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presents

## A Takemitsu Portrait

*Hannah Porter Occeña, flute*  
*with*  
*Josh Graham, marimba*

*Sequenza (1958)*.....Luciano Berio  
(1925 - 2003)

*Voice (1971)*.....Tōru Takemitsu  
(1930-1996)

*Itinerant (In memory of Isamu Noguchi) (1989)*.....Takemitsu

*Toward the Sea (1981)*..... Takemitsu  
1. The Night  
2. Moby Dick  
3. Cape Cod

with Josh Graham, marimba

*Air (1996)*.....Takemitsu

### **About the Artists**

Hailed by the New York Times as possessing "rich tone and deft technique," **Hannah Porter Occeña** is Assistant Professor of Flute at the University of Northern Iowa and Principal Flutist of the Topeka Symphony Orchestra (Topeka, KS). Previous positions include Principal Flute of the Midwest Chamber Ensemble (Prairie Village, KS) and Associate Principal Flute of the Bismarck-Mandan Symphony Orchestra (Bismarck, ND). The 2021 Mu Phi Epsilon International Competition Winner, Dr. Occeña has performed as an orchestral soloist, recitalist, and clinician throughout the US and abroad.

Committed to the rich heritage and new horizons of the repertoire, Dr. Occeña strives to make classical works accessible and engaging to diverse audiences. Between her performance schedule and collegiate teaching responsibilities, Dr. Occeña participates in outreach concerts and programs at schools and community centers. Some of her most meaningful musical experiences have taken place during performances at special needs schools and concerts in association with Autism Speaks.

As a chamber musician and collaborator, Dr. Occeña has worked to bring works by living composers to life. She is a commissioning member of the Flute New Music Consortium and has co-premiered works by Zhou Long (*Confluence*, 2015), Carter Pann (*Giantess*, 2018), Valerie Coleman (*Amazonia*, 2020), and Samuel Zyman (*Intuition*, 2022). She has also privately commissioned and premiered several new works, including *Shenandoah Variations* for flute and orchestra by Joseph Kern and *the whirring dusk* by Lisa Bost-Sandberg.

Dr. Occeña is a 2018 DMA graduate of Stony Brook University, where she studied with Carol Wincenc; she holds a Master of Music Dip.RAM from the Royal Academy of Music and a Bachelor of Music from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance. When not performing, Dr. Occeña enjoys spending time outdoors with her family. She can be heard on *New Beginnings: American and Australian Duos for Flute and Piano*, *Confluence*, and *Discovering Her Voice*. She is a Miyazawa Artist and plays on a Miyazawa Elite.

Praised as "beguiling" (Chicago Tribune) and a "superb performer" (Chicago Classical Review), percussionist **Dr. Josh Graham** has had the pleasure of performing throughout the United States and Canada. He currently serves as Assistant Adjunct Professor of Percussion at the University of Northern Iowa, Principal Percussionist of the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra, and also performs with F-PLUS and the Zafa Collective.

Primarily active in the creation of new works for percussion in both solo and chamber music contexts, Josh has commissioned and premiered chamber works by George Tsontakis, Jessie Montgomery, Marta Ptaszynska, Charles Peck, Emma O'Halloran, Matthew Ricketts, Matthew Barnson, Dave Hollinden, and Liza Sobel Crane, among many others. He made his concerto debut in 2014 at the Aspen Music Festival with Steve Mackey's "Micro-Concerto," and has commissioned or premiered new solo works by Lera Auerbach, Thomas Kotcheff, Katherine Pukinskis, Jose Miguel Arrellano, and Griffin Candey. In funding various commissions and projects, Dr. Graham and his ensembles have received grants from New Music America, Chamber Music America, the Barlow Endowment, the American Music Project, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Irish Arts Council, and the Arts Council of New Zealand, with many of the applications written by Dr. Graham.

Josh has performed at venues including Carnegie Hall, Harris Hall (Aspen, CO), the Detroit Institute of Art, the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, the Milwaukee Museum of Art, Art Institute of Chicago, Constellation, the Polish Consulate of Chicago and at dozens of universities across the country. Conference appearances include the New Music Gathering, International Computer Music Conference, the Society of Composers, Inc. Conference, the Northwestern University New Music Conference, and the International Clarinet Association "ClarinetFest." Josh has performed with prominent chamber music groups such as Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings, Ensemble Dal Niente, ~Nois Saxophone Ensemble, the Sinta Quartet, the Orion Ensemble, Lakeshore Rush, as well as with members of the Emerson Quartet, Silk Road Ensemble, Detroit Symphony, eighth blackbird, and the Bang on a Can All-Stars. His performances have been broadcast on WFMT-Chicago, WBLV-West Michigan, and WPRB-Princeton.

In addition to his orchestral work with the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony, Graham has performed with the Champaign-Urbana Symphony, West Michigan Symphony, Midland Symphony (MI), Michigan Philharmonic, and in the summers as Principal Timpanist with the Blue Lake Festival Orchestra. Festival experience includes the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, the Ear Taxi Festival, the Chicago Duo Piano Festival, the Bang on a Can Summer Festival, and two summers as the percussionist with the Aspen Contemporary Ensemble at the Aspen Music Festival.

Dr. Graham is committed to serving the next generation as an educator. In addition to his duties at the University of Northern Iowa, he serves on the faculty at the Music Institute of Chicago. He has previously taught courses at Northwestern University and the University of Michigan and served on the faculty of Triton College, Roosevelt University, and Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp. He has also had the honor of giving percussion master classes across the country including at the University of Delaware, the University of North Carolina - Greensboro, Illinois State University, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, among many others.

Dr. Graham holds degrees from Central Michigan University (BM), The University of Michigan (MM), and the University of Illinois (DMA). He is proud to endorse Vic Firth sticks and mallets, Marimba One instruments, Zildjian Cymbals, and Black Swamp Percussion Instruments.