

REBECCA KITE

Professional Musician, Author, Teacher

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INTERNATIONAL CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

University of Antwerp, Belgium: 2016, 2019.

Invited doctoral defense jury member as subject matter expert on marimba acoustics, technique, and performance and external examiner for ARIA (Antwerp Research Institute for the Arts) for the degree of Doctorate in Marimba: Ludwig Albert and Chin Cheng Lin.

Yamaha Legacy Award: 2017.

Awarded the Yamaha Legacy award "In gratitude for your endless commitment to music education."

First nominated for the Percussive Arts Society Hall of Fame: 2013.

Percussion Director High School Drumline: 2009-2012.

In a program building situation, I brought the drumline from the weakest section in the band to winning "Best Percussion" in their first competition under my direction. I also increased their technical abilities and musicianship and helped them believe, then prove that they could become champions. Park View HS, Sterling, Virginia.

Author of the biography and history: *Keiko Abe ~ A Virtuoso's Life: Her Musical Career and the Evolution of the Concert Marimba*: 2007.

The first historical text based on original research in the percussion field since the publication of James Blades, *Percussion Instruments and Their History* (1970).
Translated and published into Japanese by Yamaha Media: 2010 and into Spanish by the University Press of the University of Science and Arts in Chiapas, Mexico: 2016.

Touring Artist, Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA): 2002-2016.

As a featured artist in the VCA Touring Artists Program, I toured as a marimba soloist across the state of Virginia performing school assemblies, solo recitals, concertos, and artist residencies.

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

Percussion Faculty at The University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota: 1994-2001.

Designed and implemented curriculum for Seminary student percussion studies in addition to teaching applied percussion on all instruments including drum set, percussion ensemble, percussion methods, performing in faculty chamber ensembles.

Completed and published my first teaching materials for marimba: 1995

Reading Mallet Percussion Music uses innovative and effective ways to teach reading that I developed over years of teaching students of all levels. It is now in its third edition and has been used by thousands of percussionists to learn to read pitched music. At this time, there were a few commercial recordings of marimba solo literature, however they were almost entirely focused on advanced level contemporary music. My second CD, *Prism*, includes beginning and intermediate level marimba repertoire. I made this recording to give students a professional performance of the repertoire they study, hopefully inspiring them to strive for a beautiful sound and musical expression in their own playing. *Prism* was the first commercially available recording of this level repertoire.

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

Percussionist with the Minnesota Opera Orchestra: 1994-2001.

Performances with this world class opera company included: *Turandot*, *Tosca*, *Carmen*, *Aida*, *Transatlantic* (US Premiere), *Madam Butterfly*, *Pelléas and Mélisande*, *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Macbeth*, and *Carmina Burana*.

Recorded my debut CD album as a marimba soloist to critical acclaim: 1993.

Across Time, was the result of seven years of working with the new Yamaha YM6000 marimba. It features music from the Renaissance to Contemporary eras, including my seminal performance of the Bach *D Minor Chaconne*. This recording established my national reputation as an exceptional world class marimba soloist.

"Rebecca Kite is a fine performer with an impressive technique, a good deal of musical sense, and the ability to exploit all the nuances of the instrument . . . The most satisfying piece on the disc is Kite's own transcription of the famous Bach *D-Minor Chaconne*. Here Kite's pacing and building of the often complex variations are exemplary, and even though the central D-Major section of the work calls out for an instrument on which a true legato could be played, her voicing of the chords and her sensitivity to the musical line somehow make it work." Richard Burke, *Fanfare Magazine - The Magazine for Serious Record Collectors*, November/December 1994.

Awarded Master Fellowships from the Indiana Arts Council: 1988, 1992.

Received two Master Fellowships in recognition of my “Research and Development in the Arts” from the Indiana Arts Council. These statewide competitive fellowships provided financial support totaling \$15,700 (in today’s dollar), both increasing my state and regional recognition and concert bookings and making professional PR materials and the recording and production of my debut marimba recording, *Across Time*, possible.

Marimba Soloist Pioneer: first owner of a five-octave marimba in the United States: 1985.

I invested in a Yamaha YM6000 marimba, serial number 10, after hearing this groundbreaking new instrument at PASIC’84 where Keiko Abe presented its US debut. Because of the longer and wider bars, nine-foot length, and the lower range going to cello “C,” exploring new musical possibilities became a challenging and inspiring endeavor. Everything from mallets, physical techniques, and musical expression required exploration, experimentation, and development. This inspiring instrument and marimba solo performance became the central part of my musical interests and my percussion career.

Instrument Designer and builder of professional Dresden style timpani: 1982-1992.

The Kolberg Museum in Stuttgart Germany and the Rhythm! Discovery Center Museum in Indianapolis Indiana each house a set of these innovative drums. I designed and built these drums with my business partner (another woman) as co-owners of GP Percussion. My design resulted in improved mechanics, frame, pedal mechanism, and bowl suspension system resulting in four US patents covering more than 30 design improvements (US Patents #4635524, #4674390, #4730531, #4831912). We manufactured and sold these instruments, and historical reproductions of Baroque timpani for ten years.

Timpanist National Symphony of Nicaragua: 1978.

Timpanist of the orchestra and percussion faculty of the National Conservatory of Music, living in Managua, Nicaragua.

