

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Guest Artist Percussion Recital

Duo tierra fría

Brant Blackard and Connor Stevens

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| Passapied, from <i>Suite bergamasque</i> (1905) | Claude Debussy (1862-1918) |
| Sonata in E major, K. 380 (published 1804) | Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757) |
| Tres Vif, from <i>Sonata for Violin and Cello</i> (1922) | Maurice Ravel (1875-1937) |
| Preludes for Piano, op. 34 (1933) F-sharp minor E major C-sharp minor D-flat major D minor | Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975) |

INTERMISSION

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| the loneliness of Santa Claus (1994) | Fredrik Andersson (b. 1975) |
| Vertical River (2003) | Blake Tyson (b. 1969) |
| Book of Grooves (2011) I. A Spanish Groove | Alejandro Viñao (b. 1951) |

The Thirty-ninth Concert of Academic Year 2015-2016

**RECITAL HALL
LAIDLAW PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
Friday, January 22, 2016
7:30 p.m.**

Duo tierra fría was formed by Brant Blackard and Connor Stevens while both were students at the Eastman School of Music. Brant and Connor are focused on performing contemporary music within the percussion duo repertoire, as well as presenting their own arrangements of classic repertoire. *Duo tierra fría* has performed at the Eastman School of Music, the George Eastman House in Rochester, NY, the 2015 Great Plains International Marimba Competition, and the 2015 Valencia International Performance Academy & Festival in Spain. The duo also performed as part of the Eastman BroadBand Ensemble at the soundSCAPE festival in Maccagno, Italy.

Brant Blackard is an active performer, clinician and educator, currently teaching percussion in Atlanta, Georgia. A native of Conway, Arkansas, Brant earned his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Central Arkansas. He completed his Master's of Music in percussion performance at the Eastman School of Music along with the prestigious Performer's Certificate. Brant made his start playing drums for several Arkansas metal bands, and continues to play with various groups as often as possible. While at UCA, Brant served as the Principal Percussionist with both the Wind Ensemble and Conway Symphony Orchestra. He was a frequent soloist and performer with the percussion ensemble and a highly sought-after chamber musician throughout the department. Brant is also a featured performer on Blake Tyson's recent album, *Firefish*, released in 2013. Prior to the release of this album, he performed with Dr. Tyson on his clinic at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention in 2012. In addition to his performance background, he was also a teaching assistant of undergraduate lessons. At the Eastman School, Brant was a member of the highly-regarded percussion ensemble, which was featured recently in a showcase concert at PASIC in 2013, where they premiered three brand new works for percussion ensemble which are now standards of the repertoire. He has performed with Music Nova, Ossia, Sound Exchange and the Eastman Broadband Ensemble. Brant is also an advocate of new music for percussion soloist. Among this new music is Andreas Oeste's, *Absence* for solo vibraphone, which Brant premiered. In 2014, he was the first place winner of the Great Plains Marimba Competition in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He most recently was awarded the Milton Shlesinger Percussion Prize of 2015. Brant's teachers include Michael Burritt, Bill Cahn, Chip Ross, Leigh Howard Stevens and Blake Tyson.

Connor Stevens is a percussionist and teacher currently based in the Atlanta, GA area. He has performed with the Aspen Festival Orchestra, the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra, and Sinfonia Gulf Coast. As a chamber musician, Connor has performed at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention with both the Florida State University Percussion Ensemble and the Eastman Percussion Ensemble, and can be heard on The Florida State University Percussion Ensemble's *Volume One* and *Volume Two*, as well as Blake Tyson's *Firefish*. In 2014, he placed 3rd in the graduate division of the Great Plains International Marimba Competition in Oklahoma City, OK, and recently performed as a member of Eastman Broadband on their 2015 European tour. Connor earned a Bachelor of Music degree from the Florida State University in Tallahassee, FL, and a Master of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. His teachers include Michael Burritt, Bill Cahn, Leigh Howard Stevens, Charles Ross, and Dr. John Parks.