

"Calliope means 'beautiful voice.'" Maul originally wrote the song for his mother 30 years ago, but Percussia is the first group to perform it.

The concert included an existing work called "Ekivvulu Ky' Endere" by Ugandan composer Justinian Tamusuza. The title means "The African Festivity of the Flute" and includes three movements- "Okwanjula Kw' Endere" (Introduction of the Flute), "Okujaganya" (Rejoicing) and "Akayisanyo" (Finale)- and depicts an African celebratory procession, led by the flute, the focal point of the festival, the host and main celebrant. The first movement is a dramatic seven-minute solo flute soliloquy. In the second movement, the flute is joined by other instruments as secondary participants in the festival, who each come out in turn to display their skills. In the finale, all of the characters have drunk themselves silly and go crazy as portrayed through the music's fast tempo. The piece featured Gordon and Andrea Pryor on marimba and maracas; Jolles on harp; Lancaster on flute, and Zhurbin on viola.

The last work on the program was "Suling Degung", an arrangement of a traditional West Javanese gamelan work for Percussia. This work showcases the virtuosic, yet florid and free-flowing piccolo voice, floating above a shimmering, tightly knit rhythmically intricate tapestry woven by the harp, viola and keyboard percussion. "I spent several years of my life immersed in the study of Javanese gamelan music under the tutelage of the venerable dancer-musician Sumaryono of Yogyakarta," Gordon explained. "Gamelan music is some of the most intricate and beautiful percussion music in the world, and I feel very passionately about it. Creating this adaptation of Sundanese Suling Degung work for Percussia is my way of sharing my love for this music with American musicians and audiences."

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