

**A Season to Remember**  
**CULTURAL ARTS SERIES SCHEDULE FOR 2005– 2006**  
**Oklahoma City Community College**

<b>Artist</b>	<b>Performance Date</b>
<b>Zumbamba – Flamenco Dance Troupe</b>	Tues. Sept. 13, 7:00
<b>Brad Richter - Guitarist</b>	Thurs. Sept. 29, 7:00
<b>Fourth Avenue – Vocal Ensemble</b>	Tues. Oct. 25, 7:00
<b>Ahn Trio – Piano, Violin and Cello</b>	Tues. Nov. 8, 7:00
<b>Tom Tiratto &amp; Big Band</b>	Tues. Jan. 31, 7:00
<b>So Percussion</b>	Tues. Feb. 21, 7:00
<b>Valery Kuleshov - Pianist</b>	Tues. Mar. 7, 7:00
<b>Sonos Handbell Ensemble</b>	Tues. Apr. 4, 7:00

- **Tuesday, September 13, 2005**

**Zumbamba** – Colorful and festive dances from Mexico, Spain, Africa, and the Caribbean.

**Lecture** – TBA

**Performance** – Tuesday, September 13, 2005, 7:00 p.m., Oklahoma City Community College Theatre.

**Dances from Mexico, Spain, Africa, and the Caribbean.**

(Short)

Zumbamba, a talented, high-energy troupe, shares dances from Mexico, Spain, Africa, and the Caribbean.

(Medium)

Directed by Shannon Calderon, Zumbamba is a talented, high-energy troupe of performers who present colorful, festive dances from Mexico, Spain, Africa, and the Caribbean, including flamenco, salsa, and Mexican dance. They will transport you to another world!

(Long)

**Zumbamba:** *n. f.* constant sound from a special celebration; clever rhythm, festive atmosphere. *Constante sonido en celebracion especial; movimiento alegre; felicidad no de diario.*

**Zumbamba**, a talented, high-energy troupe of performers, present colorful, festive dances from Mexico, Spain, Africa, and the Caribbean. Here are some of the dances **Zumbamba** will perform:

**Flamenco:** an inherently multicultural art form and extremely popular in the dance world today. Originally from the southern region of Spain, it developed from the interaction of the many cultures that inhabited the region for centuries. The Moorish, Jewish, and Gypsy cultures are integrated into this music as well as rhythms from Africa and South America. For this reason it is considered to be one of the richest expressions of folklore. Flamenco reveals lives full of *love, honor, loss, pride, passion, poverty, sorrow, happiness, and death*. Flamenco's universal themes and culturally diverse origin touches the many cultures present in America and enhances the lives of people worldwide.

**Mexican Dance:** her history, music, different cultures, and regional themes are all rolled together through electrifying dance, costumes that glorify, and the music of mariachi filling the air. Be touched

by the hearts, souls, and rhythms of Mexico. This dynamic dance encompasses the humanities of a proud and creative country.

**Salsa:** an integration of mambo, rumba, jazz, bomba, the turn patterns from the hustle, and most importantly, your *own* style. Though many get caught up in the age-old debate as to who invented salsa, the truth of the matter is that salsa has and will continue to have a great number of influences that have each played a large part in its revolution. Salsa has emerged and achieved worldwide popularity attracting performers, dancers, and audiences from all over the world.

**Zumbamba** is under the direction of Shannon Calderon, who has been dancing since the age of three, and has studied Mexican Folkloric, flamenco, ballet, point, tap, and jazz. Ms. Calderon has choreographed numerous dances and held workshops throughout Oklahoma for the Arts Council of Oklahoma City, City Arts Center, and Oklahoma City's Performing Arts Day Camp, to name a few. She was honored as one of Oklahoma's official Artists in Residence and instructed many workshops through the National Foundation for the Arts. Shannon performs regularly with world-renowned guitarists Ruben Romero and Edgar Cruz, and flamenco great Catalina Rio-Fernandez. She is also the director of The Everything Goes Dance Company. Shannon's mission is to share the joys of dance with Oklahomans through teaching and performances.

- **Thursday, September 29, 2005**

**Brad Richter** – Guitarist/Composer will present selections from his repertoire.

**Lecture** – *TBA*

**Performance** – Thursday, September 29, 2005, 7:00 p.m., Oklahoma City Community College Theatre.

**Guitarist/Composer presents selected works.**

(Short)

Brad Richter a talented composer/guitarist shares his enchanting music from the deserts of Tucson.

