



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

This August, the Chicago-based percussion ensemble

**THIRD COAST PERCUSSION**

plays concerts featuring the music of **JOHN CAGE**

and a new collaborative work honoring the avant-garde master,

**RENGA:CAGE:100**



Photo: Saverio Truglia

in WASHINGTON, DC on **THE MILLENNIUM STAGE** at **THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**

on Tuesday, **AUGUST 7, 2012** at 6pm

AND

in NEW YORK CITY for **MoMA NIGHTS**, in **THE SCULPTURE GARDEN** of **THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART**

on Wednesday, **AUGUST 9, 2012** at 6:30pm

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

"The members of Third Coast Percussion lavish each touch with the sort of microscopic attention to detail and steely command of the larger musical flow that Angela Hewitt brings to a Bach fugue."

- John Terauds, MUSICAL TORONTO, June 27, 2012, on the Mode Records album, JOHN CAGE: The Works for Percussion 2.

In August 2012, the acclaimed Chicago-based percussion ensemble **THIRD COAST PERCUSSION** hails the centenary of the groundbreaking American artist **JOHN CAGE** with concerts at **THE KENNEDY CENTER** and **THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART (MoMA)**:

**REVOLUTION: THE JOHN CAGE CENTURY**

*Second Construction (1940)*

*Credo in Us (1942)*

*Radio Music (1956)*

*Quartet, movements 1, 2, 3 (1935)*

*RENGA:CAGE:100 (2012, world premiere) with contributions from 100 different composers*

*Third Construction (1941)*

These dates also celebrate the May 2012 release of Third Coast Percussion's acclaimed debut album on **Mode Records**: **JOHN CAGE: THE PERCUSSION WORKS 2.**

The program highlights works written in John Cage's early artistic life; when he met and studied with Arnold Schoenberg and Henry Cowell, worked with Lou Harrison, fell in love with and married Xenia Andreyevna Kashevaroff, and found inspiration in Oskar Fischinger's dictum that "everything in the world has a spirit that can be released through its sound."

Third Coast Percussion's August 9 **MoMA Nights** concert is notable because it was at MoMA, in 1943, that Cage organized and performed a percussion concert for his New York City debut.

"In 1943, John Cage presented a concert at MoMA that was the culmination of the first major period of his creative life, a period when he created some of the most influential and lasting percussion music in the repertoire. With this very much in mind, Third Coast Percussion is honored to bring a concert of Cage's music and a new piece inspired by Cage to this place that has such a deep connection with his legacy," says TCP member David Skidmore.

The Third Coast Percussion MoMA Nights concert is a major feature of MoMA's **John Cage Day** programming. Throughout John Cage Day (August 9) MoMA will honor Cage's work and contributions to the avant-garde with a series of readings, performances, musical compositions, and personal reflections by poets, writers, musicians, and scholars. Other participants include writer and editor Richard Kostelant; Joan Retallack, John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Professor of Humanities, Bard College; pianist and toy-piano virtuoso Margaret Leng Tan; soprano Catherine Hancock; and poet, editor, and curator Roger van Voorhees.

The new work on the program, **RENGA:Cage:100** is a tribute to Cage and his continuing influence on today's composers and performers. Based on the traditional Japanese poetry practice of *renga*, in which several poets write a collaborative work (Cage drew on the practice in a number of compositions), *RENGA:Cage:100* is comprised of miniature contributions from 100 contemporary composers, presented in an order determined by chance operations, and performed as a seamless work. Contributing composers include Aaron Jay Kernis, Missy Mazzoli, Steven Mackey, Andrew Norman, Corey Dargel, Glenn Kotche, Augusta Read Thomas, Joan La Barbara, and Mason Bates, among others.

The August 7, 2012 Washington, DC performance is presented by the Kennedy Center at the **Millennium Stage**, as part of the "Performing Arts for Everyone" initiative, which provides performances open to the public and free of charge 365 days a year. (The Kennedy Center is the only U.S. institution that presents a free performance every day of the year.) Third Coast Percussion's performance will be streamed live at [kennedy-center.org](http://kennedy-center.org).

Third Coast Percussion's Kennedy Center and MoMA concerts follow summer performances in TCP's hometown, Chicago, for the Rush Hour Concert Series, and for "Loops and Variations" in Millennium Park, as well as an appearance at the Austin Chamber Music Festival. Upcoming dates include John Luther Adams' *Inuksuit* at Millennium Park and residencies at the University of Notre Dame (with the world premiere of *Resounding Earth* by Augusta Read Thomas), the University of Denver, the University of Colorado-Boulder, and Pomona College in Claremont, California, where John Cage briefly attended school.

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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 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 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 (Talesin), 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, and is an active partner in commissioning new works from composers such as Glenn Kotche and Augusta Read Thomas.

Upcoming and recent appearances include Music on the Edge (Pittsburgh), Museum of Contemporary Art (Chicago), Le Poisson Rouge (New York), Garth Newel Music Center (Virginia), EMPAC (NY), and Talesin – 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. In addition to its touring schedule, Third Coast Percussion self-presents a full season of concerts each year in Chicago. Past Chicago 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](http://www.thirdcoastpercussion.com)

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

[www.thirdcoastpercussion.com/johncage](http://www.thirdcoastpercussion.com/johncage)

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*RENGA:CAGE:100* (2012, world premiere)

*Third Construction* (1941)

Tuesday, AUGUST 7, 2012 at 6pm  
The Millennium Stage at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts  
2700 F Street, NW Washington, DC 20566

FREE Admission, Information: 800-444-1324 or 202-467-4600

[www.kennedy-center.org/programs/millennium/](http://www.kennedy-center.org/programs/millennium/)

Thursday, AUGUST 9, 2012, 5:30-8:30pm, set begins at 6:30pm  
The Sculpture Garden at The Museum of Modern Art  
for MoMA Nights  
11 West 53 Street New York, NY 10019 212-708-9680  
First come, first served entry, with regular MoMA museum admission  
In the event of rain, the Sculpture Garden will close, and music will take place either Theater 2 or Theater 3.

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