



Presents

Winters Center for Autism Percussion Ensemble

Jeffrey Kautz, Music Director/Conductor

Season Finale
March 28, 2023
7:00pm
Winters Center for Autism
92 Mahan Street
West Babylon, NY

Program

Concerto for Timpani Soloist and Percussion Ensemble by Jeffrey Kautz *World Premiere*

Brandon Pastor, Andrew Pastor, Harrison Dearstyne, and Chris Volpe; Timpani Soloists

White Room by Cream Arranged for Timpani Soloist and Percussion Ensemble by Jeffrey Kautz

Jeffrey Kautz, Timpani Soloist

Program Notes

"**Concerto for Timpani Soloist and Percussion Ensemble**" is a piece I created to give the opportunity for all the four members of the Winters Center for Autism Percussion Ensemble a chance to be featured as Timpani Soloists. One of the big things that I focus on with this Percussion Ensemble specifically is the word inclusion. When you have a disability especially autism, it is very difficult and challenging to be featured as a Concerto Soloist in front of any ensemble. I always found it a challenge for me as well.

A little description about this piece is that there is no specific music. The Percussion Ensemble that consists of drum set, and piano with vocals would play an improvisatory groove accompanying each Timpani Soloist. The Timpani Soloist, one at a time would come up, bow, and then play a 90 second Timpani Concerto as the Timpani Soloist in front of the Percussion Ensemble accompanied by The Winters Center for Autism Percussion Ensemble. This piece does not have steel pan and percussion. It only has piano, drum set, and solo timpani.

After each Timpani Soloist has had their chance. They all come up to the stage and bow together. I hope that you all enjoy this work.

By the way, this is a World Premiere piece. – Jeffrey Kautz

"White Room" is a song by British rock band Cream, composed by bassist Jack Bruce with lyrics by poet Pete Brown.

My interpretation of White Room has a similarity to a classical piece by Gustav Holst: The Planets Suite specifically the 1st Movement titled "Mars." "Mars's ostinato rhythm is to that of the introduction of Cream's "White Room," written by Ginger Baker. The Timpani Solo to "White Room" may remind you of Gustav Holst's Mars, since both are in 5/4 (even though the rhythms are slightly different).

"As a Timpanist, a little bit of interesting info about this instrument is that most people think that it is very percussive and drummy-like quality. But what most people don't realize is that the Timpani is a melodic instrument. The Timpani is playing melodies on a drum. The way that Timpanists do that, is there's a foot pedal that tightens the head or releases the tension on the head, and that changes the pitch. What people are really listening to, is a melody instrument, not just a percussive, timbral instrument. What you also notice is that when you play Timpani, you use a pair of sticks called Timpani Mallets. They are used to strike the instrument. Timpani is my favorite instrument of all time. I love the role of the Timpani not only playing in orchestras but lots of people also don't know that Timpani is a solo instrument especially in Concertos. There are not a whole lot of Timpani Concertos out there in the world. This piece also does not have steel pan and percussion. It only has piano with vocals, drum set, and solo timpani.

So, when you listen to this Timpani Concerto, "White Room" listen carefully to everything, but most importantly listen to the Timpani especially the melodic line played by the Timpani Soloist accompanied by the Winters Center for Autism Percussion Ensemble. – Jeffrey Kautz

Biographies



Award-Winning Solo Timpanist Jeffrey Kautz is very passionate and moved by the timpani.

In his education, Jeffrey attained a Master of Music degree in Timpani Performance from NYU Steinhardt in 2019 and a Bachelor of Music degree with Honors in Percussion Performance from Mannes School of Music in 2017.

As an orchestra musician, Mr. Kautz is currently Principal Timpanist of the Centre Symphony Orchestra and the Manhattan Symphonie, and a Percussionist of the South Shore Symphony Orchestra in Long Island, NY. Before joining those groups, Jeffrey was the former Principal Timpanist of the Massapequa Philharmonic, Amore Opera, Apotheosis Opera, International Chamber Orchestra of America, and the Prague Summer Nights Festival. He was also an Actor Drummer on the HBO Series Plot Against America working with John Turturro and Winona Ryder.

As a competitor, Jeffrey has won an impressive number of prizes and awards –twenty-nine between 2015 and 2022 in competitions as a Timpanist in the U.S., Singapore, Canada, Austria, Germany, Estonia, Sweden, Hong Kong, Italy, Greece, Spain, France, and Switzerland.

As an educator, Jeffrey is currently a percussion instructor for The Music Academy for Special Learners and Music & Arts in Commack, NY, and Music Director and Conductor for The Winters Center for Autism Percussion Ensemble.

As a soloist, Mr. Kautz has appeared as a timpani concerto soloist with the Mannes Orchestra, NYU Steel Band, NYU Percussion Ensemble, and the South Shore Symphony Orchestra.

Jeffrey Kautz would like to thank the Winters Center for Autism Percussion Ensemble for all their hard work, and their families and friends for all their love and support.



The Theresa Foundation has a vision of the world where artistic expression and physical recreation are just as important to adults as they are to children. We believe in a world where every child, regardless of ability or challenging conditions, is free to communicate through and participate in every art or recreational activity.

A society without art is a society without soul. Art enables us to express our inner thoughts, fears, joys, and sadness. Our artistic expression—whether written, danced, painted, or sculpted—tells us who we are, what is important to us, and how we relate to the world.

Likewise, physical recreation, in all its forms—from individual and team sports, to dance, and yoga—is good for the mind and the body, forming an essential component of health and wellness.

Because children are our future, we believe in nurturing each child, and the inalienable rights of artistic expression and physical recreation for all.



The Theresa Foundation honors the memory of Theresa Alessandra Russo by touching the lives of children with special needs and their families. The Foundation fosters each child's unique abilities by supporting programs focusing on art, music, dance, drama, and recreation.



Winters Center for Autism, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit affiliated with the Winters Family Foundation, was established in 2020 after years of thoughtful planning and development. Joe and Michele Winters, native Long Islanders, have been strong advocates for high-quality services for people with autism since their son Sean's diagnosis in 1996. They have long believed that employment provides people with a sense of fulfillment and purpose. Today, autism affects 1 in 54 children in the United States.

The Center is a dynamic partnership of dedicated people working together to enhance the lives of adults with autism through job creation, training and placement to address the excessive unemployment rate among people with autism. Although there are many programs that provide excellent services for children and teens, there is a huge gap in the number of services and opportunities for adults with autism.



The Winters Center for Autism addresses that need by identifying skills and talents of our participants and matching them with businesses and organizations open to creating jobs for capable and trained employees, creating a kinder and more inclusive Long Island community.

The Center also provides fitness, recreation, and social programs to assist participants in achieving their goals.



Winters Center for Autism Percussion Ensemble

Brandon Pastor

Andrew Pastor

Harrison Dearstyne

Chris Volpe

Todd Dugan *

Gianna DeRusso *

Guest Artist *