(Medium)

Brad Richter, a talented composer/guitarist, returns to share his enchanting music from the deserts of Tucson, as well as well-known works from the traditional classical repertoire.

(Long)

Each of Brad Richter's pieces creates a world of sound into which a listener is immediately absorbed. His music tells stories and paints pictures by tapping into sonorities and textures that one might think were being created by a small orchestra rather than a single guitar. As George Shangrow of *KING FM* radio in Seattle put it, "like Franz Liszt was doing with the piano, Brad Richter utilizes techniques of his own invention and brings them into a frame work that works so beautifully." His performances, which also feature well-known works from the traditional classical repertoire, combine "dazzling virtuosity," "amusing anecdotes, and wonderfully descriptive and imaginatively written music" for a concert experience that is both entertaining and moving. His "overwhelming command of the classical guitar, as well as his charismatic stage presence," has made him a favorite with audiences worldwide. Brad began teaching himself to play guitar and compose at age 12. At 18, having had no formal musical training, he was awarded the Presidential Scholarship to the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago where he began performing, composing, and teaching professionally. After completing his undergraduate degrees in performance and composition, Brad accepted a scholarship to the Royal College of Music in London where he began studies with guitarist Carlos Bonell. While there, Brad became the first guitarist to win the Thomas Morherr Prize for voice accompaniment and went on to

win the Royal College of Music guitar competition before completing his Master's degree and returning to the United States to continue his concert career.

Brad has performed throughout North America and Europe as a soloist, with renowned chamber ensembles and orchestras and in duos with artists such as soprano, Nancy Davis Booth and cellist, David Finckel of the Emerson String Quartet. His performances and compositions are frequently heard on NPR and PBS stations around the United States, as well as in films such as the recent short, *Cuando Circa la Sonida*. Brad has been featured as a performer/teacher at guitar and music festivals around the world. Festival appearances have included the Guitar Festival of Great Britain and the Walnut Valley Festival, where he won the National Finger-picking Championship, a competition that features some of the world's finest guitarists from all genres. Brad was also a top prize winner in the 2002 International Composer's Guild Competition. Additionally, his contributions to the guitar's literature have been recognized with the inclusion of his biography in the 5th edition of the guitar history and reference book [The Classical Guitar - Its Evolution, Players and Personalities Since 1800](#).

While at home in Tucson, Arizona, Brad teaches at the University of Arizona. He loves to spend time with his wife Kerstin and son Noah. He also enjoys hiking, running, biking, and playing his guitar in the mountains and deserts that surround Tucson, which have been an inspiration for much of his music. Brad's books and compositions are published by Mel Bay, GSP, John August Music, and Lathkill Music Publishers and his critically acclaimed new CD, *A Whisper in the Desert*, is now available from Acoustic Music Records ([www.AcousticMusicResource.com](http://www.AcousticMusicResource.com)).

- **Tuesday, October 25, 2005**

**Fourth Avenue** – An exhilarating evening of four-part acappella.

**Lecture** – TBA

**Performance** – Tuesday, October 25, 2005, 7:00 p.m., Oklahoma City Community College Theatre.

**Vocal Ensemble**

(Short)

Fourth Avenue, nicknamed “a band without instruments,” consists of four young men who sing acappella producing a unique vocal sound.

(Medium)

Fourth Avenue consists of four young men who sing four-part harmony acappella to produce a unique vocal sound. They have been nicknamed “a band without instruments”. Their high-energy performance has to be experienced!

(Long)

Fourth Avenue is a four man vocal band that performs a diverse repertoire including pop, soul, R&B, gospel, doo-wop, and jazz. Since their start in 1993, they have shared the stage with such national acts as the Beach Boys, The Temptations, Styx, Three Dog Night, and Blessed Union of Souls.

In 1996, they competed in The Harmony Sweepstakes, a competition that took place in Chicago. Not only did Fourth Avenue win first place, they also walked away with the award for audience favorite. Fourth Avenue went on to the National Harmony Sweepstakes in California, and two of their songs were chosen to appear on an internationally distributed album produced by the Harmony Sweepstakes Organization.

Their debut CD entitled *Fourth Avenue* was released in September of 1997. The song, *In the Midnight Hour*, that appears on the CD, won a 1998 Contemporary A Cappella Recording Award for Best Doo-Wop/R&B Song of the Year.

In the Fall of 1998, Fourth Avenue began touring with the Muse Machine, an organization which brings professional artists into the secondary school system of Ohio's Miami Valley. After giving a preview to Miami Valleys Muse Machine teachers, Fourth Avenue set a new record by being booked in over seventy schools their first year with the organization. Later that same year, Fourth Avenue was selected to be on the Ohio Arts Council Fee Support Roster, a program providing federal funding to preferred Ohio touring artists.

