Dr. Brian S. Graiser, Percussionist/Composer/Teacher

Sam Houston State University School of Music

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Professional Profile

Dr. Graiser is a current Full-Time Adjunct Instructor with several years of teaching experience at the university level that includes applied percussion lessons, classroom instruction (i.e. Percussion Methods), and ensemble direction (i.e. Percussion Ensemble, Contemporary Ensemble, and Drumline). He is a prolific international performer and clinician with a passion for contemporary solo and chamber repertoire and is one half of the REFLECT harp +percussion duo. Dr. Graiser possesses a diverse background that includes jazz vibraphone, orchestral percussion, musical theatre, drum set, world music (steel drums, Balinese gamelan, tabla, Afro-Cuban drumming, Brazilian samba batucada), and both indoor and outdoor competitive drumline. He is also an active researcher and composer with several published works and commissions, the winner of the 2016 Strikeclef Composition Contest, the creator of the first concerto for extended-range vibraphone, and a current member of the Percussive Arts Society (PAS) Composition Committee.

Education

- Doctor of Musical Arts, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, August 2015 (GPA 3.9)
 - o Music Performance (percussion), Music Composition cognate
 - o DMA Dissertation/Project: "Creating the First Concerto for Four-Octave Vibraphone"
 - o Primary teacher: Allen Otte (percussion)
- Master of Music, University of Toronto, June 2010 (GPA 3.9)
 - o Music Performance (percussion)
 - Primary teachers: Dr. Russell Hartenberger (percussion), Beverley Johnston (percussion), John Rudolph (percussion)
- Bachelor of Music, University of Georgia, magna cum laude, with Honors, May 2008 (GPA 3.79)
 - o Music Performance (percussion) and Music Composition
 - Primary teachers: Dr. Thomas McCutchen (percussion, jazz vibraphone), Dr. Leonard Ball (composition, electronic composition), Dr. Adrian Childs (composition)
- Additional study: Michael Colgrass (composition), Dr. Ellen Harrison (composition), Christos Hatzis (composition), Dr. Mara Helmuth (composition), Dr. Stuart Saunders Smith (composition), Dr. Roger Vogel (counterpoint), Russell Burge (jazz vibraphone, percussion), James Culley (percussion), Dr. Arvin Scott (drum set, Afro-Cuban drumming), Pak I Wayan Sinti (Balinese gamelan), Dr. Mark Duggan (samba batucada, Latin American percussion), Jim Feist (tabla), Steve Dancz (jazz improvisation), Leigh Howard Stevens (marimba)
- Pedagogical coursework:
 - Instrumental Pedagogy, University of Georgia, 2008
 - o Pedagogy Theory and Practice, University of Cincinnati, 2014

Teaching Experience

Adjunct Instructor of Percussion and Marching Percussion Director (1.0 FTE), Sam Houston State University, August 2016-present

- Responsibilities include teaching applied percussion lessons to undergraduate music majors, teaching percussion methods courses for music education majors, directing the University Percussion Ensemble, and directing and arranging music for the SHSU Drumline.
 - Other recent contributions as a faculty member include serving on the faculty of the Sam Houston Summer Percussion Academy, presenting a faculty chamber recital, directing an

undergraduate independent study course, making a publisher's catalog recording as xylophone soloist with the SHSU Wind Ensemble, performing on the Fall Faculty Gala, performing on the Contemporary Music Festival Faculty Recital, and coaching student ensembles for the Contemporary Music Festival.

Percussion Instructor, Montgomery Independent School District, August 2016-present

 Responsibilities include teaching individual and group percussion lessons, masterclasses, and ensemble rehearsals at Montgomery Junior High School (grades 6-8), Oak Hills Junior High School (grades 6-8), and Montgomery High School (grades 9-12).

Adjunct Instructor, University of Cincinnati, 2014-2016

 Responsibilities included teaching applied lessons through the College-Conservatory of Music Preparatory Department, directing and recruiting for the Cincinnati Youth Percussion Collective, coaching and overseeing the percussion section of the Cincinnati Youth Wind Ensemble, and maintaining percussion equipment and facilities.

Music Teacher, Leaves of Learning private school, Deer Park, OH, 2012-2016

Responsibilities included teaching percussion class and general K-12 music classes to students
ages 6-18, recruiting students, creating a curriculum and budget for each class, and covering
topics such as note reading, rhythm band, bells, recorder, ukulele, and vocal performance; music
theory, music history, world music, and instrumental studies.

Percussion Graduate Assistant, University of Cincinnati, 2013-2014

Responsibilities included teaching the Percussion Methods Music Education class, teaching
applied percussion lessons to graduate and undergraduate non-majors, coaching and conducting
the Percussion Ensemble as well as the percussion sections of the Wind Ensemble and Brass
Choir, and maintaining equipment and facilities of the percussion studio for regular University
use, audition weekends, and visiting groups/community youth ensembles.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada, 2008-2010

 Responsibilities included directing the freshman/sophomore Percussion Ensemble, coaching the Contemporary Music Ensemble, and serving as paid guest lecturer on multiple occasions for the U of T Percussion Masterclass.

Recent Guest Clinician Experience

- Sam Houston Summer Percussion Academy, Vibraphone History and Fundamentals; Timpani Fundamentals; How to Succeed as a Music Major (June 2017)
- Sam Houston State University, Basics of Mallet-Wrapping (October 2016); Vibraphone History and Repertoire (September 2016)
- Universidad de Panama/Instituto Nacional de Musica, Vibraphone History and Repertoire; Introduction to American Drumline (June 2016)
- University of North Carolina- Pembroke, Vibraphone History and Repertoire (April 2016)
- University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Composing for Harp and Percussion (April 2016)
- Jacksonville State University, Vibraphone History and Repertoire; Composing for the Harp (March 2016)
- University of Tennessee, Vibraphone History and Repertoire; The Evolution of Franco Donatoni's Percussion Writing Style; Vibraphone Masterclass (February 2016)

Other teaching experience

Artist/Faculty, Sam Houston Summer Percussion Academy (2017)

- Artist-in-Residence, Universidad de Panama and Instituto Nacional de Musica (2016)
- Front Ensemble Instructor, Pope High School Indoor Drumline, Marietta, GA (2011)
- Front Ensemble Instructor, E.P.I.C. Indoor Drumline, Hamilton, ON (2010)
- University of Georgia, Percussion Instructor for Summer Marching Band Camps and January Festivals, Clinician for Summer Music Camps, Front Ensemble Instructor for Redcoat Drumline, occasional guest lecturer for Percussion Methods (2006-2008)
- Percussion Director/Head Drumline Instructor and Arranger, Oconee County High School, Watkinsville, GA (2005-2008)
- Drum Camp/Band Camp Percussion Instructor, Roger Bacon HS (drumline), Morgan County HS (front ensemble), Jackson County Comprehensive HS (drumline), Trion City HS (front ensemble)
- Private Teaching Studios, various locations (2005-present)

Performance Experience

• Featured soloist with:

Cincinnati Pops/Cincinnati Collaborative Ringing Project, PAS-Panama Summer Percussion Ensemble, Sam Houston State University Wind Ensemble, GamUT Contemporary Ensemble, 2011 Frontier Percussion Summer Showcase Percussion Ensemble, University of Toronto Percussion Ensemble, Conservatorio Antonio G. Vivaldi Percussion Ensemble (Alessandria, Italy), University of Georgia Wind Ensemble, University of Georgia Percussion Ensemble

Performance experience with:

REFLECT harp+percussion, Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, Three by Radio Percussion Trio, Cincinnati Collaborative Ringing Project, Cincinnati Chamber Opera, CCM Contemporary Chamber Quartet, Arasmas Percussion Group, National Ballet of Canada Orchestra, Masterworks of Oakville Chorus and Orchestra, Oakville Chamber Orchestra, Toronto Percussion Ensemble, TorQ Percussion Quartet, Odyssey Percussion Theatre, Georgia Ensemble Theatre, Gordon Stout, Kevin Bobo, Mark Duggan, Alain Trudel, Rusty Burge, Oscar Cruz, Rey Cruz, Omar Diaz

Upcoming performance projects include:

- Holocaust Memorial Concert, SHSU, January 2018
- O Guest performer on the SHSU Bassoon Faculty Recital, including the world premiere of BUMP in the night for bassoon and marimba by Brian Graiser, SHSU, February 2018
- Percussion Faculty Recital, SHSU, March 2018
- o REFLECT harp+percussion duo concert, San Jacinto College, April 2018
- SHSU Contemporary Festival Faculty Recital, April 2018
- o REFLECT harp+percussion performance tour, including the world premieres of *Milk and Honey* for harp and vibraphone by Stuart Saunders Smith (commissioned by REFLECT harp+percussion) and an original duo transcription of Debussy's *La Mer*, various locations, Fall 2018

• Recent performances:

- o Multiple performances on the Faculty Concerts at the Sam Houston Summer Percussion Academy including the world premiere of *Zeitgeistspiel 09/30/1977* for multiple percussion, June 2017
- O Directing the SHSU University Percussion Ensemble's spring concert, including the premiere of an original arrangement of Erik Satie's *Parade* for percussion octet.
- Performing on the Faculty Recital as part of the SHSU Contemporary Festival, April 2017

- REFLECT harp+percussion Texas Tour, various locations (including Southwestern University, McMurry University, Lamar University, SHSU, and others), February 2017
- O Directing the University Percussion Ensemble at the SHSU Night of Percussion, December 2016
- o Directing the SHSU University Percussion Ensemble Fall Concert, October 2016
- SHSU Faculty Gala (solo vibraphone performance of *La Cathedrale Engloutie* by Claude Debussy), September 2016
- Touring Australia as Percussion Instructor of the Cincinnati Youth Wind Ensemble (performance venues included the Sydney Opera House, Angel Place Recital Hall, Sydney Town Hall, and others), July 2016
- One-week residency for PAS-Panama at the Universidad de Panama and Instituto Nacional de Musica as featured concerto soloist, guest clinician, and ensemble director, June 2016
- O World Premiere of *From Nothing, Everything* for solo vibraphone by Brian Graiser at the Festival Internacional de Musica Alfredo de Saint Malo in Panama City, June 2016
- Directing and conducting the spring concert of the Cincinnati Youth Percussion Collective, May 2016
- Regional concert tour as REFLECT harp+percussion duo, various locations, April-May 2016
- World premiere of *Mornings* for solo vibraphone by Stuart Saunders Smith, UNC-Pembroke, April 2016
- Duo concert debut as one half of REFLECT harp+percussion, including the world premiere of We Measure in Victims for harp and percussion, Kaleidoscope Concert Series, Jacksonville State University, March 2016

• Other notable performances:

- Featured bodhran soloist on "Holiday Pops" concerts with the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra and the Cincinnati Collaborative Ringing Project, December 2015
- Performance of *Inuksuit* by John Luther Adams with the Percussion Group Cincinnati and CCM Percussion Ensemble, September 2015
- World premiere of Concerto No. 1 ("Lulu") for Four-Octave Vibraphone by Brian Graiser (DMA dissertation/project), May 2015
- o Featured soloist on "The Music of Mark Applebaum" guest-artist concert at CCM, April 2015
- Doctoral lecture-recital ("Darkness Decoded: Building Upon the Compositional Techniques of Franco Donatoni's Percussion Writing"), Feburary 2015
- Performing Luciano Berio's Circles with the CCM Contemporary Chamber Quartet at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PASIC), November 2014
- Principal Percussion for the Cincinnati Chamber Opera's production of Viktor Ullmann's Der Kaiser von Atlantis, October 2014
- Featured soloist and composer on the Classical Revolution Cincinnati "CCM Composers Rev" concert (including the premiere of *Orbit* for percussion and piano by Brian Graiser), June 2014
- Principal timpanist accompanying the Ohio State University Men's Glee Club at the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Central Division Conference, February 2014
- o Doctoral percussion recitals at CCM in April 2013 and November 2013
- o The American concert premiere of John Cage's *The City Wears a Slouch Hat* as part of the CCM John Cage Centennial Festival in November 2012

