



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

# University of North Texas College of Music

Guest Artist Lecture | Monday, February 6, 2023 | 4:00 pm | Voertman Hall

**Evelyn Glennie, percussion**

## MY CAREER, MUSIC AND INSPIRATIONS

**Dame Evelyn Glennie** (b. 1965) is the world's premiere solo percussionist. She is the first person in history to create and sustain a full-time career as a solo percussionist, performing worldwide with the greatest orchestras and artists. Evelyn has commissioned over 200 new works for solo percussion from many of the world's most eminent composers, and has recorded over 40 CDs. She regularly presents masterclasses to inspire the next generation of musicians. She redefines the goals and expectations of percussion students, performance ensembles, concert promoters, and the general public the world over. Evelyn gives numerous performances each year, globally, to universal critical acclaim from the most esteemed publications. A combination of Evelyn's superb technical abilities, a profound appreciation of the visual elements of percussion, along with her astonishing musicality to create performances of such stunning vitality, sets her a step beyond the ranks of the elite. She is a double GRAMMY award winner and BAFTA nominee and has over 100 international awards to date, including the Polar Music Prize and the Companion of Honour. She was appointed as the first female president of Help Musicians, only the third person to hold the title since Sir Edward Elgar and Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. Since 2021 she has been chancellor of Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, Scotland. Evelyn was awarded an OBE in 1993 and held a prominent role in the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games, where she led 1000 drummers and performed on a new instrument, the Glennie Concert Aluphone. About the Opening Ceremony, Glennie reflects, "Playing at an event like that was proof that music really affects all of us, connecting us in ways that the spoken word cannot." Evelyn is currently curating The Evelyn Glennie Collection which includes in excess of 3500 percussion instruments. The collection also encompasses concert programmes, awards, photos, paintings, letters and scores spanning her remarkable career. She aims to improve communication and social cohesion by encouraging everyone to discover new ways of listening in order to inspire, to create, to engage and to empower. The film *Touch the Sound* and her enlightening TED Talk remain key testimonies to her unique and innovative approach to sound-creation. "My career and my life have been about listening in the deepest possible sense. Losing my hearing meant learning how to listen differently,

**Four hundred twenty-seventh program of the 2022–2023 season  
Photography and videography are prohibited**