Fourth Avenue performed full time at Paramount's Kings Island amusement park for five years. After completing their fifth year there, they were nominated for the 1999 International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions Variety Entertainer of the Year Award.

Because of their high standing with the Ohio Arts Council, Fourth Avenue was selected in 2000 to be part of the Heartland Arts Fund Community Connections Fee Support Program. This program allows artists to receive fee support from the National Endowment for the Arts and fifteen partner state arts agencies in the Heartland region of the United States (Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin).

### **Ben Chilcote, tenor**

In addition to being an exceptional vocalist, Ben excels at a variety of instruments including piano, acoustic guitar, bass guitar, and trombone. Ben played trombone in Wright State University's Pep Band and played professionally with a brass quartet at First Presbyterian Church in Piqua, Ohio. His skilled guitar playing is featured in worship at The Harvest Church and in the Christian band, Backdrop. As a vocalist, Ben's experience includes leading roles in musical theatre productions such as *Guys and Dolls* (Nathan Detroit), and *Into the Woods* (Jack). Ben has performed professionally with a barbershop quartet called The Quartertones and as an oratorio soloist at several churches.

### **Scott Dawson, baritone**

In 1993, Scott was offered a scholarship to major in music at Wright State University after successfully completing a degree in Animation from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. Completing his degree in Music, he was hired to perform with the Dayton Opera in productions such as *Tosca*, *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *Faust*, and many others. Scott also has done professional musical theatre with the Human Race Theatre Company of Dayton. As a concert soloist, he has performed with members of the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra in the Seasholes Concert Series at The First Baptist Church of Dayton, and was a featured recitalist for The Dayton Art Institute's Twilight Concert Series. Scott is currently an adjunct faculty member of Wright State University teaching voice in the Theatre Arts Department.

### **Ryan Holway, tenor**

Ryan's musical beginnings were rooted in instrumental music with emphasis on the clarinet. He distinguished himself as a three-time recipient of first place honors in the Young Musicians Talent Competition, and was 1st chair clarinet for two years in the Columbus Symphony Cadet Orchestra. At that time, Ryan also became involved in vocal music and was a member of the Ohio All State Choir. His passion for singing continued with roles in *Oklahoma* (Will Parker) and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Constable). After majoring in vocal performance at Wright State University, Ryan was a professional soloist and chorister with St. Paul's Episcopal Church and First Baptist Church of Dayton. Ryan has a Certificate of Audio Recording Engineering from the International College of Broadcasting.

### **Maurice Harris, tenor and vocal percussionist**

Maurice studied trumpet, drums, and piano before becoming interested in vocal music. This interest manifested itself with participation in the Hastings Honor Choir and the Nebraska Wesleyan Honor Choir. During his music studies at the University of Nebraska and Wright State University, he appeared in *Le nozze di Figaro* (Basilio) and *La Perichole* (Old Prisoner). Maurice was also honored as a featured soloist in *A Night of Class*, a recital highlighting African American musicians. His professional credits include performances in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and a tenor solo in Handel's *Messiah*. Maurice gives workshops on vocal percussion technique all over the country and has become one of the leading authorities in this field. In June of 1999, Maurice tied for first place in a competition featuring some of the country's best vocal percussionists.

For information contact: Scott Dawson, (937) 426-4980, or <http://www.fourthavenue.com>  
G.G. Greg Agency, 1288 E 168 St, Cle, OH 44110, (216) 692-1193, [ggregagy@aol.com](mailto:ggregagy@aol.com)

- **Tuesday, November 8, 2005**

**The Ahn Trio** – An evening of music for piano trio (piano, violin and cello).

**Lecture** – TBA

**Performance** – Tuesday, November 8, 2005, 7:00 p.m., Oklahoma City Community College Theatre.

**Piano Trio**

(Short)

This piano trio of Korean sisters will captivate you with their glorious music and youthful charm.

(Medium)

Come experience three thirty-something-Korean sisters as they captivate you with their glorious music and youthful charm! This piano trio (piano, violin, and cello) has received rave reviews from Seoul to Sydney.

(Long)

Each season the Ahn Trio tours the world, performing almost 100 concerts annually in such places as Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie's Weill Hall, Chicago's Ravinia, Singapore's Victoria Concert Hall, Moscow's Tchaikovsky Hall, and Seoul Arts Center. Violinist Angella and the twins, pianist Lucia and cellist Maria, capture the intellect, hearts, and souls of all who hear them.

