

Michael McSweeney

Percussionist, Pannist, and Educator

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EDUCATION

2015-2017 Northern Illinois University

Master of Music, Individualized Specialization in World Music (Performance) (May 2017)
Primary Advisor: Dr. Jui-Ching Wang
Primary Instructors: Liam Teague (Steel Pan), Mike Mixtacki (Latin Percussion), Omar Al-Musfi (Doubek, Frame Drum) Robert Chappell (tabla), Rodrigo Villanueva (drum set)

2010-2015 University of Kentucky, Lexington KY

Bachelor of Music, Music Performance (May 2015)
Bachelor of Arts, Arts Administration (May 2015)
- Cumulative GPA: 3.4, Cum Laude
Primary Percussion Instructors: James Campbell (percussion), Paul Deatherage (drum set), Brandon Wood (percussion), Brandon Arvay (percussion)
Primary Jazz Instructors: Miles Osland, Raleigh Dailey

December 2016-January 2017 Experiencing the Arts in Bali

Northern Illinois University Study Abroad Program in Bali, Indonesia, 6 credits
- Course GPA: 4.0

July 2012-August 2012 University of Massachusetts-Amherst (Study Abroad)

ThisWorldMusic Cultural Field Study at Dagbe Cultural Institute in Ghana, West Africa, 6 credits
- Course GPA: 4.0

Additional Study

Jean Leroy – Afro-Cuban percussion
Pak Made Lasmawan – Balinese gamelan, Gender Wayang (Artistic Director, Colorado College Balinese Gamelan Orchestra)
Pak Ngurah Kertayuda – Balinese gamelan (Director, NIU Indonesian Gamelan Ensemble)
Jhon Fernando Bolívar – Colombian Pacific coastal drumming (Percussion Teacher, La Casa de la Cultura La Barquereña, Sabaneta, Colombia)
Michael Spiro – rumba group lesson (Associate Professor of Music (Percussion), Indiana University)
George Godzor – Atsiagbekor, master drumming (Instructor/Master Drummer, Dagbe Cultural Institute, Ghana, West Africa)
Wisdom Agbeli – Gahu master drumming (Instructor/Master Drummer, Dagbe Cultural Institute, Ghana, West Africa)
Brad Dutz – residency hand drumming lesson (Part-Time Lecturer, Cal State Long Beach; freelance artist)
Chris Wabich – residency drum set lesson (Director of World Percussion and Drumkit, University of Arizona)
Pat Schlecker – jazz vibraphone (Timpanist, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra)
Dr. Kuo-Huang Han – Balinese/Javanese gamelan, Chinese percussion
Dr. Brandon Wood – percussion (previous D.M.A. Candidate, University of Kentucky)
Dr. Kyle Forsthoff – batá (Teacher in Percussion, University of Rhode Island)
Dr. Jonathan Sharp – percussion (Lecturer, Morehead State University)
Dr. Brandon Arvay – percussion (Percussionist, Lexington Philharmonic; Percussion Teacher, Central Kentucky Youth Orchestras)

Professional Development

- Panorama International Steel Band Competition (2015) (Trinidad and Tobago)
 - Attended and participated in various clinics, master classes, performances, and excursions
- Percussive Arts Society International Convention
 - 2016, 2014, 2013, 2011, 2010 (Indianapolis, IN)
- Day of Percussion – Percussive Arts Society, Kentucky Chapter
 - 2010 (Lexington, KY), 2011 (Lexington, KY), 2012 (Lexington, KY), 2013 (Lexington, KY)
- Day of Percussion – Percussive Arts Society, Indiana Chapter
 - 2010 (Plainfield, IN), 2009 (West Lafayette, IN)

PERFORMANCE / CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

Professional Ensembles

- Salsa del Norte – Founder/Bandleader, Drum Set/Timbales (2016 – Present)
- CariJazz – Congas/Percussion (2017 – Present)
- PanZheng Duo – Steel Pan (2017 – Present)
- Hiraeth Quartet – Founder, Percussion/Steel Pan (2016 – Present)
- Solar Pulse – Drum Set (2016)
- Bahama Brothers Steel Band Trio – Double Seconds, Percussion (2012 – 2015)
- The Rep Theater Company – Drum set/Percussion (2015)
- Blue Steel Caribbean Ensemble – Double Seconds, Percussion, Bass Pans (2012 – 2015)
- The Artists Studio Theatre Company – Drummer/Percussionist (2006 – 2010)

