

# Cory S. Hills

## Percussionist

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### Professional Teaching Experience

**The University of Kansas** (Lawrence, Kansas) - Instructor for Percussion Methods, a required course for all undergraduate music education and music therapy students. The course focuses on core technique for percussion instruments as well as developing an understanding of how to teach percussion to students in a K-12 classroom setting. In addition to lecturing this course, I taught applied percussion lessons to members of the percussion studio as well as non-major percussion students. 2008-Present

**Reach Out Kansas Outreach Coordinator** (Kansas) - In charge of all facets of the percussion outreach program of Reach Out Kansas, a non-profit organization, which brings classical music to underserved populations. As outreach coordinator and performer, I have organized over 60 performances throughout Kansas for over 5,000 people in libraries, community centers, boys and girls clubs, YMCA's, Ronald McDonald Houses, hospitals, schools, and retirement centers. 2009-Present

**Kansas Music Educators Association Annual Convention** (Wichita, Kansas) - Gave a lecture-demonstration on how to implement improvisation into the public school classroom. Feb. 2010

**Days of New Music Festival Residency** (Chisinau, Moldova)- SI2, my percussion duo along with Matthew Coley, was the ensemble in residence at Chisinau Conservatory as part of the 2009 Days of New Music Festival. While in Moldova, we performed with the state orchestra, performed two duo concerts, gave a series of three master classes, and taught lessons to various members of the percussion studio. Sep. 2009

## Master Classes

<b>Iowa State University</b> (Ames, Iowa) - Multiple percussion and hand drum master class	Sep. 2009
<b>Northwestern University</b> (Evanston, Illinois) - Multiple percussion and improvisation master class	Jun. 2008
<b>Portland State University</b> (Portland, Oregon) - Multiple percussion and improvisation master class	May 2008
<b>Oregon State University</b> (Corvallis, Oregon) - Multiple percussion and improvisation master class and recital	May 2008
<b>Virginia Commonwealth University</b> (Richmond, Virginia) - Multiple percussion and improvisation master class	Apr. 2008
<b>Longwood University</b> (Farmville, Virginia) - Multiple percussion master class and recital	Apr. 2008
<b>Kansas State University</b> (Manhattan, Kansas) - Multiple percussion and improvisation master class	Nov. 2007
<b>The University of Kansas</b> (Lawrence, Kansas) - Multiple percussion and improvisation master class	Mar. 2007
<b>Northeastern Illinois University</b> (Chicago, Illinois) - Multiple percussion master class and recital	Jan. 2005
<b>Singapore Youth Orchestra</b> (Brisbane, Australia) - Orchestral percussion and marimba master class	Jun. 2004

## Chamber Master Classes

<b>Chisinau Conservatory</b> (Chisinau, Moldova) - Orchestral repertoire, marimba, and hand drum master class	Sep. 2009
<b>University of Maryland</b> (College Park, Maryland) - Percussion master class and recital on chamber music techniques (SI2 guest artists)	Mar. 2009
<b>Virginia Commonwealth University</b> (Richmond, Virginia) - Percussion master class and recital on chamber music techniques (SI2 visiting artists)	Mar. 2009
<b>University of Virginia</b> (Charlottesville, Virginia) - Percussion master class and recital on chamber music techniques (SI2 visiting artists)	Mar. 2009
<b>Longwood University</b> (Farmville, Virginia) - Percussion master class and recital on chamber music techniques (SI2 visiting artists)	Mar. 2009

## Solo Performances

- Kansas Day of Percussion** (Emporia, Kansas) - As part of the Percussive Arts Society's Kansas Day of Percussion, I gave a percussion clinic-demonstration on new multiple percussion music with electronics. Feb. 2010
- The Percussive Art of Storytelling** - My multidisciplinary fusion of theatre and percussion has been presented to underserved communities in Kansas over 60 times in 2009. 2009- Present
- Rocky Mountain National Park Residency** (Estes Park, Colorado) - As part of my artist residency, I gave two public recitals, featuring new compositions for multiple percussion. Jul. 2008
- Spencer Museum of Art** (Lawrence, Kansas) - This solo recital featured new works for marimba and multiple percussion, as well as improvised works for percussion and dance, featuring Michelle Heffner-Hayes. Jul. 2008
- Oregon State University** (Corvallis, Oregon) - A solo recital featuring new works for multiple percussion. May 2008
- Hall Center for the Humanities** (Lawrence, Kansas) - This lecture recital was given as part of a faculty colloquium entitled *Tree of Life* that I was selected to participate in. I presented on the artistic meaning of the tree of life and how it can be applied in composition. My work *Njovu* is a direct result of this colloquium. Apr. 2008
- Queensland Orchestra** (Brisbane, Australia) – Performed as solo percussionist for *CREDO*, a multimedia work by Fabrica Music Director, Andrea Molino. This three-hour work featured live satellite feeds to Belfast, Jerusalem, and Istanbul, a full symphony orchestra, and a midi-triggered film. Jul. 2005
- Songlines Recital Series** (Southern Italy) - Percussion soloist and co-composer of this multimedia concert series in Ravello, Caserta, and Napoli, Italy. Jun. 2005
- Queensland Choir** (Brisbane, Australia) - Performed the solo percussion part to *African Sanctus* by David Fanshawe. Sep. 2004
- United States Army Band** (Washington D.C.) - Performed *Golden Age of the Xylophone* by Floyd Werlie as part of the Army Band summer series, next to the Washington Monument. Jul. 1999