"A dominant musical gene has obviously left its imprint on the sisters Ahn," according to the *Los Angeles Times*. The Juilliard-trained trio, originally from South Korea, first gained public attention in 1987 when they were featured in a cover story entitled "Asian-American Whiz Kids" in *Time* magazine. They have been featured on NBC and PBS, in the pages of *The New York Times*, *GQ*, *Vogue*, *Town and Country*, and most recently in GAP ads. The Ahns have graced the cover of *Spotlight* magazine and are included in *Best Friends*, a book by the authors of the best selling *Sisters*.

Hailed as a brilliantly distinguished ensemble gifted with extraordinary powers of communication and an exquisite blend of sound, each of the artists performs with superb technique and contagious excitement. *The Washington Post* said, "Their technique was impressive, and they balanced unanimity and individuality in a spirit that is at the heart of chamber music."

Each season the Ahn Trio continues to conduct many workshops and master classes for children and adults. In acknowledgment of their contributions to music education, the Trio received the Kentucky Colonels' Award, a distinction given earlier to the late Bing Crosby and Red Skelton.

The Trio's most innovative project, *Ahn-Plugged*, has enabled them to reach out to new audiences all over the world. This project grew from the Ahn Trio's passionate dedication to the commissioning and performance of contemporary music and resulted in significant additions to the piano trio's repertoire. Among recent premieres are Eric Ewazen's *The Diamond World* and Kenji Bunch's *Concerto for Piano Trio and Orchestra*. Other premieres include works by Bunch commissioned by Brolly Arts, Salt Lake City, UT, by Michael Nyman, Paul Schoenfield, John Musto, John Zorn, and Maurice Jarre.

The Trio's CD of the Ravel and Villa-Lobos Piano Trios, available on the Chesky label, has earned rave reviews such as, "...this is one of Ravel's best, and never better played" (*Audio*, 1995). Since 1997, the Ahn Trio have been EMI Classics recording artists. The first CD on EMI of Dvorak, Suk, and Shostakovich Trios was subsequently awarded the ECHO Award-Germany's most coveted recording prize. "This enormously stimulating performance will be one to return to again and again" (*BBC Music*, 1999). The Ahn Trio released their CD, *Ahn-Plugged*, under EMI Classics. A third CD on EMI has also been released. *Groovebox* features works by Michael Nyman, Maurice Jarre, Astor Piazzolla, Ronn Yedidia, and Kenji Bunch, whose music describes *New York in Swing Shift: Music for Evening Hours*.

Performances on the Ahn Trio's schedule have included a four-week tour in the Midwest and performances at prestigious Wolf Trap in Virginia, the 92nd Street "Y" in New York, and universities across the country. They also participated in the Lincoln Center Institute's program to promote music in the schools, as well as brought their talent to audiences in the Caribbean Islands for a summer tour. Other highlights included performances in Europe, South America, Asia, and in the United States at Stanford University, UCLA, and Columbia University, with appearances in the South, Midwest, West, and many on the East Coast. Future tour plans abroad include Korea, China, and Europe.

In 2003, the Ahn Trio were included in *People Magazine's* "Most Beautiful" issue. The only classical musicians of the 50 people selected, this issue highlights the most beautiful and accomplished people of the year according to *People Magazine*. In addition, adding to that acknowledgment, the Ahns again appeared in *People Magazine* in the June 2003 issue where they picked their favorite classical recordings as gift ideas for dads and grads.

Joanne Rile Artists Management, Inc.

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- **Tuesday, January 31, 2006**

**Tom Tiratto & Orchestra** –A Big Band tribute to Frank Sinatra.

**Lecture** – TBA.

**Performance** – Tuesday, January 31, 2006, 7:00 p.m., Oklahoma City Community College Theatre.

*A Tribute to Frank Sinatra*

(Short)

*A Tribute to Frank Sinatra* featuring Tom Tiratto and his 14-piece orchestra.

(Medium)

During *A Tribute to Frank Sinatra*, Tom and his 14-piece orchestra include favorites such as *My Way* and *Summer Wind*. Tom sings in the style of Frank Sinatra and actually sounds like 'Old Blue Eyes.'

