

REBECCA KITE, Percussion

Musician, Author, Teacher

(1951-)

Phone: (608) 556-7089

1 Leyton Circle Madison, WI 53713

Email: rebecca@RebeccaKite.com

Website: RebeccaKite.com

INTERNATIONAL CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

University of Antwerp, Belgium: 2016, 2019 - 2024

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, Chin Cheng Lin, and Anton Zdanovich

Yamaha Legacy Award: 2017.

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

Researched and wrote the biography: *Keiko Abe ~ A Virtuositic Life: Her Musical Career and the Evolution of the Concert Marimba*: 2007

The first historical book based on original research in the percussion field since the publication of James Blades, *Percussion Instruments and Their History* (1970). Translated and published in Japanese by Yamaha Media: 2010 and in 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

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

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

Founder Heartwood Marimba Series, St. Paul, Minnesota 1996-2000

Produced and presented marimba concerts of local, regional, and national Concert Marimbists.

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.

Wrote and published *Reading Mallet Percussion Music*: 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 tens of thousands of percussionists to learn to read pitched music.

Played percussion book in Minneapolis run of *Hello Dolly* with Carol Channing

Recorded on Carol Channing's Cast Album, 1994 World Tour.

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, *Across Time*, as a marimba soloist to critical acclaim: 1993

Across Time was the result of seven years of working with the new five octave concert marimba, the Yamaha YM6000. 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 two 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 \$18,400(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 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 systems 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.

Pandora was a five-piece band (drums/rhythm guitar, percussion/vibes, keyboard/sax/singer, singer/organ, bass/acoustic guitar) that built a very successful regional reputation and was heard nationally on NPR's Jazz Alive program, at the Kansas City Women's Jazz Festival, and 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.

INTERNATIONAL CAREER SPECIFICS

Recognition and Awards

Jury member, Universal Marimba Competition, Belgium: 2017.

Yamaha Legacy Award for Lifetime Dedication to Music Education: 2017.

Invited doctoral defense jury member, University of Antwerp, Belgium: 2016, 2019-2024.

Teaching Artist in Residence, SUNY Fredonia, Spring Semester: 2016.

Touring Artist, Virginia Commission for the Arts Touring Program: 2002-2016.

American Composers Forum Commission Collaboration Grant recipient, 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
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

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, Alfred 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, College 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.

Solo Marimba Recordings

Prism, Rebecca Kite solo marimba: 1996.
Across Time, Rebecca Kite solo marimba: 1993.

Percussionist in Commercial Recordings

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, Garrison Keillor and The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, 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 Virtuoso 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.

Publications - 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 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

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.
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 1985

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 PERCUSSION TEACHING (selected list)

University Level

Teaching Artist in Residence (full-time), SUNY Fredonia, Spring Semester, 2016.

Lecturer-Marimba, 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-Marimba, 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 – preparatory department, 1972-1974.

Private Teaching Studio

Private lessons: snare drum, drum set, marimba, timpani, 1968-2023.

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 Day of Percussion; Kansas State University; Kansas Day of Percussion; SUNY Fredonia; Washburn University; South East Missouri State; Towson State College; Shepherd University; James Madison University; University of Maryland, College Park.

Education

MM Percussion 1977, Indiana University School of Music - Study with George Gaber 1975-1977

BM Percussion 1973, UMKC Conservatory of Music, 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.

Professional Affiliations

Percussive Arts Society: Member of PAS since 1969.

American Federation of Musicians: Life Member since 1972, currently Local 166

Percussive Arts Society Volunteer Activities

Member World Percussion Network Committee 1992-2000.

Elected to Board of Directors – two terms, 1994, 1996.

Founder and Chair, Marimba/Keyboard Committee, 1997-2002.

Timpani editor for Percussive Notes, 1992 – 1996.

Community Volunteer Activities

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

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

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

Panelist for Leadership Loudoun - *Bringing a Performing Arts center to Loudoun County* - 2007.