

Percussion Program at Ohio University

Faculty

Percussionist **Roger Braun's** diverse performance career spans the idioms of contemporary, classical, jazz, and world music. He has performed extensively throughout the United States and in Europe and Asia, including collaborations with many notable musicians such as marimba virtuoso Keiko Abe, jazz musicians Lyle Mays and Bob Mintzer, and Ghanaian master xylophonist Bernard Woma. Braun has worked with many conductors and orchestras, including the Lansing, Flint, Ann Arbor, Ohio Valley, and Saginaw Symphonies, the ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, the Detroit Chamber Winds, and in the orchestras for the Broadway touring shows *Beauty and the Beast*, *Titanic*, and *Ragtime*. Braun has recorded over a dozen CD's and he is actively involved in commissioning, composing, and creating new works. Currently, Braun performs with the *Biakuye Percussion Group*, a world percussion ensemble that has performed throughout the United States and was featured at the Sacheon International Percussion Festival and Pyeongtaek Percussion Festival in South Korea. The group's self-titled CD was released by *Jumbie Records*, a world music collective. Braun is also solo marimbist and percussionist with *Los Viejos Blanquitos*, a latin jazz ensemble. The group's makes frequent appearances in clubs, festivals, and universities, and their CD, *lvb:file under latin jazz* was released on *Brick City Records*. With the group *Galaxy Percussion*, Braun performed with marimbist Keiko Abe in a three week, 13 concert tour of Japan. The group also released a CD on the *Equilibrium* label, *Dreams of the Spirit*, with marimba soloist, Linda Maxey. Additionally, Braun is producer, director, and performer *Sticks and Stones: Music for Percussion and Strings*, a CD of contemporary music for *Equilibrium Records*.

Roger Braun is Associate Professor and Director of Percussion Studies at Ohio University. His prior teaching appointments include the University of Michigan-Flint, Albion College, Interlochen Arts Camp, and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, where he served as Associate Professor of Jazz Studies and Percussion. In addition to teaching all areas of percussion, Braun has taught university courses in jazz performance and history, music technology, music theory, American popular music, and collaborative arts. An endorser for Encore Mallets and Pro-Mark Sticks, he has presented numerous masterclasses throughout the United States. Internationally he has given masterclasses with *Galaxy Percussion* in Japan, presented at the *2008 Seoul Drum Festival* in South Korea, and adjudicated the symphonic percussion competition at the *2004 Percuba Festival* in Havana, Cuba, where he also studied Cuban percussion. Braun earned his Bachelor of Music degree in performance with highest honors from the University of Michigan and his Master of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music where his principal teachers were Michael Udow, John Beck, and Salvatore Rabbio.

Guy Remonko is Emeritus Professor of Percussion. He has conducted workshops and performed across the United States and has been featured in a variety of National Public Radio broadcasts, as well as performed with many of the top names in the entertainment business, including Pearl Bailey, Phylis Diller, Dave Samuels, Diane Schuur and Larry Coryell. He has written articles for *Modern Drummer*, *Percussive Notes*, and *The Instrumentalist*, and is a clinician/endorsee for Yamaha Drums and Zildjian Cymbals.

Visiting Artists

The School of Music and Ohio University Visiting Artist Series make it possible to bring some of the world's most renowned percussionists to campus. Recent artists who have given masterclasses and performances at Ohio University include: STOMP, Leigh Howard Stevens, Ed Soph, Dave Samuels, Ted Piltzecker, Doug Walter, Roland Vazquez, Steve Smith, Nexus, Glen Velez, Ney Rosauero, Bernard Woma, Tigger Benford, Paul Yancich, Anthony Di Sanza, BLAST, and the Ethos Percussion Group.

Facilities

Seven locked rooms are devoted exclusively to percussion practice. Rooms are set up to accommodate mallet, multi-percussion, timpani, drum set, orchestral percussion, and world percussion practice. The physical arrangement of the teaching and practice areas and the resulting interaction among students and faculty creates a "percussion family" in which sharing and learning extends beyond the studio and classroom. In addition to the practice and faculty studio areas on the sixth floor of the music building, percussion is also stored in the ensemble rehearsal hall, and the performance hall, Memorial Auditorium.

Percussion Ensembles

The Ohio University Jazz Percussion Ensemble

One of the first groups to blend jazz and world music with percussion, the Jazz Percussion Ensemble was originally founded by Percussion Professor Emeritus, Guy Remonko in 1974. The 10-member ensemble consists of select students from the Ohio University School of Music. Emphasizing improvisation and student creativity, the group has created a unique repertoire that has gained national attention. The ensemble has performed at national conferences, including the 2003 Ohio Music Educators Association Conference and the 1999 Percussive Arts Society International Convention, as well as schools and colleges throughout the region. The group's performances have featured many internationally recognized artists including Dave Samuels, Chris Vadala, Ted Piltzecker, Bill Molenhof, and Roland Vazquez.