(Long)

Recording artist and actor, Tom Tiratto, born in Youngstown, Ohio, and spent his youth in Cleveland, where he attended John Marshall High School. Tom participated in any and all drama events, musicals, and also studied percussion. While playing the drums in the High School band,

Tom was able to achieve a proficiency in percussion and guitar. Tom joined several local bands in the Cleveland area playing various types of music which included light rock, polkas, and jazz. Tom began to discover a great sense of appreciation and admiration for the music of Frank Sinatra and the big band era. Tom sought out the expertise of a vocal trainer, and was taught that the controlled delivery of the lyric in song was paramount in any performance. Tom Tiratto later re-settled in Tampa Bay, Florida where he furthered his career developing a style similar to the early crooners of the 1930's and 40's. He began singing in many local venues in the Tampa Bay area and throughout Florida. His tribute to Frank Sinatra has since become a huge success across the United States.

Tom has appeared at some of the countries finest theaters including Miami Performing Arts Center, St. Petersburg Coliseum, the Tampa Bay Convention Center, and the Beverly Hills Hotel in Los Angeles California. Tom has performed on several television shows such as, *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, and Nostalgia TV Productions of *Puttin on the Ritz* and *The Nostalgia Holiday Christmas Album*. Tom has also appeared as a special guest on several local television shows and radio programs. Tom was also the premier performer at Busch Gardens, Tampa, Florida, starring in three productions: *Stars, Stripes and Swing*, *Melodies and Memories*, and *Swing of the Season*. Tom has recorded commercial jingles for businesses in Florida, Washington D.C., and two recent commercial ventures in Germany.

Tom's latest CD entitled *A Tribute to Frank Sinatra*, features many of Sinatra's greatest hits, such as *Summerwind*, *New York New York*, and *My Way*, just to name a few. Let Tom and his orchestra take you through the many moods of the man we knew as 'Old Blue Eyes.' Audiences are simply astounded by Tom's portrayal of a true legend of our time.

- **Tuesday, February 21, 2006**  
**So Percussion**

**Lecture – TBA**

**Performance – Tuesday, February 21, 2006, 7:00 p.m., Oklahoma City Community College Theatre.**  
**Musical, Theatrical and Artistic Percussion**

(Short)

So Percussion will thrill and captivate you with their musical, theatrical, and artistic percussion.

(Medium)

The So Percussion quartet combines all types of musical, theatrical, and artistic elements in their performances, with a unique ability to thrill and captivate their audiences. Come hear a unique, entertaining performance!

(Long)

So Percussion (Douglas Perkins, Adam Sliwinski, Jason Treuting, and Lawson White) is a captivating group, hailed for their "brilliant" and "consistently impressive" performances by the *New York Times*. Formed in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1999, So has already made a name as one of the most exciting young ensembles in the country. Recently, they've been featured at Carnegie Hall, the Bang on a Can Marathon, the BAM Next Wave Festival, the Cleveland Museum of Art, Miller Theatre, Joe's Pub, the Other Minds Festival, Merkin Hall, The Roundtop Festival, and on *WNYC's New Sounds* and *Soundcheck*.

So's continuing commissioning project has already produced many new works, including David Lang's groundbreaking *The So-Called Laws of Nature*, written in 2002. In the near future, this project will yield new pieces by Martin Bresnick, Paul Lansky, Muhal Richard Abrams, and Dennis DeSantis. Recently, So received the Chamber Music America/ASCAP Adventurous Programming award for these efforts.

So's educational initiatives have resulted in residencies at The University of Texas at Austin, Princeton University, Duke University, Williams College, King's College, and performances with the Harvard Group for New Music and Columbia Composers. In 2004-2005, So is the ensemble in residence at The Yellow Barn in Putney, Vermont, participating in both the summer festival and a year-round outreach project. So's first two albums are now available on Cantaloupe Music. So performs on Pearl drums and Adams musical instruments.

### **Doug Perkins**

Doug Perkins is a member of So Percussion, a group the *New York Times* describes as "consistently impressive." As a member of So, he has had the opportunity to work with many of today's foremost composers and performers including David Lang, Steve Reich, John Zorn, Mark Stewart, and Evan Ziporyn in performing venues across the country. These include Carnegie Hall, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Miller Theatre, the Walker Art Center, Joe's Pub, and the Cleveland Museum of Art. So has also been featured on *NPR* stations such as Cleveland's *WCPN*, Austin's *KUT*, and New York City's *WNYC*. Their self-titled debut record was released in 2004 on Cantaloupe Music, and their second album *Drumming* comes out on Cantaloupe in March 2005.

In addition to his work with So Percussion, Doug is teacher of percussion at Dartmouth University. His festival appearances include Norfolk, Aspen, The New York International Fringe Festival with the Rrrrr.... Percussion theater trio, Music '98, and the World Expo in Portugal.

