2025 Northwestern University Summer Percussion Symposium

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August 1, 2025

Performers and Composers: Collaborations that Result in Lasting Works for Percussion

Some significant marimba compositions and the performers who commissioned and/or championed their work (a very short list):

Keiko Abe
- *Time for Marimba* by Minoru Miki and
- *Mirage* by Yasuo Sueyoshi
- Many more listed in Rebecca Kite's *Keiko Abe: A Virtuosic Life*

Robert van Sice
- *Dances of Earth and Fire* by Peter Klatzow
- *Estudios de Frontera* by Alejandro Viñao

Nancy Zeltsman
- *From My Little Island* by Robert Aldridge
- *Three Moves* for Marimba by Paul Lansky
- *See Ya Thursday* by Steven Mackey (with Moersch)
- *Marimbology* by Gunther Schuller (with Moersch)

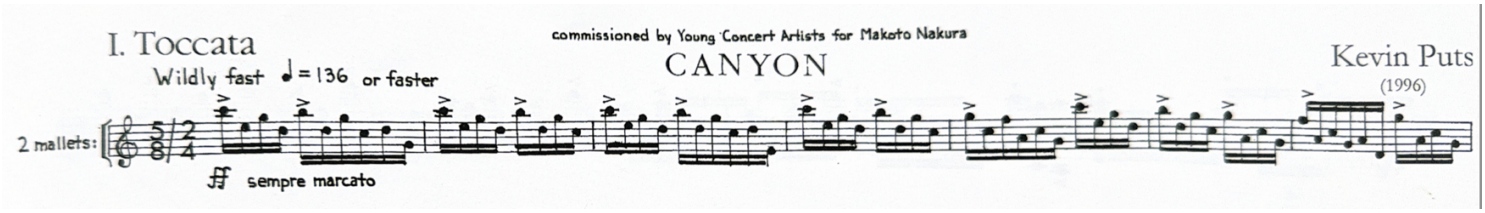
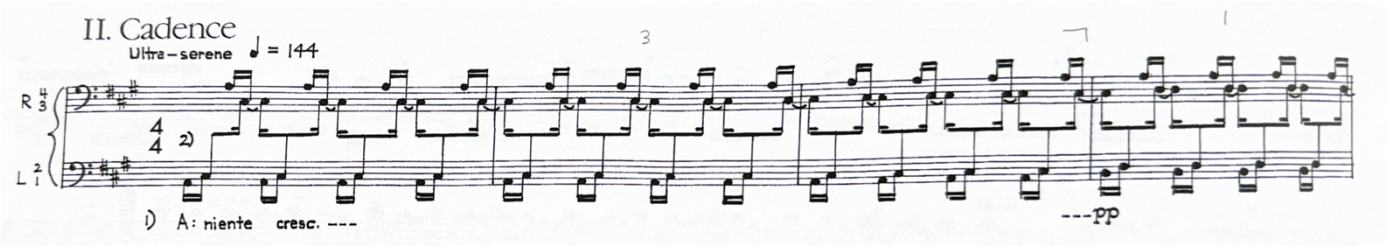
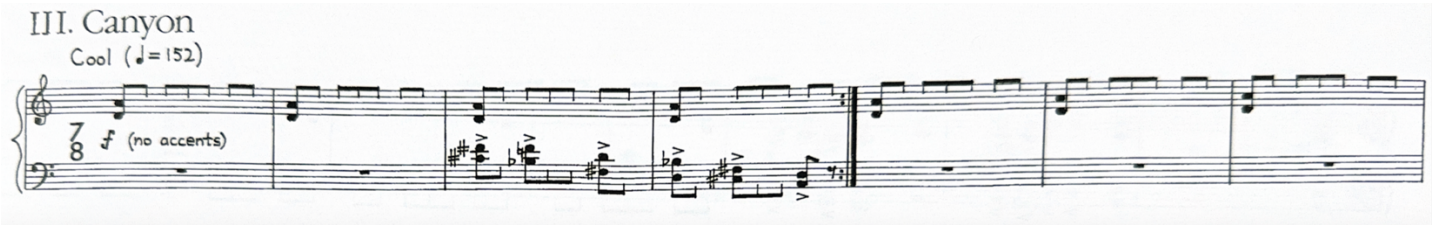
William Moersch
- *Reflections on the Nature of Water* by Jacob Druckman (NEA Commission)
- *Northern Lights* by Eric Ewazen (Dedicated to and premiered by Gordon Stout)
- *Memory of the Woods* by Akemi Naito

Leigh Stevens
- *Velocities* by Joseph Schwantner (NEA Commission)
- *Variations on Lost Love* by David Maslanka
- *Night Rhapsody* by John Serry
- *Grand Fantasy* by Raymond Helble

Gordon Stout
- *Autumn Island* by Roger Reynolds

Consortium of 12 commissioned:
- *Khan Variations* by Alejandro Viñao

What can you do as a student to commission new works:

- Go to concerts, hear new music, find recordings of new music
- If you're a college student, invite your fellow student colleagues who are studying percussion to write for you.
- Ways to cut the cost:
    - Offer a premiere of the work
    - Offer a recording (which costs several hundred $$)
    - Some composers will ask for money to compose the work, and will agree to refund the money if the piece does receive a premiere and/or subsequent performances
    - ***Consortium***
    - Some funding sources still exist:
        - Barlow
        - Fromm Foundation
        - Sometimes PAS
- And if you can't participate in any commissions, program new works on your recitals- pieces that have already been commissioned. Research the composer and the dedicatee, this will give you so much information about what to expect in the piece. Make it your own!

Canyon by Kevin Puts, written for Makoto Nakura, 1996
Excerpts: