



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chicago-based percussion ensemble

THIRD COAST PERCUSSION

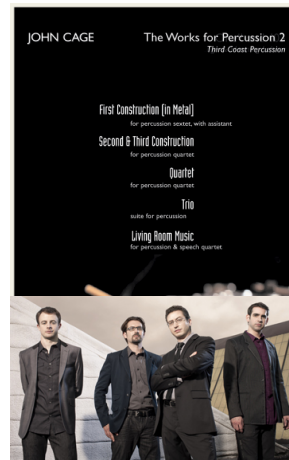
announces a new CD/DVD on

MODE RECORDS

JOHN CAGE: The Works for Percussion 2

A nation-wide release timed to honor Cage's centenary year

AVAILABLE **MAY 22, 2012**



"Percussion music is revolution. Sound and rhythm have too long been submissive to nineteenth-century music. Today we are fighting emancipation. Tomorrow, with electronic music in our ears, we will hear freedom." – JOHN CAGE

"Chops, polish and youthful joy in performing"
- TIME OUT CHICAGO

"[One] of the city's finest, hippest contemporary ensembles"
- THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

On May 22, 2012, the acclaimed Chicago-based percussion ensemble **THIRD COAST PERCUSSION** hails the centenary of the groundbreaking American artist **JOHN CAGE** with the release of its first full-length album, and its debut on **MODE RECORDS**:

JOHN CAGE: The Works for Percussion 2

Third Construction (1941)

Second Construction (1940)

First Construction (1939)

Trio (1936)

Quartet (1935)

Living Room Music (1940)

available as both a CD and DVD

In this album Third Coast Percussion offers passionate, immaculately prepared performances of works from John Cage's early life; the years 1935-1941, when Cage was 23 to 29. It was during this time that Cage met and studied with Arnold Schoenberg and Henry Cowell, worked with Lou Harrison, fell in love with and married Xenia Andreyevna Kashevaroff, taught at UCLA, Mills College, the Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle, and the Chicago School of Design and found inspiration in Oskar Fischinger's dictum that "everything in the world has a spirit that can be released through its sound," among other adventures.

Cage's resulting questions about form, micro-macro relations in structure, the definition of "music" and the nature of noise shaped the works Third Coast Percussion performs on this album, which include the *First*, *Second* and *Third Constructions*, *Trio*, *Quartet* and *Living Room Music*. (Third Coast Percussion gives *Living Room Music* an inventive performance recorded inside and on architect Bruce Goff's unique Ruth Ford House in Aurora, IL.)

A satisfying kinship between the members of Third Coast Percussion -- David Skidmore, Peter Martin, Robert Dillon and Owen Clay Condon -- and John Cage himself provides a key element to this Mode Records release. These four musicians are roughly the same age that Cage was when he wrote these works and, like Cage, the ensemble takes serious chances to pursue their art, composing and commissioning and performing new music, and traveling the county in order to achieve greater public acknowledgement and understanding of those works.

"To imagine John Cage in his 20s commissioning new works for percussion, composing new works for percussion, putting together tours of these works, all at a time when the concept of chamber music for percussion was completely unheard of, is hugely inspiring." explains TCP member David Skidmore.

Throughout the recording process Third Coast Percussion worked closely with Cage's manuscripts and personal correspondence, made available to them through the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, the Northwestern University Music Library, and the John Cage Trust's founding trustee and Executive Director Laura Kuhn. This research

informed a number of decisions both large and small throughout the recording process.

Finally, Third Coast Percussion has found a perfect artistic partner for this project in the renowned independent new music label **Mode Records**. Known for its pioneering efforts to record and commercially release Cage's "unrecordable" works, Mode Records presents **JOHN CAGE: The Works for Percussion 2** as part of its CAGE EDITION, an imprint which will eventually feature Cage's complete catalogue.

"Performances in Mode's Percussion Series in The John Cage Edition will be divided between Percussion Group Cincinnati, Steven Schick's red fish blue fish, and Third Coast Percussion. It's exciting to have TCP's vibrant, young interpretations of Cage's classic percussion works as part of this series," says Mode Records founder Brian Brandt.

