

**REBECCA KITE**  
Marimba and Percussion  
**Performer – Teacher – Author - Mentor**

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**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS**

Invited by the University of Antwerp to serve on a Doctoral Defense Jury as an external examiner and subject matter expert on marimba acoustics, technique, and performance - 2016 and 2019.

Nominated for election to the Percussive Arts Society Hall of Fame 2013.

Researched, wrote, and published the biography of Keiko Abe, *Keiko Abe ~ A Virtuositic Life: Her Musical Career and the Evolution of the Concert Marimba*. US publication by GP Percussion - 2007. The book was translated and published into Japanese by Yamaha Media in 2010 and translated and published into Spanish by Universidad Autónoma de Chiapas Press in 2016. The book is also in the permanent collection of the US Library of Congress where it will be available for future generations. I spent 6 years on the project, which included more than 50 interviews, three research trips to Japan, extensive original research with more than 375 sources, and two years of writing.

Created a completely new Dresden style timpani design, with improved mechanics, frame, pedal mechanism, and precise bowl suspension system for which I was awarded four US patents covering more than 30 design improvements (US Patents #4635524, #4674390, #4730531, #4831912). Then, I manufactured and sold these drums, from 1982 to 1992.

Purchased the tenth five-octave marimba that Yamaha made (YM6000, serial number 10), which was the first modern five-octave marimba in the US, in 1985, and then developed mallets, playing techniques, and repertoire for the instrument and received two Master Fellowships (1988 and 1992) from the Indiana Arts Commission for this work. Financial support from these fellowships made the recording of my debut solo marimba CD, *Across Time*, possible.

Toured as a marimba soloist in the state of Virginia, performing school assemblies, solo recitals, concertos, and residencies as a featured artist in the Virginia Commission for the Arts Touring Artist Program, 2002 - 2016.

Toured Latin America as a marimba soloist in 2003 and 2004 (Argentina, Brazil, Chile).

Percussionist with the Minnesota Opera Orchestra (1994-2001), performances included: "Turandot," "Tosca," "Carmen," "Aida," "Transatlantic" (US Premiere), "Madam Butterfly," "Pelléas and Mélisande," "Der Rosenkavalier," "Macbeth," and "Carmina Burana."

Recorded Solo Marimba CD projects "Across Time" (1993) and "Prism" (1996).

Played percussion in Minneapolis run of "Hello Dolly" with Carol Channing and performed on the recording of the 1994 World Tour Cast Album.

Head of Percussion Studies at The University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota, (1994-2001), taught applied percussion, percussion ensemble, percussion methods, and drumset.

Taught William Papageorge, a very talented young man with autism. Working together, over four years he was able to achieve his dream of marching on the snare line in his high school band in his senior year, and winning a place in all district band. He has gone on pharmacy school in college and played keyboards in the marching band pit for four years at Marshall University in West Virginia.

## **RECOGNITION AND AWARDS**

Universal Marimba Competition jury member, Belgium 2017  
Yamaha Legacy Award for Lifetime Dedication to Music Education, 2017  
Invited doctoral defense jury member, University of Antwerp, Belgium, 2016 and 2019  
Teaching Artist in Residence (full time), SUNY Fredonia, Spring Semester, 2016  
Touring Artist, Virginia Commission for the Arts Touring Program, 2002-2016  
Percussive Arts Society, Outstanding Service Award, 1999  
Teaching Artist in Residence, University of Miami (Coral Gables) School of Music, Fall Semester, 1999  
American Composers Forum Commission Collaboration Grant Recipient, composition project with composer Bruce Hamilton, 1999  
Master Fellowship, Indiana Arts Commission, 1988 and 1992  
Finalist, Pro Musica Competition as Solo Marimbist, 1986  
Yamaha Performing Artist, since 1992  
Election to Pi Kappa Lambda membership, 1972

## **Solo Marimba Works I Commissioned and Premiered**

“Baiao,” Joan Griffith, premiere, 2004  
“Circe,” Evan Hause composition for six-mallet marimba, premiere, 2003  
“Recurrences,” Bruce Hamilton, premiere, 1999 (American Composers Forum Commissioning and Collaboration Grant)  
“Jazz Suite for Marimba,” Joan Griffith, premiere, 1999  
“Ilijash,” Nebojsa Zivkovic, premiere, 1996