- O Drum set/percussion for the Georgia Ensemble Theatre's *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* musical theatre production in October and November, 2011 in Roswell, Georgia
- o Percussion for the "Jeux de Portes" theatre production as part of the "Les Chantiers" theatre festival in Quebec City in 2010
- Soloist with the U of T GamUT Contemporary Music Ensemble, in the 2009 Toronto premiere of Christos Hatzis's "Mirage?" for solo vibraphone and string orchestra
- o At the 2008 International Vibraphone Competition Claude Giot in Clermont-Ferrand, France
- o As the soloist on Ney Rosauro's "Concerto for Vibraphone" with the UGA Wind Ensemble in the Fall of 2006, and with the UGA Percussion Ensemble later that year
- o Visiting soloist in the summer concert series at the Antonio G. Vivaldi Conservatorio in Alessandria, Italy in 2005 (unaccompanied and with the Conservatorio percussion ensemble)

Discography/Recordings

- o "Chopsticks"- xylophone soloist with SHSU Wind Ensemble (Tapspace)
- o "Latin Landscapes"- CCM Wind Orchestra (MCRS)
- o "Millenial Masters- 2015 Midwest Symposium" CCM Percussion Ensemble (ABLAZE)
- "Millenium Canons: Looking Forward, Looking Back"- UGA Wind Ensemble (Naxos)
- o "Tropical Breeze"- UGA Steel Drum Ensemble (UGA)
- o "Between the Hedges"- UGA Redcoat Marching Band (UGA)

Commissioned works

- o Milk and Honey for harp and vibraphone by Stuart Saunders Smith
- o serenity, shattered for solo 4-octave vibraphone and electronics by Christien LeDroit
- o Inner Structure for solo vibraphone and electronic delay by Peter Olsen
- o Groundlines for solo marimba by John Serry
- O Sailing Wind for solo vibraphone by Halim El-Dabh

Creative and Scholarly Contributions

• Composition Experience

- Original works performed by the Sam Houston Percussion Group, TorQ Percussion Quartet, Toronto Youth Wind Orchestra, Cincinnati Youth Wind Ensemble, Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra, CCM Percussion Ensemble, University of Georgia Percussion Ensemble, University of Toronto Percussion Ensemble, University of Georgia Contemporary Chamber Ensemble, Bowie HS (TX) Percussion Ensemble, and numerous individual artists
- Composition Contest Winner: Uno per Franco, winner of the 2016 Strikeclef Composition Contest Small Ensemble Category
- Currently published by Keyboard Percussion Publications, Strikeclef Publishing, and Alfonce Productions, as well as through self-publication and distribution through Frontier Percussion

• Current and upcoming projects:

 Duo for mezzo-soprano and harp, to be premiered by SHSU faculty on the 2018 SHSU Contemporary Music Festival Faculty Recital

- Solo for percussion and spoken text for Allen Otte, Professor Emeritus at the University of Cincinnati
- O Solo for rudimental snare drum, to be published in a 2018 edition of Rhythm! Scene magazine
- O Duo for lead pan and vibraphone for the Oregano Percussion Duo
- Solo for vibraphone for Beverly Johnston, Percussion Instructor at the University of Toronto
- O La Mer transcription project based on La Mer by Clade Debussy, for REFLECT harp+percussion
- o Fall Remembrance for solo crotales

Recent works list:

- Miriamic Canons (2017) for tambourine quartet, premiered at the 2017 Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PASIC) by the Sam Houston Percussion Group, soon to be released by Strikeclef Publications
- O Zeitgeistspiel __/__ (2017) for multiple percussion, premiered at the 2017 Sam Houston Summer Percussion Academy, published in the collection Allen Otte: Folio
- Microtude for clay pot, tin can, and resonant/sustaining sound of choice (2016), published in the December 2016 issue of Rhythm! Scene magazine and e-publication
- **Tamborondó** (2016) for five snare drums, premiered by the PAS-Panama Summer Percussion Ensemble, self-published
- From Nothing, Everything (2011, rev. 2016) for solo vibraphone, premiered at the Festival Internacional de Musica Alfredo in Panama City
- We Measure in Victims (2016) for harp and percussion duo, premiered at the University of North Carolina-Pembroke by REFLECT harp+percussion, self-published
- Phantasy for violin and percussion ensemble (2016), transcription project based on Phantasy for violin and piano by Arnold Schoenberg, informed by historical and anecdotal references from Otte, Cahn, et. al.
- O Spring snoitairaV (2016) for solo glockenspiel