Doug's collaborations have been focused on the creation of new music for percussion. Along those lines, he has worked with such composers as Steve Mackey, Lois Vierk, Martin Bresnick, Stuart Saunders Smith, David Birchfield, and the Minimum Security Composer's collective. He has performed with Ethel, Alarm Will Sound, Ballettech, The Percussion Group Cincinnati, and Ray's Music Exchange in Cincinnati. In the last couple of years, Doug has studied gender wayang and mbira.

Doug received his Bachelor's degree from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music with Jim Culley, and the Masters and Artist Diploma degrees from Yale University, where he studied with Robert Van Sice. He is currently pursuing the Doctor of Musical Arts at the Eastman School of Music with John Beck.

### **Adam Sliwinski**

Adam Sliwinski is a member of So Percussion, a group the *New York Times* describes as "brilliant" and "consistently impressive." As a member of So, he has had the opportunity to work with many of today's foremost composers and performers including David Lang, Steve Reich, John Zorn, Max Roach's M'Boom, John Luther Adams, and Evan Ziporyn, in performing venues across the country. These include Carnegie Hall, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Miller Theatre, the Walker Art Center, Joe's Pub, and the Cleveland Museum of Art. So has also been featured on *NPR* stations such as Cleveland's *WCPN*, Austin's *KUT*, and New York City's *WNYC*. So Percussion has two records out on Cantaloupe Music, and in 2004 received the Chamber Music America/ASCAP Adventurous Programming award.



In addition to So Percussion, Adam is active as a performer and teacher. His solo playing has been described by the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* as "beautifully delineated." Adam was the alternate winner of the 2000 Sorantin International Young Artist Competition in San Angelo, Texas. He has been a featured soloist at the June in Buffalo festival, the Cleveland Museum of Art's Aki Contemporary Music Festival, Princeton University, the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, the World Turning Festival, and the Oberlin Percussion Institute. Adam also performs as part of a percussion duo, and is a member of the International Contemporary Ensemble.

Adam was previously teacher of percussion at Manhattanville College. He received his B.M. from the Oberlin Conservatory where he studied with Michael Rosen, and his Masters and Master of Musical Arts as a student of Robert van Sice at Yale University where he is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts.

### **Jason Treuting**

I started playing drums 19 years ago when I found a trashy blue drum set sitting on the driveway of my neighbor's house. I was 8 years old then. I saved up 5 bucks to buy that first drum set. I set it up in my living room and played it 10 minutes a day that year. Each year have been playing it more and more. Now I live in Brooklyn, play drums 3 hours a day with So and some more on my own.

It has allowed me to meet lots of great people. I met Lawson almost 10 years ago when we were in school together in Rochester, New York, at the Eastman School of Music. We didn't play together so much until 3 years later, but have been playing all types of things since then. I met Doug at Yale when he picked me up from the airport, bought me a muffin, and a few months later we decided we liked to play quartet music together. I also met Adam at Yale a bit later when he was the new kid on the block that could out-play all the old guys on the block. We have met some inspiring composers/performers/mentors through collaborations, like David Lang (who we convinced to write us a piece on a blind phone call,) Steve Reich, John Zorn, and ... the list goes on and on. And at the end of the year we will have had the chance to meet many more great folks. I think we've found a great field to work in, with cool people who are working hard to do what they love.

The *New Haven Advocate* got it right when they said we "play as if with one mind." I think it would be hard not to with the amount of time we spend playing together, but that is why I love it. I have been able to go to many places and venues that I wouldn't have had the chance to see if it wasn't for So. I am going to censor myself now and not drag out a laundry list.

When I am not playing with these guys, I improvise some-especially with guitarists. There are 3 guitarists I love to play with: Steve Mackey, Ryan Ferreria, and Grey McMurray. I have a dream of making a duo record with all 3, though I am not sure if they know it yet. I also love playing with my good friend Cenk Ergun. He composes and plays laptop. We call it SimpleSample when it happens. And I can only hope it happens more.

To back up briefly, I studied in academia for 7 years of my life at very inspiring places with very inspiring people. At Eastman, John Beck taught me to be open to many things, Ralph Alessi taught me about listening, Michael Cain taught about confidence, and Steve Gadd showed me what a groove was. Bob Van Sice kicked my butt at Yale and made me question how high the bar could be set. I traveled to Japan to study with Keiko Abe and she showed me that people respond when you do what you love. And I traveled to Bali to study with I Nyoman Sudain. Nyoman taught me that I was too comfortable with my skills, and taught me to listen again. Two last shout outs. Vera Daehlin showed me what kind of energy you have to have in order to learn and was an early inspiration when I was in High School. And Matt Aiken taught me about the drums when I really needed to be taught. Finito.