## **Concerto Appearances**

“Soar,” Robert Oetomo, McLean Symphony, February, 2017 (US Premiere)  
“Concerto No.1 for Marimba,” Ney Rosauo, McLean Symphony, 2014  
“Concertino for Marimba,” Paul Creston, Reston Community Orchestra, 2014  
“Concertino for Marimba and Winds,” A. Reed - Park View High School, 2010  
“Three Dances for Marimba and Four Percussionists,” Takayoshi Yoshioka:  
South American Tour, 2003-2004  
Kutztown University, 2003  
Heartwood Marimba Series, St. Paul, MN, 2000  
“Marimba Spiritual,” Minoru Miki: Colleges and University concerts, 1986 – 1997  
“Concerto for Marimba,” Ney Rosauo - with college percussion ensembles, 1995-1998  
“Prism Rhapsody,” by Keiko Abe, and “The Glory and the Grandeur,” Columbus  
IndianaPhilharmonic, Columbus, IN, 1999  
“Concerto for Marimba,” Ney Rosauo with University of Saint Thomas Festival Orchestra, 1995  
“Concertino for Marimba,” Paul Creston with University of Saint Thomas Festival Orchestra,  
1994  
“Concertino for Marimba and Winds,” Alfred Reed with Champlain Park High School, 1993,  
and Sibley High School, 1994

“The Glory and the Grandeur,” Russell Peck, Columbus Indiana Philharmonic, Columbus, IN, 1992

## RECORDINGS

### Solo Marimba

- “Prism,” Rebecca Kite solo marimba, 1996
- “Across Time,” Rebecca Kite solo marimba, 1993

### Other Recordings

- “Music of William Grant Still,” Plymouth Music Series Orchestra, 1995
- “Hello Dolly,” The Cast Album with Carol Channing, percussion, 1994
- “Young Lutheran’s Guide to the Orchestra,” with Garrison Keillor and The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, percussion, 1994
- “Garden of Ecstasy,” Kay Gardner, 1989, marimba
- “Rainbow Path,” Kay Gardner, 1984 percussion (premiere of GP Percussion timpani)
- “The Diplomats Shadow,” Paul Sturm, 1992/2000 percussion

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books:

- Keiko Abe—A Virtuoso Life: Her Musical Career and the Evolution of the Concert Marimba*, published February, 2007, by GP Percussion, ISBN: 987-0-9714048-2-3
- Anthology of Lute and Guitar Music for Marimba*, 2001
- Reading Mallet Percussion Music*, Method Book, 1994, Third edition 2010

### Articles:

- “The Art of Musical Phrasing on Marimba,” *Percussive Notes*, November 2014
- “Evolution of the Concert Marimba,” *Percussive Notes*, September, 2010
- “Michi – Keiko Abe’s Path,” *Percussive Notes*, October, 2006
- “The Marimba in Carnegie Hall and Town Hall from 1935-62,” *Percussive Notes*, August, 2005
- “The World of Keiko Abe,” *Percussive Notes*, October, 2001
- “Choosing Marimba Mallets” *Percussive Notes*, April, 2000
- “Japanese Marimba Style,” *Percussive Notes*, October, 2000
- “From Bach to Blues: The Art of Musical Styles for the Marimba,” *Percussive Notes*, October, 1998
- “Keiko Abe’s Quest: Developing the Five-Octave Marimba,” *Percussive Notes*, April, 1998
- “George Gaber,” *Percussive Notes*, December, 1995
- “George Gaber’s Melodic Timpani Techniques,” *Percussive Notes*, April, 1995
- “Tuning Your Marimba Resonators,” *Percussive Notes*, December, 1992
- “Using Calf Timpani Heads,” *Percussive Notes*, December, 1992

## PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

### Marimba Performances (partial list)

- Westminster Canterbury, Woodbridge, VA, 2013
- Community Lutheran Church, Sterling, VA, 2012
- James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA, 2011

Featured Artist, International Vibraphone and Marimba Festival, Lima, Peru, 2011  
National Theater, Washington, DC, 2010  
Franklin Park Arts Center, Purcellville, VA, 2010  
Patagonia University Institute for the Arts, Rio Negro, Argentina, 2006  
Arts Array Concert Series, Abingdon, VA, 2005  
Pro Art Concert Series and school residencies, Wise, VA, 2005  
Jornadas Internacionales de Percusion Ribarroha, Del Turia, Spain, 2004  
Kennedy Center, Millennium Stage, 2002, 2004  
Festival of Contemporary Music, University of Chile, Santiago, Chile, 2004  
University of Maryland School of Music, 2003, 2004, 2005  
UNICAMP Percussion Festival, Campinas, Sao Paulo, Brazil, 2003  
Premiered *Circe, for six mallets* in "World Turning Festival," Medicine Show Theater, NYC, 2003  
Patagonia University Institute for the Arts, Rio Negro, Argentina, 2003  
Heartwood Marimba Series, St. Paul, MN, 1996-1999  
Landmark Center/American Composer's Forum New Music Series, 1996  
Schubert Club, St. Paul, MN, 1993, 1994  
Performer Touring Program, Indiana Arts Commission, 1990-1992  
"Artist in the Parks," Indiana State Parks, 1985-1988  
Keiko Abe Marimba Masterclass, New Harmony, IN, 1986  
Colleges and Concert Series in the Midwest, 1982-1994

