

Beverley Johnston
percussion
(Long bio - 900 words)

Canadian percussionist Beverley Johnston is internationally recognized for her dynamic performances on marimba and percussion. Her exciting performances have been distinguished as unconventional, effectively combining classical transcriptions, contemporary music, and a touch of theatre. She has captivated audiences across North America and overseas with her personal charm and her unique style. Her performances and recordings have been broadcast on radio networks all over the world. She has released six solo CDs: *Woman Runs with Wolves* (2013, Centrediscs) *Ming* (2009, Centrediscs); *Garden of Delights* (2004, independent release); *Alternate Currents* (1992, Centrediscs); *Marimbach* (1989, CBC Records Musica Viva); and *Impact* (1986, Centrediscs, JUNO nominee). She can also be heard as soloist or chamber musician on numerous other recordings.

Ms. Johnston's schedule in recent years has seen her travelling the world performing at several different percussion festivals in the United States, Europe and Asia including the Ivan Bilic Marimba Week in Croatia (2017), The International Katarzyna Mycka Marimba Academy in Europe (2013, 2015), the Shenyang International Percussion Festival in China (2010), The International Marimba Festival and Conference in Minneapolis, USA (2010), The Zeltsman Marimba Festival in USA (2005, 2009, 2013), Nebojsa Zivkovic's International Marimba Academy in Germany (2008), the Percussive Arts Society International Convention (1988, 1995, 2006, 2009, 2014), the Stockholm International Percussion Event (1998) and the Journee de la Percussions in Paris, France (1999). The Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity invited her to be a faculty member in the fall of 2016.

In the past two decades, Ms. Johnston has also maintained an active schedule of concerto and recital appearances across North America and abroad, premiering Canadian concerti (by Patrick Cardy, Chan Ka Nin, Omar Daniel, Alice Ho, Christos Hatzis, Gary Kulesha, Larysa Kuzmenko, to name a few) along with concerto performances of works by Tan Dun

(*Water Concerto*), Maki Ishii (*Afro-Concerto*) and James MacMillan (*Veni, Veni Emmanuel*). She has made several repeat performances with Music in the Morning, Vancouver New Music Society, the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, the Winnipeg New Music Festival, the Guelph Spring Festival, the Festival of the Sound, the Stratford Summer Music Festival, the Ottawa Chamber Music Festival and Scotia Music Festival.

In 2009 she was involved in the successful Zeltsman New Music Marimba Project and was given the distinction of becoming an Ambassador of the Canadian Music Centre in honour of her exemplary commitment to the performance of Canadian composers. She has performed several works by world-renowned Canadian composer Christos Hatzis which have been written expressly for her including the world premiere of *Pyrrichean Dances* for percussion, viola, and string orchestra and *Tongues of Fire* for solo percussion and orchestra along with solo works for marimba and audio playback which Bev has championed all over the world.

Beverley enjoys collaborating with other musicians and has performed several successful concerts with the Amici Chamber Ensemble, the Penderecki String Quartet, The Blue Rider Ensemble, The Art of Time Ensemble, violinist Marc Djokic, flautist Susan Hoepfner, TorQ Percussion Quartet and the Joint Venture Percussion Duo.

Ms. Johnston has been featured in several important interviews and documentaries including being one of the hosts for the CBC radio show "This is my Music" in 2016, featured guest for percussionist Casey Cangelosi's popular internet podcasts (2017) and has had feature articles in DRUM! Magazine (*Beverley Johnston: A Champion of New, Genre-Busting Works* by David A. Brensilver; March, 2015) and Percussive Notes (*Finding Her Voice: An Interview with Beverley Johnston* by Nathan Daughtrey; September, 2014). She was also the subject of an hour-long documentary on CBC Television's nationally broadcast *Sunday Arts and Entertainment* (1995). Her performance on this program was nominated for a GEMINI Award in the category of "Best Performance in a Performing Arts Program".

She has performed as chamber musician and/or soloist in major concert halls all over the world sharing her love of Canadian percussion repertoire. At the 1994 Guelph Spring Festival she performed the world premiere of Michael Colgrass' outstanding work *Te Tuma Te Papa* with subsequent international performances by her.

Among Beverley's other performing interests, she has been keen in developing her passion for performance collaborations, which has included the combination of dance, movement, art and theatre. From the 1990s to the present, she has worked with such organizations as Urge (the women's collective), the Blue Rider Ensemble, Valerie Kuinka's Collaborations series, Winnipeg's performance artist/pianist/composer Diana McIntosh, The Peggy Baker Dance Project and has worked with renowned theatre/opera director Richard Armstrong and television/theatre directors Joanna McIntyre and George Bloomfield . One of her highlights in 1998 was working with composer Peter Hatch, costume designers Steve Topping and Aniko Fenyvesi and choreographer Bill James to create a solo dance/music work titled *Psionic Interference* where she played small percussion instruments attached to her costume. She has been involved with the multi-disciplinary project entitled *Frankenstein's Ghosts* with the Blue Rider Ensemble and choreographer/director Michael Montanaro.

Beverley's interest in music outreach programs for the past 25 years is reflected in her performances of hundreds of school concerts both as a soloist and with the Toronto Percussion Ensemble.

Beverley Johnston received her training at Vanier College in her native Montreal and studied with Russell Hartenberger at the University of Toronto, where she now teaches. She currently lives in rural Ontario with her husband, composer Christos Hatzis.

Beverley is a Marimba One and Paiste Artist.

For more information, please visit her on Facebook and at www.beverleyjohnston.com.