Other notable works (selected)

- O Concerto No. 1 ("Lulu") for four-octave vibraphone (2015) for solo vibraphone and chamber nonet or piano reduction, premiered in concert at CCM, self-published
- O Summer Carillon (2015) for solo vibraphone
- Winter Meditation (2015) for solo vibraphone, premiered in recital at the Cincinnati Symphony Club
- Orbit (2014) for percussion and piano, premiered at the 2014 Classical Revolution Cincinnati "CCM Composers Rev" concert, self-published
- Concerto No. 1 ("Toronto") for percussion quartet and wind ensemble (2014), commissioned and premiered by the TorQ Percussion Quartet and the Toronto Youth Wind Orchestra, self-published
- O *Uno per Franco: in memoriam Franco Donatoni* (2014) for percussion sextet, premiered by the CCM Percussion Ensemble, **published by Strikeclef Publications**
- Törlés: on a theme by Bartók (2013) for marimba trio with bows and mallets, premiered by the CCM Percussion Ensemble, self-published
- Waves are Mountains, Mountains are Waves (2012) for flute, oboe, viola, cello, harp I and II, percussion I and II, self-published graphic score

- O Promethean Concertino No. 1 for percussion quartet and orchestra (2012), commissioned and premiered by the TorQ Percussion Quartet and the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra, self published
- O The Earth Laughs in Flowers (2011) for solo harp, distributed by Frontier Percussion
- 2 x 2 x 2 in 7 for 4 (2010) for percussion quartet, premiered by the University of Toronto Percussion Ensemble, self-published
- True North Rhapsody (2009) for solo marimba, commissioned by Etienne Levesque for performance at the International Marimba Competition, soon to be released by Strikeclef Publications
- Fearless Symmetries (2008) for percussion quartet, premiered by the TorQ Percussion Quartet, published by Alfonce Productions
- O BUMP in the Night (2008) for bassoon and marimba, premiered by Nathan Koch and Brian Graiser, published by Alfonce Productions
- Wishing Well (2008) for solo timpani with 2 percussion and electronics, premiered by the UGA Percussion Ensemble, self-published
- O Sketches in Noir (2007) for solo vibraphone, published by Keyboard Percussion Publications

Notable research projects and publications

- O Published article containing original composition, performance guide, and video performance of *Microtude for clay pot, tin can, and resonant/sustaining sound of choice* (2016), to be published in the December 2016 issue of "Rhythm! Scene" magazine and e-publication.
- DMA Dissertation/Project ("Creating the First Concerto for Four-Octave Vibraphone"), completed May 2015
- DMA lecture-recital at CCM ("Darkness Decoded: Building Upon the Compositional Techniques of Franco Donatoni's Percussion Writing"), February 2015
- Served on the Editorial Board of the CCM Music Research Forum peer-reviewed research journal for the 2014 volume

Current and upcoming research projects

- Writing a comprehensive vibraphone method book focusing on advanced techniques and repertoire
- o "Curating Sound: An Organic Approach to the Responsibilities of the Modern Percussionist"
- o "Percussion as Proprioceptive Therapy: Using Percussion Performance in the Treatment of Tourette Syndrome and Related Neurological Conditions"
- o "The Mystery Vibraphone of 1935: Hunting for the World's First Four-Octave Vibraphone"

Research presentation experience

- Studio presentation at SHSU ("Basics of Mallet Wrapping"), October 2016
- Studio presentation at SHSU ("The History of the Vibraphone and Its Repertoire"), September 2016
- Guest lecture/clinic at PAS-Panama ("The History of the Vibraphone and Its Repertoire,"
 "Introduction to American Drumline"), June 2016
- Guest lecture at the University of North Carolina-Pembroke ("The History of the Vibraphone and Its Repertoire"), April 2016