Mode Records releases Third Coast Percussion's **JOHN CAGE: The Works for Percussion 2** in multiple formats: as a audio-only CD, and as a DVD with live footage of the recording sessions, including complete audio/visual of each work. This release follows the acclaimed 2011 Mode Records album, John Cage: The Percussion Works I, featuring *Credo in US* and the complete Imaginary Landscapes as performed by Percussion Group Cincinnati.

TCP has also designed a free [John Cage percussion iPhone app](#), available now through iTunes, which was developed in close coordination with longtime Apple employee Joseph Genden. The iPhone app allows users to record found sounds and create unique versions of John Cage's *Quartet* – an homage befitting Cage's prediction that *"Tomorrow, with electronic music in our ears, we will hear freedom."*

The official May release of **JOHN CAGE: The Works for Percussion 2** is coupled with a live performance, "Revolution: The Cage Century" in Third Coast Percussion's home town, Chicago, IL on May 25 at the **Mayne Stage**. A corresponding tour is set for the Summer of 2012, and will be announced shortly.

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Praised by Time Out Chicago for "chops, polish, and youthful joy in performing," **Third Coast Percussion** uses an impressive array of percussion instruments to create a performance experience like no other. With exceptional talent and dedicated artistry, this "sonically spectacular" (Chicago Tribune) quartet combines the driving intensity of drums, the beautiful warmth of marimbas and vibraphones, and the surprisingly exotic sounds of everyday objects to make music that is playful, memorable and profound. In performances around the country, the Chicago-based ensemble has swiftly gained national attention for effortlessly combining the energy of a rock concert with the precision and sophistication of classical chamber music.

Third Coast Percussion presents concerts for all audiences, from the percussion novice to the contemporary music aficionado. Third Coast has introduced percussion music to chamber music series in Chicago (Rush Hour Concerts, Millennium Park, Chicago Cultural Center), Virginia (Garth Newel Music Center), Pennsylvania (Dickinson College), and Wisconsin (Taliesin), securing immediate invitations to return to each of these series. TCP has also championed some of the most formidable repertoire for percussion including the music of Gérard Grisey, Philippe Manoury, Wolfgang Rihm, Louis Andriessen, Martin Bresnick, George Crumb, Arvo Pärt, Steve Reich, Frederick Rzewski, Toru Takemitsu, Tan Dun, and Iannis Xenakis. The ensemble is constantly adding new works to this already expansive repertoire.

Upcoming and recent appearances include University of Notre Dame – DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, Austin Chamber Music Festival, Music on the Edge (Pittsburgh), Museum of Contemporary Art (Chicago), Le Poisson Rouge (New York), Garth Newel Music Center (Virginia), Dusk Variations: Millennium Park – Pritzker Pavilion (Chicago), EMPAC (NY), Kennedy Center Millennium Stage (DC), and Taliesin – Frank Lloyd Wright (WI). Highlights of the 2012-13 season include a major focus on the percussion music of John Cage in celebration of his centenary. Third Coast is also active in developing new works. Future premieres include commissioned works by Glenn Kotche and Augusta Read Thomas.

Third Coast Percussion also self-presents a full season of concert percussion music each year in Chicago. The group performs 4 to 5 of these concerts each season, pairing the greatest concert percussion music with lesser-known and rarely performed master pieces. Past Chicago Concert Seasons have featured the premieres of new works by composers David T. Little, Matthew Barnson, Ted Hearne, Kirsten Broberg, and more plus guest appearances by Lisa Moore, Amy Briggs, and members of eighth blackbird.

The members of Third Coast Percussion—Owen Clayton Condon, Robert Dillon, Peter Martin, and David Skidmore—hold degrees in music performance from Northwestern University, the Yale School of Music, the New England Conservatory, and Rutgers University.

Third Coast Percussion performs exclusively with Pearl/Adams Musical Instruments, Zildjian Cymbals, and Vic Firth sticks and mallets.

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www.THIRDCOASTPERCUSSION.com

Owen Clay Condon • Robert Dillon • Peter Martin • David Skidmore

www.MODERECORDS.com

www.thirdcoastpercussion.com/johncage

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