

Sandbox Percussion



photo by Henry Chan

Biography

Lauded by The Washington Post as “revitalizing the world of contemporary music” with “jaw-dropping virtuosity,” Sandbox Percussion has established themselves as a leading proponent in this generation of contemporary percussion chamber music. Brought together by their love of chamber music and the simple joy of playing together, Sandbox Percussion captivates audiences with performances that are both visually and aurally stunning. Through compelling collaborations with composers and performers, Jonathan Allen, Victor Caccese, Ian Rosenbaum and Terry Sweeney seek to engage a wider audience for classical music.

Sandbox made their New York debut in 2012 on the Concerts on the Slope series in Brooklyn. Following that performance, they accepted an invitation to become artists-in-residence of the series and have returned in each subsequent season. Later that year, Sandbox worked closely with composer James Wood on his masterpiece *Village Burial with Fire* at the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival. While at Norfolk, Sandbox played alongside the great Hungarian percussion quartet Amadinda – Aurél Holló, a member of Amadinda, later said about Sandbox: “With an array of skills, talent and freshness, these young artists seem to be pushing their limits up in the skies, as I realized listening to them at the Yale New Music Workshop. Sandbox Percussion is the promising group of the near future, battering right on your door.”

Last season Sandbox gave a staggering twelve world premieres by composers such as Robert Sirota, Amy Beth Kirsten, David Crowell, Thomas Kotcheff, Alex Weiser, and Tonia Ko. Six of these premieres were by composition students at the Yale School of Music and were featured on the New Music New Haven concert series. This past Spring Sandbox, along with flutist Tim Munro, performed the world premiere of Amy Beth Kirsten’s, *They Might be Giants* as members of a larger mixed ensemble, HOWL co-directed by Amy Beth Kirsten and Mark DeChiazza.

In addition to keeping a busy concert schedule Sandbox has also participated in various masterclasses and coachings at schools such as the Peabody Conservatory, Curtis Institute, Cornell University, and Furman University. While there they coached students on some of the most pivotal works in the percussion repertoire including Steve Reich’s *Drumming*, György Ligeti’s, *Síppal, dobbal, nádihegedűvel* and John Cage’s *Third Construction*.

Most recently has marked the quartet’s growing interest in composition. Last season Jonathan Allen’s *Interlude* and Victor Caccese’s *Chatter* were featured on eleven separate programs throughout the U.S. Sandbox also worked closely with composer David Crowell on a marimba arrangement of his saxophone sextet, *Point Reyes*. They gave the world premiere in November 2014 in Brooklyn, NY.

Sandbox Percussion has now reached their fifth concert season and will celebrate with a California tour premiering a brand new work by longtime friend, Thomas Kotcheff. They will also visit Kansas University where they will coach and perform Steve Reich’s monumental work, *Drumming*. Other highlights include the world premiere of Amy Beth Kirsten’s *Quixote* at Montclair State University along with Ensemble HOWL, two programs at Brooklyn’s National Sawdust, and a run out concert to Minnesota with the Brian Brooks Moving Company. Sandbox Percussion endorses Vic Firth drumsticks and Remo drumheads.

Sample Programs

Blending Old and New

This program is built around a newly commissioned piece by Thomas Kotcheff. Along with classics by Steve Reich and Lukas Ligeti, it blends together old and new works for percussion quartet.

Steve Reich	<i>Music for Pieces of Wood</i>
Thomas Kotcheff	<i>[New percussion quartet]</i>
Jonathan Allen	<i>Interlude</i>
Lukas Ligeti	<i>Pattern Transformation</i>
David Crowell	<i>Point Reyes</i>
Steve Reich	<i>Drumming: Part 1</i>

Focus: Steve Reich

This collaborative performance with a percussion studio joins together two seminal Steve Reich works.

Steve Reich	<i>Mallet Quartet</i>
Steve Reich	<i>Drumming</i>

György Ligeti and Chris Cerrone

This program features two works in collaboration with mezzo-soprano. The first is a brand new piece by recent Rome prize winner, Chris Cerrone. The second is a rare performance of György Ligeti's *Síppal, dobbal, nádihegedüvel*. This seven-movement song cycle beautifully blends a disparate palate of percussion sounds with a vocal line that moves seamlessly between extremes in range and technique, and simple, unadorned beauty.

Chris Cerrone	<i>[New piece for percussion quartet with mezzo-soprano]</i>
György Ligeti	<i>Síppal, dobbal, nádihegedüvel</i>

Educational Offerings

Solo and Chamber Music

Sandbox Percussion discusses and demonstrates their process for learning, rehearsing, and performing their repertoire, with a focus on applying these core chamber music skills to any facet of music-making, from solo performances to playing in an orchestra. In addition, students have the opportunity to perform solo or chamber music for the members of Sandbox and receive feedback. If students are able to play chamber music that is part of Sandbox's repertoire (listed below), members of Sandbox can sub in and out of the student ensemble and play with them.

Steve Reich's Drumming

Over the course of a multi-day residency, Sandbox can teach, rehearse, and then perform Steve Reich's complete. Drumming with a percussion studio. This will involve a minimum of 5 students, and could involve as many as 16. As a part of this process, Sandbox can give shorter clinics on phasing and performing technique in Drumming. This residency gives students the opportunity to directly rehearse and perform with the members of Sandbox, as well as get the experience of performing one of the most important pieces in the percussion repertoire.



