



Robert Paterson, photo by Daniel Dottavio. Available in high resolution at www.christinajensenpr.com.

Composer Robert Paterson's *Forest Shadows* for marimba

performed by Makoto Nakura
California Premiere

part of Music at Boston Court

Saturday, May 19, 2012 at 8pm

Boston Court | 70 North Mentor Ave. | Pasadena, CA

Tickets: \$25 at 626.683.6883 or www.bostoncourt.com

“spectacularly varied and colourful”
– *MUSO* on the music of Robert Paterson

Robert Paterson: www.robpaterson.com

Makoto Nakura: www.makotonakura.com

Pasadena, CA – Composer **Robert Paterson**'s *Forest Shadows* for marimba will have its California premiere as part of a concert by master marimbist **Makoto Nakura** on Saturday, May 19 at 8pm at Boston Court Performing Arts Center (70 North Mentor Ave., Pasadena). Nakura's concert will also include music by **XXXXXXXX**.

Paterson wrote *Forest Shadows* for Nakura in 2011, and was inspired by the beautiful imagery shadows often create on the forest floor. He explains, “These shadows often make even small trees seem larger than life, while at the same time creating a two-dimensional world out of something entirely three-dimensional. In *Forest Shadows*, I evoke these images. The piece moves from pastoral sections that evoke nature scenes by nineteenth-century French painters such as Theodore Rousseau (for example, his painting *The Forest in Winter at Sunset*), to more powerful moments that might be compared to images in works by Romantic landscape painters such as Caspar David Friedrich.”

For Paterson (who is also a percussionist and plays the marimba), collaborating with Nakura has been extremely rewarding. Paterson says, “Hearing Makoto perform live, I was captivated by his musicality and sensitivity, and also by the full, robust sound he elicits from his marimba.”

Robert Paterson's richly colorful, wildly eclectic and intensely rhythmic music is influenced by visual art, nature, machines, and more, and is inspired by everything from the changing seasons, crashing waves, and Dali's melting clocks to the life of New York Mets Baseball catcher Mike Piazza. *Forest Shadows* is not his only piece informed by nature and environmental concerns. In May, the Vermont Youth Orchestra and Chorus will give the world premiere of Paterson's *A New Eearth*, a piece inspired by environmentalist and writer Bill McKibben's book *Eearth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet*. McKibben will narrate the performances; the piece includes text written by Paterson as well as excerpts from texts by Wendell Barry, James Joyce, Percy Bysshe Shelly and William Wordsworth.

Marimbist Makoto Nakura is a musician whose artistry and astonishing virtuosity have been mesmerizing audiences for decades. He creates innovative programs of new music as well as traditional classical repertoire, revealing the versatility and expressive range of the marimba while enlightening and entertaining the listener. His most recent premieres are a double concerto by Carlos Sanchez-Gutierrez for piano and marimba and a concerto for marimba and wind band, written by Toshio Mashima. The 2010-2011 season saw the premiere of *Forest Trilogy* for choir and marimba in New York City and Kyoto.

In 1994, Nakura moved from his native Japan to New York City, becoming the first marimbist to win First Prize in the prestigious Young Concert Artists International Auditions. His critically acclaimed performances around the world have included venues in London, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Seoul, Sao Paulo and Buenos Aires. In the U.S., he has performed for audiences in 41 of the 50 states with orchestras such as the New York Chamber Symphony, the Chicago Sinfonietta and the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. As a recital soloist, his long list of appearances includes Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall, New

York's 92nd Street Y and Washington's Kennedy Center. In addition, Nakura has been a guest artist with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and appeared in the Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival, Spoleto USA Festival, Bridgehampton Chamber Music Festival, and Jeffrey Kahane's Green Music Festival.

Nakura has established himself as a dedicated champion of the music of our time. Many leading young composers such as Carlos Sanchez-Gutierrez, Pierre Jalbert, Kevin Puts, Kenji Bunch, Michael Torke, David Schober and Jason Eckardt have written pieces especially for him. This marimbist's mission is to explore and expand the possibilities of the instrument, demonstrate what an exciting and provocative vehicle it offers to composers, and provide a thrilling experience for audiences.

About Robert Paterson: Born in 1970, Robert Paterson was raised in Buffalo, New York, the son of a sculptor and a painter. Percussion was his first love, and an enduring one. Paterson pioneered the development of a six-mallet marimba technique presenting the world's first all six-mallet marimba recital at the Eastman School of Music in 1993. He discovered a passion for composition early in life as well, writing his first piece at age thirteen.

Recent honors include winning the Cincinnati Camerata Composition Competition, the Copland Award, Louisville Orchestra Composition Competition, Brian Israel Prize, two ASCAP Young Composer Awards, and grants from Meet The Composer, the American Music Center, the American Composers Forum and ASCAP, as well as fellowships to Yaddo, the MacDowell Colony, the Aspen Music Festival, the Atlantic Center for the Arts, and a Music Alive residency with the Vermont Youth Orchestra Association, sponsored by Meet The Composer and the League of American Orchestras.

Recent and upcoming performances of Paterson's work include the European premiere and sixteen additional performances of *Dancing Games* by the Orchestre National des Pays de la Loire (France); the premiere of *Dark Mountains* for the Vermont Symphony Orchestra conducted by Jaime Laredo; two new choral works for the Chamber Choir of Europe; an orchestral opera in two acts with writer and librettist David Cote, based on the award-winning British novel *A Child Possessed* by R.C. Hutchinson; Wind Quintet by the Philharmonia Quintet (Poland); *Eternal Reflections*, commissioned for the San Francisco-based Volti choir; *Embracing the Wind* by the Aureole Trio and New York Harp Trio; the Louisville Orchestra world premiere of *Electric Lines*, winner of the orchestra's new music competition, and a work previously selected for the Minnesota Orchestra and American Composers Orchestra New Music Readings; *Enlightened City*, commissioned for the 100th anniversary of the IHS Orchestra; and the world premiere of *Crimson Earth* by the University of Connecticut Wind Ensemble.

Ensembles that have performed Paterson's music include the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, New York New Music Ensemble, Da Capo Chamber Players, California EAR Unit, Finger Lakes Chamber Ensemble, Ensemble Aleph (Paris), Naiades Ensemble (London), Ensemble Nouvelles Consonances (Belgium), the Kairos String Quartet, the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, the MANCA Festival presented by the Centre National de Création Musicale (CIRM) and the June in Buffalo new music festival. Paterson appears on recordings for Mode Records, Centaur Records, Capstone, and RiAx. In 2011, *The Book of Goddesses*, which won Paterson the Composer of the Year Award from the Classical Recording Foundation, and *Star Crossing* were released by American Modern Records, the label of American Modern Ensemble.

Paterson has received degrees from Eastman (BM), Indiana University (MM), and Cornell University (DMA). He resides in New York City with his wife, Victoria, a violinist, and their young son Dylan.

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