## Chamber Performances

- Days of New Music Festival** (Chisinau, Moldova) - SI2 performed a series of chamber recitals in Chisinau, Moldova consisting of new and old works for percussion duo. These concerts featured the premiere of my composition, *Tenacity*. Sep. 2009
- Iowa State University Artist Series Recital** (Ames, Iowa) - SI2 gave a recital featuring new and old repertoire for percussion duo. Sep. 2009
- Omi International Musician's Residency** (New York City) - As part of the residency, the twelve selected musicians performed two concerts featuring music composed or improvised during the residency. This performance featured the premiere of my composition, *Matter*. Aug. 2009
- Focus on the Arts Festival** (Chicago, Illinois) - SI2 gave a recital featuring new and old repertoire for percussion duo. Apr. 2009
- International Society for Improvised Music Convention** (Denver, Colorado) - SI2 performed a featured concert of *Lies*, an improvised work inspired by the poem of the same name by Vernon Ah Kee. Dec. 2008
- Percussive Arts Society International Convention** (Columbus, Ohio) - The Northwestern University Percussion Ensemble performed a showcase concert as winners of the call for tapes for university percussion ensembles. Nov. 2002
- Dame Myra Hess Concert Series** (Chicago, Illinois) - Performed a duo concert with flutist Katrina Walter at the Chicago Cultural Center as part of the Dame Myra Hess Concert Series. The performance was broadcast on WFMT, Chicago's classical music station. Aug. 2002
- Indiana Day of Percussion** (Bloomington, Indiana) - Performed alongside Michael Burritt for a showcase clinic on marimba repertoire with percussion ensemble. Apr. 2001

## Orchestral Performances

- Topeka Symphony** (Topeka, Kansas) - Performed as guest percussionist Mar. 2007
- Queensland Orchestra** (Brisbane, Australia) - Performed as timpanist Oct. 2004
- Queensland Choir** (Brisbane, Australia) - Performed as guest percussionist. Sep. 2004
- United States Army Band** (Washington D.C.) - Performed several times under Colonel Shelbourne and Pershing's Own. 1998-2000
- National Symphony Orchestra** (Washington D.C.) - Performed several times under conductor Leonard Slatkin. In addition, performed alongside Evelyn Glennie and the Nexus percussion ensemble for the Drums Along the Potomac Percussion Festival. 1998-2000

## Musical Direction

- Helianthus Ensemble** (Lawrence, Kansas) - As assistant musical director and conductor for the Helianthus new music ensemble, I coached ensembles, founded a Soundpainting ensemble, chose repertoire, and conducted pieces such as *All the Way Around and Back* by Ives, *Mosquito War Grooves* by Terrazas, and *Cheating, Lying, and Stealing* by Lang. 2008-Present
- KU Percussion Group** (Lawrence, Kansas) - As an assistant director of the KU Percussion Group, I directed numerous pieces, such as Reich's *Clapping Music* and *Nagoya Marimbas*, Cage's *Living Room Music*, Westlake's *Omphalo Centric Lecture*, and a handful of xylophone rags by George Hamilton Green. 2008-Present
- BadaBum Percussion Ensemble** (Brisbane, Australia) - Directed and performed in a performance of Steve Reich's *Drumming* in the Powerhouse Theatre in Brisbane, Australia. Oct. 2004