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Press

"Focusing on works written, more or less, last week by composers the group knows and works with, Sandbox brought out the immediacy, lack of pretension and high-end playfulness that seems — thankfully — to be revitalizing the world of contemporary music. And their jaw-dropping virtuosity made it all seem like . . . well, child's play."

- **The Washington Post**

"The musicians of Sandbox threw themselves into the performance with the energy of youth and the precision of a well-established group, with a program that was both vibrant and exotic."

- **Feast of Music**

"Sandbox Percussion is clearly an energetic ensemble with imagination, integrity and courage in their music making... Sandbox's mix of solid technique, musicality and showmanship ensured it was a hugely enjoyable evening all around."

- **I Care if You Listen**

"With an array of skills, talent and freshness, these young artists seem to be pushing their limits up in the sky, as I realized listening to them at the Norfolk New Music Workshop. Sandbox Percussion is the promising group of the near future, battering right on your door."

- **Aurél Holló – Amadinda Percussion Group**

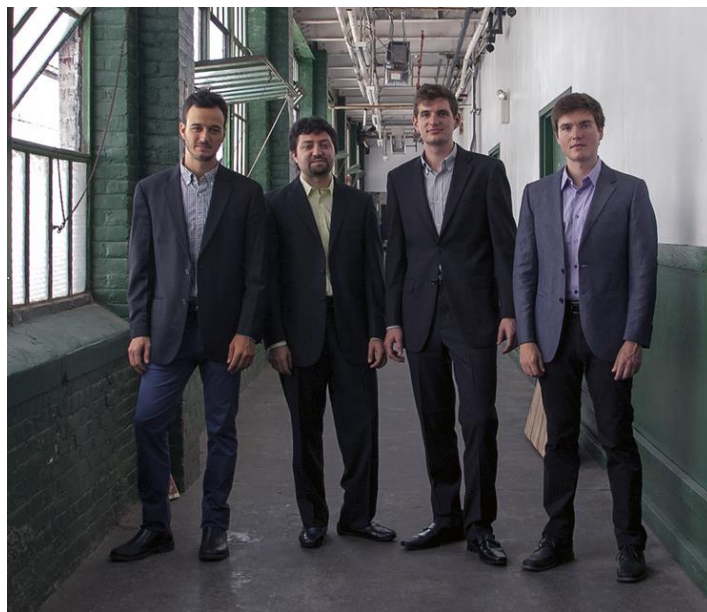


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Selected Performances

2016

January 17 Furman University
February 12 LiveConnections
March 20 Phillips Collection
June 9-11 The Kitchen NYC

Steve Reich's *Drumming* with the percussion studio
Premiering a new piece by Alyssa Weinberg
Presenting a new percussion quartet by David Crowell
Wilderness with the Brian Brooks Moving Company

2015

November 19 Trinity Church
Sprague Hall
March 5 Cornell University
March 23-27 St. John's Episcopal
April 12 Lyric Hall
May 21, 22

John Luther Adams' *Strange and Sacred Noise*
New Music New Haven (six world premieres)
Ensemble residency (world premiere)
Concerts on the Slope series (world premiere)
Sandbox + Tim Munro (world premiere)

2014

January 25 TEDx Gowanus
September 13 The DiMenna Center
October 6,7 Furman University
December 8 Bard College

TED talk with Blind Ear Music
Kettle Corn New Music (two world premieres)
György Ligeti - *Síppal, dobbal, nádihegedűvel*
Blending Old and New



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2013

May 3,4 Yale School of Drama
August 28 Hafele showroom

Forming the Year's First Sky (world premiere)
Rich O'Meara showcase concert

2012

June 10 New England Conservatory
June 29, 30 Norfolk New Music Festival

New England Chamber Music Competition Finals
Featured performances of pieces by James Wood, Steve Reich, and various resident composers

Repertoire

Jonathan Allen

Krists Auznieks
Mark Applebaum
Victor Caccese

John Cage

David Crowell

Natalie Dietterich
Thierry de Mey
Ian Gottlieb
Palmer Hefferan
Brian Heim
Amy Beth Kirsten

Tonia Ko
Thomas Kotcheff

Michael Laurello
David Lang
Paul Lansky
György Ligeti
Lukas Ligeti
David T. Little
Rich O'Meara
Steve Reich

Robert Sirota
Jason Treuting

Alex Weiser

Nigel Westlake
Samantha Wolf
James Wood
Tiange Zhou

Interlude
Sonata
Passing Pieces
Straitjacket
A Part, Apart
Chatter
Living Room Music
Third Construction
Music for Percussion Quartet
Point Reyes
Dig
Table Music
Percussion Quartet
Forming the Year's First Sky
Cymbal Quartet
She is a Myth
They Might be Giants
Breath, Contained
Hammer/ring
Part and Parcel
Short Movement Written During a Snowstorm
the so-called laws of nature
Threads
Síppal, dobbal, nádihegedüvel
Pattern Transformation
Speak Softly
jh variations
Clapping Music
Drumming
Mallet Quartet
Music for Mallet Instruments, Voices and Organ
Music for Pieces of Wood
Nagoya Marimbas
Sextet
Spindrift
Selections from Amid the Noise
extremes
Life is [blank]
What the Hell
Anatomy of a Drum Roll
Resonance in Rhythm
Omphalo Centric Lecture
Thingamajig
Village Burial with Fire
Beginning of Origin

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