Drummer and founding member of Pandora, an all women jazz/funk band: 1972-1978.

After graduation from music school, four of us formed a five-piece band (drums/rhythm guitar, percussion/vibes, keyboard/sax/singer, singer/organ, bass/acoustic guitar) named Pandora (later Airhart). Applying our experience from music school, we selected music, created arrangements, and rehearsed for 6 weeks, learning 50 songs to get started. We hired a booking agent, and by the beginning of September were performing at clubs, parties, weddings, dances, and corporate events, and making a living doing it. Pandora built a regional reputation and was heard nationally on NPR’s Jazz Alive

program, at the Kansas City Women's Jazz Festival, and at other major events in the central Midwest. Pandora was one of only a handful of all-women bands in the entire country at that time, and the only one in the Midwest.

INTERNATIONAL CAREER SPECIFICS

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, 2019.
Teaching Artist in Residence (full time), SUNY Fredonia, Spring Semester: 2016.
Touring Artist, Virginia Commission for the Arts Touring Program: 2002-2016.
American Composers Forum Commission Collaboration Grant recipient, composition project with composer Bruce Hamilton: performances in St. Paul, MN, and the Cultural Foundation of Patagonia, Rio Negro, Argentina: 2000.
Percussive Arts Society, Outstanding Service Award: 1999.
Teaching Artist in Residence, University of Miami School of Music, Fall Semester: 1999.
Yamaha Performing Artist, since 1992.
Master Fellowship, Indiana Arts Commission: 1988, 1992.
Finalist, Pro Musica Competition as Solo Marimbist: 1986.
Election to Pi Kappa Lambda membership: 1972.

Commissions and Premieres

"Flanders Fantasy," Chin Cheng Lin, concerto for marimba world premiere: 2022 (tentative).
"Soar," Robert Oetomo, concerto for marimba US premiere: 2017.
"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

"Flanders Fantasy", Chin Cheng Lin, World Premiere: 2022 (tentative).
"Soar," Robert Oetomo, McLean Symphony: 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," Keiko Abe, and "The Glory and the Grandeur," Russell Peck, Columbus Philharmonic, Columbus, IN: 1999.

"Concerto for Marimba," Ney Rosauo, University of Saint Thomas Festival Orchestra: 1995.

"Concertino for Marimba," Paul Creston, 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 Philharmonic, Columbus, IN: 1992.

Recordings

Solo Marimba

"Prism," Rebecca Kite solo marimba: 1996.

"Across Time," Rebecca Kite solo marimba: 1993.

Percussion

"Music of William Grant Still," Plymouth Music Series Orchestra: 1995.

"Hello Dolly," The 1994 Cast Album with Carol Channing: 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.

"Rainbow Path," Kay Gardner: 1984 (premiere of GP Percussion timpani).

"The Diplomats Shadow," Paul Sturm: 1992/2000.

Publications

Books

Keiko Abe—A Virtuositic Life: Her Musical Career and the Evolution of the Concert Marimba, GP Percussion: 2007.

Anthology of Lute and Guitar Music for Marimba: 2001.

Reading Mallet Percussion Music, Method Book, 1995, 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.

INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCES (selected list)

Marimba Soloist Performances (selected 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, 1982-2000.

Timpani Performance (selected list)

Free-lance in Washington, DC area, 2001-2018.
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 (selected list)

Free-lance in Washington, DC area 2001-2018.
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- selected list)

Percussion in: "Hello Dolly" with Carol Channing, including 1994 cast album.
Drums & percussion theatrical productions including: "Man of La Mancha;" "Cabaret;"
"Kismet;" "Jacques Brel;" "Plain Hearts;" and "The Mother of Us All."
Drummer & percussion house band Historic French Lick Springs Hotel & Resort.

Drum Set Performance (selected list)

Drummer, Simpatico, jazz quartet, Minneapolis, MN, 1993-1998.
Stardance Trio, jazz standards and ballroom dancing, 1989-1992.
Drummer and founding member of Pandora (later Airhart), all women jazz/funk band performing full time in the Kansas City area 1973-1975, then part time including appearances on NPR's "Jazz Alive" and the Kansas City Women's Jazz Festival, 1972-1980.

INTERNATIONAL TEACHING (selected list)**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.

Private Teaching Studio

Private lessons: snare drum, drum set, marimba, timpani, 1968-2021.

Masterclasses and Clinics (selected 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:

Member of PAS since 1969.

American Federation of Musicians:

Member since 1972. Currently a member of Local 166, Madison, WI.

Education

MM Percussion 1977, Indiana University School of Music

Percussion study with George Gaber, 1975-1977.

BM Percussion 1973, UMKC Conservatory of Music

Percussion study with Charmaine Asher-Wiley 1970-1973.

Additional Percussion Study

Advanced study, marimba, Keiko Abe, 1985.

Advanced study, timpani, Cloyd Duff 1974-1982.

Study of the Japanese Language, East Asian Studies Department, Indiana University, 1986-1988.

Volunteer and Civic Participation

BOD Loudoun Arts Council 2009-2014; President from 2010-2013.

BOD Lucketts Community Center Advisory Board 2001-2009 President 2004-2008.

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/Keyboard Committee, 1997-2002.

Timpani editor for *Percussive Notes*, 1992 – 1996.