## Grants and Awards

- Reach Out Kansas Grant** - This grant, for \$50,000, covers my work as percussion outreach coordinator for Reach Out Kansas. 2009-2011
- Zakoura Family Foundation Grant** - This grant, for \$5,000, funded the production of *The Lost Bicycle*, my first solo percussion CD, to be released in the spring of 2010. 2010
- Omi International Musicians Residency** - The Omi residency was awarded to 12 improvising musicians from around the world and provided room and board for three weeks of collaboration in the mountains of New York. The program culminated with performances at Roulette, an experimental music venue in New York City. Summer 2009
- Rocky Mountain National Park Residency** - The Rocky Mountain National Park residency was awarded through the United States Park Service to seven artists during the summer of 2008. I received room and board in a historic cabin in the national park for two weeks while practicing pieces and working on compositions. I was the only multi-disciplinary performer selected in the history of the residency program. As part of the residency, I was commissioned to compose a work about the history of the park, which I titled *Ponderosa Pine*, and included on my debut CD, *The Lost Bicycle*. Summer 2008
- 2009 Emerging Artist Award, Kansas Arts Commission** - Received the award for composition, and was the only person to receive an emerging award in music. 2009
- The University of Kansas**
- Career Opportunity Grant 2008, 2009
  - Hall Center Faculty Colloquium Award 2008
  - Research Travel Grant 2008
  - Fellowship for Doctorate in Musical Arts 2008-Present
- Institute Fabrica Fellowship** - United Colors of Benetton funded this 8-month research grant to Institute Fabrica in Treviso, Italy. The fellowship covered flight, room, board, and stipend, as well as project costs for personal projects developed while at Fabrica. This included travel to other parts of Europe to perform and collaborate with interdisciplinary artists. January-August 2005

## Discography

- The Lost Bicycle*** (Lawrence, Kansas) - First solo percussion CD, produced by Reach Out Kansas, featuring original compositions for voice and percussion. 2010
- Margret Marco, Oboe** (Lawrence, Kansas) - Recorded in June 2009 and will be released in 2011. 2011
- Wild Nights*** (Lawrence, Kansas) - CD by the University of Kansas Wind Ensemble released on Naxos. 2009
- Midnight for You*** (Chicago, Illinois) - Recorded drum kit with Mira Mira, an electro-progressive rock band from Chicago 2006
- The European Kid*** (Chicago, Illinois) - Composed and performed the score to this short film by Ian Martin. The film has won numerous independent film awards including the Jury Award from the 2008 Wisconsin Film Festival. 2006
- William Barton, Didgeridoo** (Brisbane, Australia) - Played percussion on this live recording with string quartet. 2005
- Suzanne Savage, Voice** (Treviso, Italy) - Played percussion on this live recording with cello and voice. 2005
- Canzones*** (Treviso) - Played djembe on this CD by Senegalese griot and djembe master Papis Sana Ba. 2005
- War 'Bout Ya*** (Treviso, Italy) - Played frame drums on this album by Italian producer, Daniele Carmosino. 2005
- Carmen Fantasia*** (Evanston, Illinois) - This CD featured Donald Hunsberger and the Northwestern University Symphony Orchestra. 2003
- Winds of Nagual*** (Evanston, Illinois) - This CD featured Mallory Thompson and the Northwestern University Wind Ensemble. 2002

## Recent Commissions

- Lukas Ligeti - Solo Marimba consortium commission 2011
- Martin Bresnick - Percussion consortium commission for SI2 2011
- Paul Rennick - Percussion piece for SI2 2011
- Christopher Deane - Percussion piece for SI2 2011
- Angelo Sturiale - Solo multiple percussion 2011
- Wilfrido Terrazas - Solo multiple percussion 2011
- Paola Prestini - Solo multiple percussion, electronics and film 2010

## Continued Recent Commissions...

Jason Cress - Solo multiple percussion and electronics	2009
Jason Cress - Solo timpani	2009
Jason Cress - Electronic backing track for hand drums	2009
Jessica Rudman - Solo multiple percussion	2009
Da Jeong Choi - Solo multiple percussion	2009
Stephen Halloran - Solo multiple percussion	2009
Jeremiah Li - Solo multiple percussion	2009
Dan Musselman - Solo multiple percussion	2009
Baca Lobera - Terrazas/Hills, flute and percussion duo piece	2010
Ivan Sparrow - Terrazas/Hills, flute and percussion duo piece	2010

## Professional Affiliations/Endorsements

Percussive Arts Society	1998-Present
International Society for Improvised Music	2008-Present
Society for Music Theory	2008-Present
National Storytelling Network	2010-Present
Innovative Percussion Artist	2008-Present
Vaughncraft Percussion Artist	2007-Present

## Education

<b>University of Kansas</b> (Lawrence, Kansas) Fellowship for Doctorate of Musical Arts (expected ABD May 2010); Masters in Music Theory (expected completion May 2010). Studied with Ji Hye Jung.	2007-Present
<b>Fabrica Institute</b> (Treviso, Italy) Research Fellowship for contemporary arts exploration. Studied with Andrea Molino.	2005
<b>Queensland Conservatorium</b> (Brisbane, Australia) Masters of Music Studies (Percussion Performance and Pedagogy) Graduated with Honors. Studied with Vanessa Tomlinson.	2004-2005
<b>Northwestern University</b> (Evanston, Illinois) Bachelors of Music in Percussion Performance, Bachelors of Music Education (K-12); Graduated <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> . Studied with Michael Burritt and James Ross.	1999-2003