



Donald F. Cook Recital Hall  
M.O. Morgan Building  
Sunday, 17 January 1999 at 8:00 p.m.

**Rob Power, percussion**  
with Don Wherry, percussion



Wind in the Bamboo Grove (1985)

Keiko Abe  
(b. 1937)

The Idea of North and Beyond (1995)

Anthony Craig Hall  
(b. 1969)

Somewhere Over the Rainbow

Don Wherry/Rob Power

INTERMISSION

Alternate Currents (1987)

Ann Southam  
(b. 1937)

Merlin for solo marimba (1985)

Andrew Thomas  
(b. 1939)

*"Rob would like to dedicate this concert to Don Wherry"*

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**PROGRAM NOTES**

Keiko Abe, a native of Japan, is considered by many to be the world's greatest marimbist, and has performed and taught extensively all over the world. As a composer she has devoted herself to expanding the instrument's repertoire. *About Wind in the Bamboo Grove*, she writes, "In the early morning haze as I stood in the middle of a bamboo grove, I became enraptured in a rich medley of sound. Listening to the bamboo leaves rustling against each other in the occasional whisp of breeze, I seemed to hear the song of the wind. The technique which I use in this piece of striking the edge of keys with the mallet handles is an attempt to recreate the sound of the bamboo which I heard at that time. In contrast to the subtle sound of the leaves coming forth from the supple swaying bamboo grove with its roots stretching way down into the earth, I sensed the dynamic and powerful nature of life forces. I took out of my pocket a marble and threw it into the grove. The blue marble disappeared into the morning haze, leaving behind it beautiful echoes as it rebounded from stalk to stalk."

Anthony Craig Hall continues to explore environmental and ethnic issues in his compositional style. His extensive interest in all things percussive has led to many compositional, performance and conducting opportunities across



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Canada and the United States. Since completing the academic portion of his doctorate in composition at the University of British Columbia, Anthony has begun teaching percussion, composition and theory at the Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts in Ontario. Of *The Idea of North and Beyond*, he writes "One of the scenes from 32 Short Films on Glenn Gould shows the great Canadian icon walking off in the distance in the vast northern wilderness as he discusses (with himself) an idea for a radio show called "The Idea Of North" in which he would discuss solitary life and how the various elements of northern living eventually become unified. As the title of my composition suggests, *The Idea Of North And Beyond* attempts to take Gould's ideas further by representing them musically. The soloist, symbolizing solitary life, explores musical visions of the vastness of the Canadian north intermingled with the starkness and simplicity of northern living. As the work progresses, these varied ideas gradually become more intertwined until they are unified in a very complex environment at the finale."

While Ann Southam is one of Canada's foremost electroacoustic composers, she has also written for a variety of acoustic instruments, strings and piano being particular favourites. She studied piano with Pierre Souvairan and composition with Samuel Dolin, completing her musical studies at the University of Toronto and the Royal Conservatory of Music in the early 1960's. *Alternate Currents* was commissioned and premiered by Beverly Johnston in 1987, with the assistance of the Canada Council. The instruments used are all metallic sounds, including vibraphone, gongs, and crotales. The work is freely based on a twelve-tone row, a technique to which the composer was drawn because of the ambiguous nature of the sonorities and melodies it produces.

Andrew Thomas enjoys a multifaceted career as a composer, pianist, and conductor. He is music director of the Battery Dance Company in New York, and has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York Foundation for the Arts. He has taught Music Composition at the Pre-College Division of the Julliard School since 1970, and is presently head of the Pre-College Division. About *Merlin*, he writes, "The poem Merlin by Edwin Arlington Robinson is a long narrative retelling of the King Arthur legend and of the destruction of his Court. I have used two quotes from the poem to set the tone of the two movements of the score."

1.  
"GAWAINE, GAWAINE, what look ye for to see,  
So far beyond the faint edge of the world?  
D'ye look to see the lady Vivian,  
Pursued by divers ominous vile demons  
That have another king more fierce than ours?  
Or think ye that if ye look far enough  
And hard enough into the feathery west  
Ye'll have a glimmer of the Grail itself?  
And if ye look for neither Grail nor lady,  
What look ye for to see, Gawaine, Gawaine?"

2.  
....Time's way with you and me  
Is our way, in that we are out of Time  
And out of tune with Time.

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**Rob Power** has performed with many different artists and ensembles, including Rivka Golani, Trichy Sankaran, Aradia, and the orchestras of Kitchener-Waterloo, Windsor, London, Newfoundland and the National Youth Orchestra of Canada . He has been an active participant in Newfoundland's Sound Symposium since 1988. Several of his solo performances have been heard on CBC's Two New Hours, including the world premiere of Alison Cameron's *Concerto for Marimba and Orchestra* at Sound Symposium 1992. In 1993 Rob was the guest opening artist for cellist Shauna Rolston at the St. John's Arts and Culture Centre Grand Piano Series, and later that year recorded and hosted a program of contemporary solo percussion music for the CBC. He has also performed in the world premieres of works by R. Murray Schafer, Omar Daniel, Clark Ross, Osvaldo Budon, Paul Steffler, James Harley, Andrew MacDonald, and Anthony Craig Hall.

Rob holds a Bachelor of Music in performance from Memorial University of Newfoundland where he studied with Don Wherry, and a Masters in performance from McGill University, where his teachers were Pierre Béluse, and D'Arcy Philip Gray. In 1992, he spent four months studying with Charles Fullbrook at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, England.

Rob is currently involved with Toronto's improvisational group *JERK*, and is teaching and freelancing in the Toronto area. He is a member of the Celtic group *Picket Line*, and performs regularly with the orchestras of London, Windsor, and Kitchener-Waterloo.