Master Chorale, Long Beach Symphony and Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra. Alma is also active in the recording industry, having played for numerous motion picture soundtracks, television shows, and record albums. As a chamber musician, she has been described as "...a soulful violist" (- *Los Angeles Times*, Mark Swed). She is a member of the Denali String Quartet, resident ensemble of the Jacaranda Chamber Music Series in Santa Monica, which gave the world premiere performance of Ben Johnston's "Revised Standards." She has also worked closely with composer Tigran Mansurian, having given the west coast premiere of his Percussion & Viola duet in 2007. Alma participated in the Dilijan Chamber Music Series featuring Mansurian's third string quartet, with an interpretation that was described by the *Los Angeles Times* as a "gripping, expert performance."

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.

Created by Dr. Lynn Vartan, the **Satellite Salon Series** allows for personal interaction and communication between a resident or guest musician and or visual artist and music students from SUU and the region through master classes, question and answer sessions and workshops. The Series is also

an educational program, designed to give southern Utah rural high school students the opportunity to learn from professional musicians and artists during the Master's Class.

Experience the electronic compositions of Jason Francesco Heath. Don't miss ***Power Play: An Electric Evening of Music***. For more information on the SUU College of Performing and Visual Arts events, visit www.suu.edu/pva.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

The Southern Utah University College of Performing and Visual Arts (CPVA) is comprised of nationally accredited departments of Art and Design, Music, Theatre Arts and Dance, as well as a graduate program in Arts Administration and a Center for Shakespeare Studies. 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. The College presents over 100 performances, lectures, presentations, and exhibitions each year. The College's affiliates include the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery, Utah Shakespeare Festival, and the SUU Ballroom Dance Company. For more information about the CPVA, visit www.suu.edu/pva.

CALENDAR EDITORS: SATELLITE SALON SERIES: *Power Play: An Electric Evening of Music*

- WHAT:** The return of SUU's innovative music program promises to spark creativity in more ways that you can imagine. The ground-breaking Satellite Salon Series presents *Power Play: An Electric Evening of Music*, a performance built around the works of electronic composer Jason Francesco Heath.
- WHO:** Southern Utah University, College of Performing and Visual Arts, Department of Music
- WHEN:** Concert: Saturday, January 30 / Master Class: Friday, January 29
- TIME:** Power Play 7:30pm / Master Class: 3pm
- WHERE:** Thorley Recital Hall, SUU's Music Building
- INFO:** www.suu.edu/pva/arts
- PRICES:** Free and the General Public is encouraged to attend.