- O Guest lecture at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts ("Composing for Harp and Percussion") with student composer readings/workshop, April 2016
- o Guest lectures at Jacksonville State University ("The History of the Vibraphone and Its Repertoire," "Composing for the Harp"), March 2016
- O Guest lectures at the University of Tennessee ("The History of the Vibraphone and Its Repertoire," "Darkness Decoded: Building Upon the Compositional Techniques of Franco Donatoni's Percussion Writing," and performance masterclass), February 2016
- Guest lecture at the CCM Composition Symposium ("Composing for Harp and Vibraphone"), Fall 2014
- Presented the results of research and pedagogical experimentation to the CCM Pedagogy
 Graduate Musicology Seminar ("Employing an Active Learning Pedagogical Modality in the
 Percussion Literature Classroom"), April 2014
- Masters research lecture at the University of Toronto ("Contemporary Vibraphone: Exploring Possibilities Through Innovations in Transcription and Developments in Modified Burton Grip Technique"). April 2010
- Presented lecture-recitals on vibraphone extended techniques at the U of T Composers' Forum and to the U of T Percussion Orchestral Repertoire class, 2008-2009
- Presented and discussed original composition Sketches in Noir at the 2007-2008 UGA Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities (CURO) Symposium

Service

- Member of the Percussive Arts Society (PAS) Composition Committee
 - O Chair of the Composition Contest Online Archival Project Subcommittee
 - O Contributor of two articles to *Rhythm! Scene* magazine (one published, one upcoming)
- Member in good standing of PAS since 2005 and attendee of multiple Percussive Arts Society International Conventions (PASIC)
 - o Attendee of multiple PAS Focus Day Committee meetings
- Volunteer at the Hurricane Harvey Donation Distribution and Drop-off Center in Conroe, TX, September 2017
- Coordinator for the SHSU Drumline's presence at local community functions, e.g. the November 2017
 Grand Opening of the Huntsville H-E-B Grocery Store

Endorsements and Affiliations

- Artist Endorser of Dream Cymbals and Gongs
- Educator Endorser of Salyers Percussion sticks and mallets
- Affiliated with BMI performance rights organization
- Alumni member of the Tri-M National Music Honor Society

Awards, Honors, and Other Notable Achievements

- Original work *Uno per Franco* named the winner of the 2016 Strikeclef Composition Contest (small ensemble category)
- Member of the Percussive Arts Society Composition Committee as of July, 2015
- Awarded a Graduate Teaching Assistantship with full tuition scholarship at CCM in 2013-2014

- Awarded a Music Graduate Scholarship at CCM in 2012-2014
- Awarded a \$4,500 grant by the Ontario Arts Council in 2010 to commission a new work for vibraphone and electronics by Canadian composer Christien LeDroit
- Recipient of the Arthur Plettner Fellowship for Outstanding Graduate Students at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music in 2009-2010
- Winner of the 2009 U of T Percussion Studio Orchestral Repertoire Mock Audition
- Recipient of a Graduate Music Student Fellowship at the University of Toronto in 2008-2009
- Recipient of the Dean's List Academic Award for all 8 semesters of undergraduate studies at the University of Georgia, graduating *magna cum laude* and with Honors
- Elected Vice President of the UGA Student Composers Association in 2007-2008
- Recipient of the UGA School of Music Director's Circle of Excellence Award in 2006-2007
- Winner of the 2007 UGA Percussion Studio Mock Audition
- Winner of the 2006 University of Georgia Concerto Competition
- Awarded a UGA School of Music Scholarship and a UGA Redcoat Marching Band Scholarship in 2004

References (contact information available upon request)

- Dr. John Lane, Director of Percussion Studies and Associate Professor of Percussion, Sam Houston State University
- Dr. Thomas McCutchen, Music Department Head, Jacksonville State University (and Professor Emeritus at University of Georgia)
- Dr. Russell Hartenberger, Professor Emeritus of Percussion and Dean (retired), University of Toronto Faculty of Music
- Allen Otte, Professor Emeritus of Percussion, College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati
- James Culley, Professor of Percussion, College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati
- John Rudolph, Principal Percussion, Toronto Symphony Orchestra
- Beverly Johnston, Percussion Instructor, University of Toronto Faculty of Music