

Sunday, June 18, 2017

3:00pm

Madonna della Strada Chapel

Organized Rhythm

Clive Driskill-Smith, Organ & Joseph Gramley, Percussion

The Carnival of the Animals* Introduction Royal March of the Lion Aquarium Fossils	Camile Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)
Boléro sur un thème de Charles Racquet	Pierre Cochereau (1924-1984)
Haskalah	William Susman (b. 1960)
Variations on America (organ solo)	Charles Ives (1874-1954)
The Planets* Mars, the Bringer of War Venus, the Bringer of Peace Pluto** Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity	Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

* arranged by Joseph Gramley and Clive Driskill-Smith

** in 2011 Joseph Gramley and Clive Driskill-Smith commissioned Stephen Eddins (b. 1954) to compose Pluto



Since the fall of 2004, concert audiences across the United States have been brought to their feet by a pairing of musical personalities as improbable and winning as Organized Rhythm's combination of the pipe organ and percussion. British organist Clive Driskill-Smith, trained at Eton and Oxford, whose solo performances in England and America have earned him recognition as one of his generation's star organists, is wry and reserved—until he lets loose an astonishing battery of effects at the keyboard. He's complemented in Organized Rhythm by the athletic movement of Joseph Gramley, a physically towering Oregon native whose own crowd-pleasing solo concerts and work with Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble have made him one of the

leading multi-percussionists performing today. This powerful and harmonious duo presents what has been described as "...an exciting two-hour musical adventure, [offering] startling clear insight into what makes a live performance good, and why good live performances are important for us....passion, technical mastery, and precision...two young musicians doing what they clearly love--making music, not just for themselves, but for us as well." (The Granite State News, Wolfeboro NH)

Trumpet and organ: it's been done before. Flute and organ: it's been done before. But the "mini-orchestra" pairing of organ and percussion remains a rarity, making Organized Rhythm the only full-time, or at least fully-active, duo of its kind anywhere in the world. The Organized Rhythm duo takes every opportunity to deeply explore the lyrical and powerful tonal aspects of thunderous and dulcet wood and metal organ pipes married to the visceral, arresting, and delicate aspects of a wide array of percussion instruments from around the world through a collection of new works as well as transcriptions of recognizable classical compositions. Their repertoire spans from the music of J.S. Bach and Camille Saint-Saens to that of Aaron Copland and celebrated and innovative 21st century composer Nico Muhly, with the duo's adaptation of Gustav Holst's *The Planets* being their signature, and most frequently requested, performance piece. Listeners to the duo's first CD recording, *Beaming Music*, will hear cymbals and drums breaking through the full organ's sound as satisfyingly as any trumpet, and the duo has found balances in which even the soft bars of the marimba meld seamlessly with the organ's softest registers. The creative ease that exists between the two – developed not only during travel and concerts, but while finding and shaping repertoire – is instantly evident to anyone watching them rehearse, perform, and now record. The duo's March/April tour in the U.S. took them to Sarasota, Washington, D.C., Scottsdale, and Eureka, CA and a July 2017 concert invitation took them to Taipei to perform at the National Performing Arts Center.

Clive Driskill-Smith is one of the leading organists of his generation. Hailed as a "star of a new generation" (Evening Standard, London), critics have praised his "blazing technique" and "unbelievable virtuosity" (American Guild of Organists) and described his performances as "intensely moving" and "truly breathtaking" (Organo Pleno, Melbourne). He is Professor of Organ at the Royal Academy of Music in London and Organist at Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford, where he accompanies the celebrated choir directed by Stephen Darlington. Prior to his work at Christ Church, Oxford, he was organ scholar at Winchester Cathedral and assistant organist at Winchester College. His teachers include David Sanger, Hans Fagius, Guy Bovet, and Marie-Claire Alain, among others. Mr. Driskill-Smith was the 2000 Winner of the Royal College of Organists' Performer of the Year Competition and the Calgary International Organ Competition in 2002. Following his Calgary win, the Calgary Herald praised Mr. Driskill-Smith for the "sheer colour and finesse in every facet of organ playing [and] his mastery of the mechanics of the instrument...elegant and suave in everything". He regularly performs throughout Europe, North America, Asia and Australia. In the UK he has played at the BBC Proms, the Royal Festival Hall London, Symphony Hall Birmingham, and Bridgewater Hall Manchester. In the United States, he's performed numerous solo recital tours and has been featured at regional and national conventions of the American Guild of Organists. His most recently-released CD recording on the Herald label, *Fiat Lux*, received critical acclaim: "the technique is brilliant, the interpretation flawless...a first class recording." (The Organ, Great Britain).

Called the "Heifetz of the marimba" (Cleveland Plain Dealer) **Joseph Gramley** is associate professor of music and director of percussion studies at the University of Michigan. An invitation from cellist Yo-Yo Ma in 2000 led Gramley to join Yo-Yo Ma's multiple Grammy Award©-winning Silk Road Ensemble. In addition to participating in the group's extended residencies in cities across the globe, Gramley has toured with Yo-Yo Ma and the Ensemble throughout North America, Europe and Asia. Along the way, Gramley studied percussion styles and instruments from around the globe, collaborating with internationally renowned musicians from India, Iran, China, Japan, Korea, and Central Asia. His dynamic and exciting performances as a soloist have garnered critical

acclaim and enthusiasm from emerging composers, percussion aficionados, and first-time concert-goers alike. He is committed to bringing fresh and inventive compositions to a broad public, and each year he commissions and premieres a number of new works. His first solo recording, *American Deconstruction*, an expert rendition of five milestone works in multi-percussion's huge new modern repertoire, appeared in 2000 and was reissued in 2006. His second CD, *Global Percussion*, was released in 2005. He has appeared on several top-selling albums with Yo-Yo Ma on the SonyBMG label, and with other members of the Ensemble. In addition to his solo and Silk Road Ensemble performances, Gramley has performed with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra of St. Luke's, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, Orchestre de Lyon, The Spoleto Festival, Martha Graham Dance Company, Merce Cunningham Dance Company, and New York City Ballet, as well as with solo musicians Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Dawn Upshaw, Glen Velez, Keiko Abe, Aretha Franklin, Elton John, Sandeep Das, and numerous others.

Organized Rhythm is represented in North America exclusively by Phillip Truckenbrod Concert Artists, LLC.

Organized Rhythm will be on tour in the United States from October 22 – November 5, 2017.

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