

C a r t h a g e

2004-05 Chamber
MUSIC

Supported by the
Helen C. Smolenski
Chamber Music Fund of
the Racine Community
Foundation, Inc.

series

**Percussion Group
Cincinnati**

Sunday, April 17, 2005, 3 p.m.
A. F. Siebert Chapel



2001 Alford Park Drive
Kenosha, WI 53140-1994
www.carthage.edu

Program

Allen Otte

James Culley

Russell Burge

"Some of the most beautiful and unusual chamber music of the season...a performance of remarkable intensity and a far wider range than the usual chamber music fare." —*The Washington Post*

"...impossible to overpraise." —*The New York Times*

"...uniquely conceived and innovative..." —*Hong Kong*

Lift Off (1966)	Russell Peck
Mbira Music, book I (1996)	Alonzo Alexander
Breathing Drum (1991/2003)	Michael Barnhart
Drama (1995)	Guo Wen-jing

Intermission

Music of John Cage	
I Read the News Today,	collective, arr. Percussion Group Cincinnati
Oh Boy (1986)	
Four Chilean Songs	arr. Percussion Group Cincinnati

History of Percussion Group Cincinnati

Founded in 1979, Percussion Group Cincinnati comprises members Allen Otte, James Culley, and Russell Burge, all of whom are on the faculty and members of ensembles-in-residence, at the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati. Their daily rehearsal schedule is supplemented with teaching and coaching young musicians, many of whom have gone on to enjoy professional careers in creative music, in teaching, and with major symphony orchestras.

Their extensive touring schedule has taken them to major cities, festivals, concert halls, and schools throughout America, Europe, and Asia. Recent performances include the 2001 Shanghai International Spring Music Festival, a tour of Japan, and the premiere in Hong Kong of Qu Xiao-Song's concerto "The Stone," which was written especially for the group. In addition to community concerts, workshops, and master classes, the group regularly appears as concerto soloists with symphony orchestras, and has presented their program "Music from Scratch" to hundreds of thousands of children across North America.

Percussion Group Cincinnati is well-respected for its knowledge of, and experience with, the music of John Cage. Mr. Cage has composed pieces especially for the group, and they have appeared together in concert on a number of occasions. More recently, the ensemble has developed similar unique relationships with John Luther Adams, Qu Xiao-Song, Russell Peck, and with Larry Austin on the Charles Ives Universe Symphony project. During the past 25 years, many young composers from the United States, Latin America, Europe, Africa, and Asia have created a large body of new and often experimental music for the unique talents of Percussion Group Cincinnati.

The music of Percussion Group Cincinnati appears on various CDs, including its *Ars Moderna* label. Its recording of John Luther Adams' evening-length "Strange and Sacred Noise" will be released in surround-sound by Mode later this year. The group is in the process of recording selections by Qu Xiao-Song, and is working on its contribution to the series of Mode Records' integrated set of the complete music of John Cage, as well as its own 25-year retrospective, multi-disc CD set, which includes performances from throughout the group's history.

This concert is the final performance of the 2004-05 Carthage Chamber Music Series, made possible with support from the Helen C. Smolenski Chamber Music Fund of the Racine Community Foundation, Inc.

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Meet the Performers

Allen Otte came to the University of Cincinnati in 1977 with the Blackearth Percussion Group, an ensemble he co-founded in 1972. In 1979, he established Percussion Group Cincinnati. Mr. Otte teaches percussion instruments, eurhythmics, composition, and literature seminars at the College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) at the University of Cincinnati, and he coaches and conducts traditional and contemporary chamber music. He is a regular summer faculty member at Oberlin, and has taught a course in traditional and creative music for Javanese gamelan at that college. As a member of the group and as a soloist, he has concertized, recorded, and taught throughout North America, Europe, and in Asia, including solo concerts and guest presentations in Shanghai, Saarbrücken, Auckland, and at Tanglewood. As both percussionist and composer, he occasionally works with soprano Audrey Luna, poet Don Bogen, the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, and Mara Helmuth, with whom he collaborates in computer music. He also has worked in Lucca, Italy, creating experimental music theater pieces with opera director Malcolm Fraser. The evening-length monodrama CLOTHO for percussionist, soprano, and computer, based on the life of Camille Claudel, premiered in 2001. A CD of five collaborative works with Mara Helmuth is available on EMS.

James Culley was born in Hamilton, Ohio, and grew up in Cincinnati. He received a bachelor's degree from the Oberlin Conservatory, a bachelor's degree in classics (Latin) from Oberlin College, and a master's degree from the Eastman School of Music. He joined the faculty at the University of Cincinnati in 1979 as an original member of Percussion Group Cincinnati, with which he has recorded and performed throughout the U.S. and abroad. He has directed the college's student percussion ensemble for the past 18 years, and regularly performs with colleague Russell Burge's student Steel Drum Band. His CCM percussion ensemble promotes new works by the conservatory's student composers, and specializes in performances of uncondacted, full-score pieces. In 1998, he received the Ernest Glover Outstanding Faculty award at the College-Conservatory of Music. Mr. Culley has performed as extra percussionist in the Cincinnati Symphony and Cincinnati Opera orchestras, and freelances as timpanist/percussionist in regional orchestras.

Russell Burge joined the CCM faculty in 1992 as a member of Percussion Group Cincinnati, with which he has performed extensively throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. Recent performances include the Japan World Drum Festival, Chinese International Music Festival, Taipei International Percussion Convention, the Ravinia Festival, Merkin Hall in New York City, the Festival of Music in Portugal, the International Percussion Convention in Columbus, and the San Diego Ballet. He has recorded with the group for the Mode, Centaur, Einstein and *Ars Moderno* labels. The group also has made concerto appearances with more than 20 different symphony orchestras since 1992. He previously was principal percussionist with the West Virginia

Symphony, and performs regularly with the Cincinnati Symphony and Opera. He has appeared as a marimba soloist with the West Virginia Symphony, Florida Coast Symphony, and the CCM Philharmonia Orchestra. Mr. Burge is associate professor of percussion at CCM, where he teaches percussion, improvisation, and percussion ensemble. He also directs the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music Steel Drum Band. As an active jazz vibraphonist, he has recorded for J Curve Records, Human Records, Telarc, and WVXU. His jazz compositions are featured on the 1995 recording *Reverse Wave*.

Percussion Group Cincinnati is represented by Stanton Management, Astoria, N.Y. For more information, please call 718-956-6092 or write to TDStanton@aol.com. Percussion Group Cincinnati records on the *Ars Moderno* label.

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