When I am not playing drums, I am a closet collage artist, a pretty damn average basketball player, and a wanna-be triathlete.

(little disclaimer: this bio is for fun, and is not to be used in any official capacity, including concert programs. For Jason's official personal bio, please email him at [jason@sopercussion.com](mailto:jason@sopercussion.com))

### **Lawson White**

Originally from Nashville, Lawson White now lives in Brooklyn, New York. Prior to this he was an active freelance musician in the Nashville area, and the Adjunct Artist Teacher of Percussion at Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music. In addition to So, Lawson is a member of Alarm Will Sound (<http://www.alarmwillsound.com/>), a New York-based new music ensemble with recordings on Nonesuch and Cantaloupe, and hi-five (<http://www.hifivelive.com/>), a Brooklyn-based rock and roll band. As an orchestral percussionist, he has performed frequently with the Nashville Symphony Orchestra and Alabama Symphony Orchestra, and has recorded with the Nashville Symphony on the Naxos label. Other orchestral performance credits include the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and the Peninsula Music Festival Orchestra.

In addition to performing, Lawson is involved in audio production and engineering, and started Goodchild Music in 2004. He produced So's debut recording *So Percussion* for Cantaloupe in 2004, and will co-produce their next release, scheduled for 2005. Other projects for next year include Alarm Will Sound's next record, which will be released on Cantaloupe as well. He is active as a freelance sound designer and live sound engineer in New York.

Lawson received a MM from Yale in 2004, a BM and the Performer's Certificate from Eastman in 1999, and the College Preparatory Certificate from Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music in 1995.

- **Tuesday, March 7, 2006**

**Valery Kuleshov** – An evening of brilliant piano.

**Lecture** – TBA

**Performance** – Tuesday, March 7, 2006, 7:00 p.m., Oklahoma City Community College Theatre.

**Music for Piano**

(Short)

Pianist Valery Kuleshov, Van Cliburn silver medalist, shares his exquisite artistry.

(Medium)

Valery Kuleshov combines superb technique with musicality and imagination to make the most familiar music sound fresh and compelling.

(Long)

Russian pianist Valery Kuleshov, a Gold Medallist at the Busoni International Piano Competition in Italy (1987), a Silver Medallist at the Ninth Van Cliburn International Competition (1993), and a First Prize winner at the Pro Piano International Competition in New York (1998), is among the most brilliant virtuosos of the new generation. "He has everything: the fingers to negotiate the virtuoso repertory, the musicality and imagination to make the most familiar music sound fresh and compelling" – *The New York Times*. At the age of nine, as a student at the Central Music School of the Moscow Conservatory, he made his concert debut with orchestra in the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory.

Years of study with the world's most acclaimed musicians, including Dmitri Bashkirov, Vladimir Tropp, Karl Ulrich Schnabel, and Leon Fleischer have helped create the foundation for a spectacular international performance career including appearances in Russia, the United States, Canada, Europe, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Uruguay, and the Dominican Republic. Valery Kuleshov has also performed in the world's best concert halls including New York's Carnegie Hall, the Milan Conservatory, and the Great Halls of the Moscow Conservatory and St. Petersburg Philharmonic. Additionally, he has been a guest artist at numerous international music festivals and has made many recordings for labels such as JVC Victor, MCA Classics, and Philips. In 1997, by decree of President Yeltsin, Valery Kuleshov was awarded the title "Honoured Artist of Russia." "What sound! What allure! What a musician!"- *Le Monde*, Paris. "He has everything: the fingers to negotiate the virtuoso repertory, the musicality and imagination to make the most familiar music sound fresh and compelling." - *The New York Times*

Mr. Kuleshov is currently an Artist in Residence at the University of Central Oklahoma.

- **Tuesday, April 4, 2006**

**Sonos Handbell Ensemble** – An exquisite evening of distinguished musicianship.

**Lecture** – TBA

**Performance** – Tuesday, April 4, 2006, 7:00 p.m., Oklahoma City Community College Theatre.

**Sonorous Handbells**

(Short)

The Sonos Handbell Ensemble's technique, virtuosity, and artistry will leave you in amazement!

(Medium)

Since its founding in 1990, Sonos Handbell Ensemble's technique, virtuosity, and artistry have helped introduce the music of handbells to millions of people around the world.