The Ohio University Percussion Ensemble

The Ohio University Percussion Ensemble performs a wide variety of music composed for percussion instruments. Repertoire includes historical pieces of the 20th Century by composers such as John Cage, Lou Harrison, Edgard Varese, and Steve Reich plus recent works by composers like Christopher Rouse, Dan McCarthy, Bill Cahn, and David Gillingham. Additional repertoire includes pieces by student and local composers and percussion world music traditions. Performances by the ensemble have been featured at nationally recognized conferences as well as schools and universities around the region. The ensemble has received excellent international reviews for its performances of Tan Dun's "Elegy: Snow in June" and Lou Harrison's "Concerto for Violin and Percussion Orchestra" recorded on the CD *Sticks and Stones: Music for Percussion and Strings*, released on *Equilibrium Records*. They have also been invited to perform at the 2009 Percussive Arts Society International Convention.

African Performance Ensemble

Under the direction of Dr. Paschal Younge, this ensemble performs traditional music of West Africa. Dr. Younge previously directed the World Music Center at West Virginia University.

Highlights of Recent Ohio University Percussion Student Achievements

Kristin Agee (BM Performance, 2005, MM 2007)

Ohio Valley Symphony, Huntington Symphony, River Cities Symphony, Villecroze, France
International Music Institute (full scholarship), OU Concerto Contest Winner, Juniper Festival,
Nexus Percussion Workshop (full scholarship), 2007 PASIC Focus Day Performance

Joey Van Hassel (BM Performance, 2006)

2003 Percussive Arts Society International Convention Scholarship, Ohio Valley Symphony,
River Cities Symphony, Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, PASIC Scholarship, 2006 National Collegiate
Wind Symphony, Graduate Teaching Assistant Cincinnati Conservatory, Juniper Festival, 2007
PASIC Focus Day Performance

Kendra Dawson (MM Performance, 2004)

Percussion Teacher, Interlochen Arts Camp, All-State Program, MI (2002-2003), Percussion
Teacher, University of Rio Grande, OH (2003), River Cities Symphony, Ohio Valley Symphony,
Huntington Symphony, Symphony Orchestra Academy of the Pacific, 2004 OU Graduate Service
Award, University of Arizona Doctoral Teaching Assistant

Eric Smith (MM Performance, 2003)

Percussion Teacher, University of Rio Grande, OH (2002), Percussion Teacher, Hartwick Music
Camp, NY, Ohio Valley Symphony

Grant Cambridge (BM Composition, 2003)

Provost's and Dean's Undergraduate Research / Creative Activity Award: \$1500.00 to fund
production of "Child's Play" a multi-media production for percussion ensemble and technology,
National Collegiate Wind Ensemble, Carnegie Hall Performance, H. Robert Reynolds, conductor,
Winner, Ohio University Concerto Competition, *Concerto for Marimba*, Rosauero

Drew Hudgins (B Mus Ed, 2003)
Music Professor, Hocking College (OH)

Ben Arnold (BmusEd, 2002)
Percussion Professor, Mississippi Valley State University (MS)

Shaun Schuetz (B Music History, 2002)
Percussion Professor, Maryville College (TN)

Mark Douglass (Masters studies, 2000-2001)
Percussion Professor, University of Tennessee

Ohio University Percussion Audition Information

Undergraduate

Prepare solos or etudes that demonstrate your experience in the following areas of percussion:

- Snare Drum
- Mallets
- Timpani

During the audition you will also be asked to demonstrate fundamental skills in these areas, including rudiments, scales, timpani tuning, and sightreading. If desired, you may also prepare selections to show additional skills in the areas of drum set, multiple percussion, or hand drums.

You are encouraged to be in contact with Professor Braun for advice regarding your audition repertoire. This way you can feel confident and prepared when you arrive for your audition.

Graduate

Prepare solos and excerpts that demonstrate your background in all areas of percussion. You are encouraged to contact Professor Braun to discuss the material on your audition. In addition to all of the areas that are described in the undergraduate process, you will be given ample time during your audition to perform excerpts and more than one piece on each instrument so you can demonstrate contrasting styles (i.e. 2 mallet / 4 mallet, technical / musical, concert / rudimental snare drum).

Ohio University Percussion Graduate Assistantship

The assistantship includes a full tuition waiver and a stipend (about \$4,500) for 10 hours per week.

The teaching assistant duties include: (typically shared between two TA's)

- Assistant director of the percussion ensemble
- Teaching percussion majors and non-majors
- Teaching percussion methods
- Section leader in ensembles, coordinate equipment

There are additional professional opportunities in the area that involve current grad students:

- Percussion with area symphonies: Ohio Valley, River Cities, Huntington
- Additional teaching for the Athens Community Music School

For More Information Contact:

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