

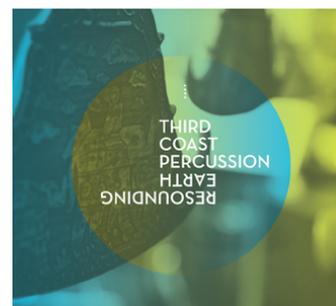
On **October 29, 2013**
NEW FOCUS RECORDINGS
releases the Chicago-based percussion ensemble
THIRD COAST PERCUSSION's
world premiere recording of
AUGUSTA READ THOMAS's
Resounding Earth

a 2012 work commissioned for and premiered by Third Coast

ACCLAIM FOR THIRD COAST PERCUSSION's 2012 JOHN CAGE/MODE RECORDS RELEASE:

"Third Coast Percussion swept the field with technical precision, palpable groove and outstanding sound." – TIME OUT NEW YORK

"These performances have a special fluency and zest that sets them apart..." – THE GUARDIAN



On **Tuesday, October 29, 2013** **New Focus Recordings** releases a new album from **Third Coast Percussion; Resounding Earth**, featuring a single four-movement, 35-minute work of the same name, by **Augusta Read Thomas**.

"We consider this New Focus Records album to be representative of deeply important collaborations – between Third Coast Percussion and August Read Thomas, who has been a generous musical collaborator and a brilliant champion of our ensemble, and between Third Coast and the University of Notre Dame's DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The DeBartolo Center provided the leadership and support that allowed for our work with Augusta to really flourish. We are so delighted that New Focus Records is helping us share this work with the larger public," says Third Coast Percussion founding member David Skidmore.

New Focus Recordings releases *Resounding Earth* as a high-quality digital download (on the New Focus website) on Tuesday, **October 1**, and as a national, physical release on Tuesday, **October 29**, with distribution by Naxos of America.

Written in 2012, *Resounding Earth* is the culmination of an ongoing fascination Ms. Thomas has with bells; both with their extraordinary resonant qualities, and with their ritual roles in diverse cultures across the globe. Scored for nearly three hundred unique bells, the composition of the work, and the selection of the specific bells used in the recording, was completed in close collaboration between Ms. Thomas and Third Coast.

"I treasure the opportunity to collaborate with the musicians in Third Coast Percussion because they are world-class virtuosi, visionary artists, and collegial, spectacular teammates. Involving a large battery of unique, ancient bells from around the world, our composition thus requires countless hours of refining nuances, colors, mallet choices, bell placements, and honing any number of other shadings, tunings, and gradations of the sound complexes. The musicians in Third Coast Percussion are ardent collaborators." – Augusta Read Thomas

Resounding Earth was commissioned by the University of Notre Dame's DeBartolo Performing Arts Center and the Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts, with additional funding from the Chamber Music America Classical Commissioning Program, with generous funding provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Chamber Music America Endowment Fund.

The DeBartolo Center hosted Third Coast Percussion and Ms. Thomas in a week-long residency in September 2012, which featured both the world premiere performance and recording of *Resounding Earth*. The success of the work and of the residency's collaborative efforts subsequently led to the July 2013 appointment of Third Coast Percussion as Ensemble-in-Residence at the University of Notre Dame. In this five-year residency Third Coast will perform on campus, engage in wide-ranging cross-disciplinary collaborations, offer world premieres of new works by leading composers, conduct master classes and provide community-building residency performances and activities for youth in local schools.

Third Coast Percussion's 2013/14 season includes regular Chicago and Notre Dame performances, national dates, new and recent works by David T. Little, Timo Andres and others, and multiple performances of *Resounding Earth*, including the University of Chicago Presents, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Ensemble Music Society Indianapolis, the University at Buffalo and McMaster University Celebrity Concert Series.

Hailed by *The New Yorker* as "vibrant" and "superb," **Third Coast Percussion** explores and expands the extraordinary sonic possibilities of the percussion repertoire, delivering exciting performances for audiences of all kinds. Since its formation in 2005, Third Coast Percussion has gained national attention with concerts and recordings – including an acclaimed 2012 John Cage album from Mode Records – that meld the energy of rock music with the precision and nuance of classical chamber works.

These "hard-grooving" musicians (*New York Times*) have become known for ground-breaking collaborations across a wide range of disciplines, including concerts and residency projects with engineers at the University of Notre Dame, architects at the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture, astronomers at the Adler Planetarium, and more. The ensemble enhances the performances it offers with cutting edge new media, including free iPhone and iPad apps that allow audience members to create their own musical performances and take a deeper look at the music performed by Third Coast Percussion.

As the Ensemble-in-Residence at the University of Notre Dame's DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, Third Coast Percussion has the honor of being the first ensemble at the University of Notre Dame to create a permanent and progressive ensemble residency program at the Center. The ensemble performs multiple recitals annually as part of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center's Presenting Series season.

Third Coast's passion for community outreach includes a wide range of residency offerings while on tour, in addition to a long-term residency with the Davis Square Park Community Band on Chicago's South Side.

Augusta Read Thomas' deeply personal music is guided by her particular sense of musical form, rhythm, timbre, and harmony. But given this individuality, her music is affected by history - in Thomas' words, "Old music deserves new music and new music needs old music." For Thomas, this means cherishing her place within the musical tradition and giving credit to those who have forged the musical paths she follows and from which she innovates. Thomas was the Mead Composer-in-Residence with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra from May 1997 through June 2006, a residency that encompassed nine world premieres, culminating in the premiere of *Astral Canticle* - one of two finalists for the 2007 Pulitzer Prize in Music.

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

Sean Connors • Robert Dillon • Peter Martin • David Skidmore

www.augustareadthomas.com

www.newfocusrecordings.com

THIRD COAST PERCUSSION • AUGUSTA READ THOMAS

Resounding Earth

1. INVOCATION: Pulse Radiance
2. PRAYER: Star Dust Orbits
3. MANTRA: Ceremonial Times Shapes
4. REVERIE CARILLON: Crystal Lattice

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For REVIEW ALBUMS (hard copy and MP3), ADDITIONAL INFORMATION and INTERVIEW INQUIRIES, please contact:

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