

# orphic percussion

## bio

Orphic Percussion is a Northern California-based percussion quartet dedicated to the creation and performance of new music. Orphic means "beyond ordinary," a phrase that characterizes the ensemble and its mission: to commission and premiere new works by today's most compelling composers; to broaden the audience for contemporary music; and to present concerts that are vibrantly communicative, musically expressive, and inspiringly virtuosic—or, quite simply—extraordinary.

Orphic's recent highlights include recital tours in the Midwest and Pacific Northwest, the world premiere of Stefan Cwik's *Relics: Dances for Percussion Quartet and Orchestra* with San Francisco's Symphony Parnassus (nominated by the San Francisco Classical Voice for "Best New Music Performance" of the 2017-18 season), university residencies at Southern Nazarene University (OK) and George Fox University (OR), and a return engagement at the Arcata Playhouse (CA). In addition, Orphic has been self-producing an ongoing concert series at University Presbyterian Church (CA) since early 2017, and maintains a close relationship with the Nevada County Composer's Cooperative, having premiered works by Alexis Alrich, Mark Vance, and Durwynne Hsieh.

In the 2019-2020 season, Orphic will unveil its newest concert program, *Orphic: Unheard*, featuring newly commissioned works by Dave Maric, Kenneth Froelich, Shaun Tilburg, Bryce Cannell, and Alejandro Viñao. Orphic's upcoming engagements include the group's international debut at the 2019 Day of Percussion in Nuremberg, Germany, an appearance on San Francisco's Old First Concert Series, a residency with the composition department at Las Positas College, and a recital tour of the southern United States.

Orphic Percussion is sponsored by Marimba One, Beetle Percussion, and Black Swamp Percussion.

SEAN  
CLARK



# PROGRAMS

Orphic offers two structured concert programs—*Orphic: Beyond*, with highly accessible music for a general audience; and *Orphic: Unheard*, featuring newly commissioned works written specifically for Orphic. In addition, Orphic can tailor programs to a presenter's artistic vision or a venue's logistical capabilities, offering additional possibilities such as a program made entirely of electroacoustic music, an evening of works by American composers, or a more gear-simple recital containing pieces only for mallet quartet (two marimbas/two vibraphones—no extra equipment).



## orphic: BEYOND

Orphic's first program, *Orphic: Beyond*, showcases the ensemble's commitment to audience-building through virtuosic, yet widely accessible, percussion music. This program takes its title from the meaning behind Orphic—"beyond ordinary"—in order to move "beyond" a traditional recital performance for a more communicative and expressive musical product. *Orphic: Beyond* also includes dialogue from the stage, for a more inclusive, inviting concert experience.



"Orphic Percussion is the most interesting and engaging quartet I have experienced all year."

Ron Samuels  
Owner, Marimba One

MIKE  
DOWNING

*DisArchitecture*  
by Dave Hall (10')

*Toccata*  
by Sergei Prokofiev,  
arr. Samuel Chan (6')

*Quartet for Four Snare Drums*  
by Kevin Bobo (6')

*Musée*  
by Kevin Bobo (10')

*Celestial Dance*  
by Stefan Cwik (8')

*Boom*  
by Terry Longshore  
& Brett Reed (6')

*Vous Avez De Feu?*  
by Emmanuel Séjourné (3')

*Muse of Fire*  
by Alexis Alrich (7')

## orphic: UNHEARD

The group's latest (and more ear-bending) concert program, *Orphic: Unheard*, is the result of the quartet's mission to commission and perform new music by living composers. Some pieces, such as the Tilburg, Alrich, Cannell, and Froelich, were written expressly for Orphic, while the Viñao and Maric were a result of collaborations with other leading ensembles—namely, the Colin Currie Quartet and The Percussion Collective. To end with a bang, Orphic co-composed a brand new drum quartet that closes the program, demonstrating the ensemble's first foray into the territory of player-composers.

*Muse of Fire*  
by Alexis Alrich (7')

*A Series of Accidents*  
by Shaun Tilburg (7')

*New work*  
by Kenneth Froelich (8-10')

*Stress and Flow, mvt. I*  
by Alejandro Viñao (7')

*Jigsaw*  
by Bryce Cannell (8')

*Nascent Forms*  
by Dave Maric (17')

*New work*  
by Orphic Percussion (5')

STUART  
LANGSAM

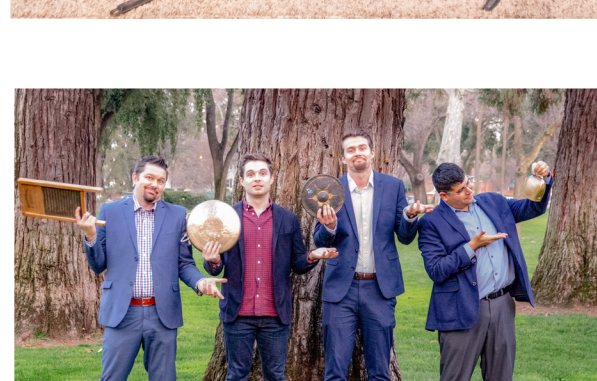


"Colorful, dynamic, deeply musical, and visually enchanting, Orphic Percussion is a game-changer...one of the most thrilling concerts I've ever seen."

Dr. Dwayne Corbin  
George Fox University

## photos

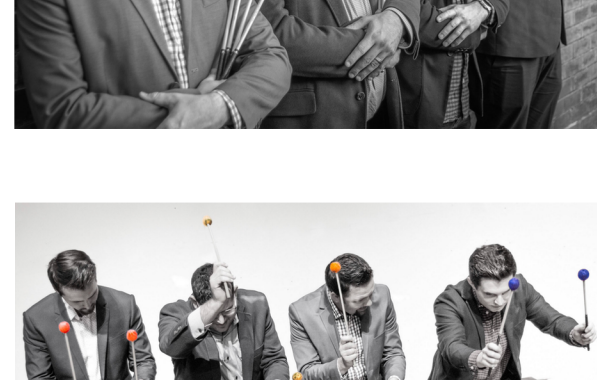
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CAMERON  
LEACH

"Brilliant! Top quality performance from top quality people. My students were able to open up and learn all they could because Orphic made themselves approachable and kind."

Dr. Brian Stackhouse  
Southern Nazarene University



sponsors