With a collective experience of over 100 years of handbell ringing, Sonos Handbell Ensemble's virtuosity mesmerizes audiences at major world events including the 1993 World Ice Skating Championships and the United Nations 50th Anniversary Celebrations. Through national and international touring and appearing on major television and radio broadcasts (most recently Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion* on National Public Radio broadcast from San Francisco's Masonic Theater,) they have helped introduce handbell virtuosity to millions of people around the world.

On the leading edge of this medium since its founding in 1990, Sonos Handbell Ensemble has moved handbells into the musical mainstream by seeking the best transcriptions and original material available today. They encourage composers to write for bells alone and in combination with other instruments and voices, and premier these solo and orchestral works. The world premiere of William Ludtke's *Symphony No. 3, Summer Rain*, with the Oakland East Bay Symphony received critical acclaim and his music drama, *Gaia Sophia* presented handbells as a major part of an operatic work.

The Bose Corporation recorded Sonos to appear on an in-store theater video presentation demonstrating the Bose five-channel digital surround sound technology. This presentation, played in stores around the world, reached an estimated audience of four million listeners.

*Navigator Tree*, commissioned by the American Composers Forum and the National Endowment for the Arts for the millennium year was written for Sonos, Gamelan Pusaka Sunda, and San Jose Taiko. This unprecedented work, composed by computer futurist and inventor of virtual reality, Jaron Lanier, was

documented in a film about the Continental Harmony project that aired nationwide on PBS in the fall of 2001 to an audience of 55 million households.

Continuing to create new repertoire, Sonos will premiere a major commissioned work for handbells and string quartet, written by Daniel FeinSmith, in collaboration with the Grammy-winning ensemble, Kronos in January 2005.

Their first CD on the Well Tempered label appeared in the November 1994 *Gramophone* magazine as disc of the month for *KFUO*, St. Louis classical radio. Their second release, *Christmas with Sonos*, was selected as "disc of the month" by San Francisco's classical *KDFC-FM* and appeared in the December 1995 issue of *Gramophone* magazine. Their third CD, *Classical Sonos*, featuring the music of Bach, Vivaldi, and Mozart was released in 1996. A fourth recording released in 2001, *A Very Classical Christmas* with flutist Timothy Day, was chosen by the *New York Times'* *WQXR* and *NPR's Weekend Edition* as top pics of the season. In 2003, Sonos released their first concert video filmed at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts. These recordings receive national airplay and are available from major record stores or online from Sonos at [www.sonos.org](http://www.sonos.org) .

Founding Director James Meredith has been conducting handbell ensembles since 1983, touring America and Asia, reaching thousands of people with his award-winning and visionary work in this medium. Mr. Meredith brings a wide musical experience to this field. A native of North Carolina, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Masters of Fine Arts degree from Tulane University. As a solo pianist, vocal coach, accompanist, and conductor in America, Europe, and Asia, his work has brought him into contact with such artists as Elly Ameling, Frederica von Stade, Elizabeth Schwarzkopf, Olivia Stapp, Eleanor Steber, Gerald Moore, and Dalton Baldwin, whose assistant he has been in summer masterclasses at the French Conservatory in Nice.

As a published composer with 23 works in print, Mr. Meredith's works are the leading edge in handbell literature, especially with the 1997 premiere of the major work *Kodo Tryptich* for handbells and percussion, the 2002 premiere of *Sonics*, a work which takes advantage of the motion of bells in space, and the 2004 premiere of *Smirti* for handchimes/handbells and cello using Tibetan singing bowl techniques.

### **Cultural Arts Series Ticket, Funding and Contact Information**

Season tickets to the 8 performances of the 2005 – 2006 Cultural Arts Series are available at a discount. General Admission Season Tickets cost \$85 and Student, Seniors, Faculty, Staff, and Alumni Association member Season Tickets cost \$60. Season tickets are available on line at <https://www.okccc.edu/cas> .

Individual tickets (except for The Ahn Trio) are \$20 for General Admission and \$15 for Students, Seniors, Faculty, Staff, and Alumni Association members. Ahn Trio tickets are \$30 for General Admission and \$20 for Students, Seniors, Faculty, Staff, and Alumni Association members. Individual tickets are available on line at <https://www.okccc.edu/cas> .

Support for these presentations has been provided by the Oklahoma Arts Council, Heartland Arts Fund, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Kirkpatrick Foundation, the Ad Astra Foundation, and Oklahoma City Community College.

Since all performances are subject to change or cancellation without notice, for an up-to-date listing of Cultural Arts Series performances, consult the Cultural Programs and Community Development Web page at <http://www.okccc.edu/globaled/index.html> . To be placed on our mailing list, please send your name, address, phone number, and e-mail to:

Cultural Programs and Community Development

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