### **Timpani Performance**

Free lance in Washington, DC area, 2001 - present  
Plymouth Music Series Orchestra, 1994-1999  
Columbus Pro Musica Orchestra, Assistant Timpanist, 1991-1992  
Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, Timpanist, 1985-1991  
Owensboro Symphony, Timpanist 1979 - 1984  
Evansville Symphony, Timpanist 1979 - 1980  
National Symphony of Nicaragua 1978

### **Orchestral Percussion Performance**

Free lance in Washington, DC area 2001 - present  
Baltimore Opera, Washington Choral Arts Society 2008  
Minnesota Opera, percussion 1994 - 2001  
Plymouth Music Series orchestra 1992 - 2001  
Columbus Pro Musica Orchestra, Principal Percussion, 1991-1992  
Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, Timpani, Percussion, 1985-1991

### **Theatrical Performance (percussion and drum set)**

Theatrical Show experience includes percussion with: "Hello Dolly" with Carol Channing (the 1994 tour); "Man of La Mancha;" "Cabaret;" "Kismet;" "Jacques Brel;" "Plain Hearts;" and "The Mother of Us All."

### **Drum Set Performance**

Member of Simpatico, jazz quartet, Minneapolis, 1993-1998  
Stardance Trio, jazz standards and ballroom dancing, 1989-1992

Freelance: Various Country, R&B, and cover bands including: Airhart, a jazz-rock group, with appearances on NPR's "Jazz Alive" and the Kansas City Women's Jazz Festival, 1972 -1980

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **University Level**

Teaching Artist in Residence (full time), SUNY Fredonia, Spring Semester, 2016  
Lecturer, University of Maryland-College Park School of Music, 2002 - 2007  
Adjunct Faculty, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN, 1994-2001  
Adjunct Faculty, Hamlin University, St. Paul, MN, 1996-2001  
Affiliated Faculty, University of Minnesota, 1993-1997  
Artist Faculty, National Conservatory of Music, Managua, Nicaragua, 1978  
Associate Instructor, Indiana University School of Music, 1975-1977  
Adjunct Instructor, UMKC Conservatory of Music, 1972-1974

### **Masterclasses and Clinics (Partial list):**

Catholic University of Valparaiso, Chile; Rio Negro Center for the Arts, Patagonia, Argentina; Ribarroha Del Turia, Valencia, Spain; UNICAMP, Campinas, Sao Paulo, Brazil; Toho Gaukuen School of Music, Tokyo, Japan; Indiana University School of Music (Bloomington); UMKC Conservatory of Music; Interlochen Summer Festival; South Dakota State University; PASIC'98; Ball State University; Del Mar College; Iowa Day of Percussion; Gustavus Adolphus College Percussion; Kansas State University; Kansas Day of Percussion; SUNY Fredonia; Washburn University; South East Missouri State; Towson (MD) State College; Shepherd University; James Madison University; University of Maryland, College Park.

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

### **Percussive Arts Society:**

I have been a member of PAS since 1969, my freshman year of college.  
American Federation of Musicians, member since 1972. Currently a member of Local 166, Madison, WI.

## **EDUCATION**

MM Percussion, Indiana University School of Music, 1977  
percussion study with George Gaber  
BM Percussion, University of Missouri at Kansas City, 1973  
Conservatory of Music,  
percussion study with Charmaine Asher-Wiley  
Additional Percussion Study  
Advanced study, marimba, Keiko Abe, 1985  
Advanced study, timpani, Cloyd Duff (Cleveland Orchestra), 1974-1982  
Study of the Japanese Language, East Asian Studies Department, Indiana University, 1986-1988

## **VOLUNTEER AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION**

Board of Directors Loudoun Arts Council 2009-2014; President from 2010-2013

Board of Directors Lucketts Community Center Advisory Board 2001-2009

Served as President for four years and Treasurer for two years

Panelist for Leadership Loudoun roundtable exploring bringing a Performing

Arts Center to Loudoun County 2007

Grant Review Panelist for the Virginia Commission for the Arts 2010-2012

Percussive Arts Society Volunteer Activities:

Member World Percussion Network Committee 1992 - 2000

Elected to Board of Directors, 1994, 1996

Founder and Chair, Marimba Committee, 1997-2002

Timpani editor for *Percussive Notes*, 1992 - 1996