International Invitations/Performances

- Performer* – Manik Galih, Tabanan, Bali, Indonesia (January 2017)
 - Performed traditional Balinese gamelan/dance as part of the final performance for a study abroad program
- Performer* – Indonesian Institute of the Arts, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia (January 2017)
 - Performed as part of a group of guest performers from Northern Illinois University
- Performer* – Traditional Balinese wedding, Tabanan, Bali, Indonesia (January 2017)
 - Study abroad program invited to play traditional music for local wedding during program
- Performer, Co-Producer* – Música del Mundo, La Casa de la Cultura La Barquereña, Sabaneta, Colombia (July 2016)
 - Concert featuring eight groups representing various culturally-iconic styles from around the world
- Clinician* – La Casa de la Cultura La Barquereña, Sabaneta, Colombia (July 2016)
 - Hip-hop production master class: GarageBand/Logic Pro and incorporating world rhythms (Spanish)
- Clinician* – Barkefest, La Casa de la Cultura La Barquereña, Sabaneta, Colombia (June 2016)
 - Master class entitled “Pulsos del Mundo: Fusión del Mundo en la Batería” (Spanish)
- Performer* – Panorama, Queen’s Park Savannah, Port of Spain, Trinidad (February 2015)
 - Competitive Performance with Birdsong Steel Orchestra
- Performer* – Percussive Arts Society International Convention, Indianapolis, IN (November 2014)
 - Showcase Concert with the University of Kentucky Percussion Ensemble
 - World Premiers: *Transferencia* by Glenn Kotche, *Bell Power* by Anders Åstrand
 - Guest artists: Bob Mintzer, Wycliffe Gordon, Osland/Dailey Jazztet, Brad Kerns
- Performer* – Percussive Arts Society International Convention, Indianapolis, IN (November 2011)
 - Showcase Concert with the University of Kentucky Percussion Ensemble
 - World Premier: *Circle of Wills* by Jordan Munson
- Performer* – World Equestrian Games Opening Ceremony (September 2010)
 - Performance with the University of Kentucky Percussion Ensemble

National Invitations/Performances

- Performer* – The Midwest Clinic, Chicago, IL (December 2013)
 - Evening performance with the University of Kentucky Jazz Ensemble
 - Premiers: *Culturescape* by Raleigh Dailey, *Spook Country* by Raleigh Dailey
- Performer* – College Band Director’s National Conference, Greensboro, SC (March 2013)
 - Performed with the University of Kentucky Wind Symphony
- Performer* – American Choral Director’s National Conference, Charleston, SC (October 2013)
 - Performed with the University of Kentucky Men’s Chorus (percussion accompaniment)

- Performer* – American Choral Director’s Southern Division Conference, Winston-Salem, NC (April 2012)
- Performed with the University of Kentucky Men’s Chorus in a showcase concert both as a vocalist and accompanying percussionist

Regional Invitations/Performances

- Performer* – Shedd Aquarium’s “Shedd After Hours” (September 2018)
- Lead and performed with Salsa del Norte as a featured, main stage band as part of their “Jazzin’ at the Shedd” series
- Guest Artist* – Northern Illinois University Guitar Ensemble (April 2017)
- Performed Perez Prado’s *Mambo #5* alongside the NIU Guitar Ensemble on timbales
- Performer* – Illinois Music Education Conference (January 2017)
- Performed with the NIU Steel Band
- Guest Clinician* – Illinois State University, Normal, IL (March 2016)
- Ewe drumming masterclass (Gahu & Agbekor basics) with Illinois State University percussion studio
- Performer* – NIU Middle Eastern Music Ensemble and Dio Trio concert, DeKalb, IL (February 2016)
- Performed with the NIU Middle Eastern Music Ensemble as an opener for the Dio Trio at the Egyptian Theater in Dekalb, Illinois
- Performer* – Illinois Music Educators Association Conference Workshop, Peoria, IL (January 2016)
- Performed with the NIU Middle Eastern Music Ensemble in a workshop on using Middle Eastern children’s songs in the classroom
- Performer* – Night on Broadway, Lexington, KY (March 2015)
- Performed drum set/percussion for the University of Kentucky Choristers’ annual fundraiser
- Performer* – Kentucky Music Educators Association Conference, Louisville, KY (February 2015)
- Performance with University of Kentucky Mega-Sax
 - Guest Artist: Tony Dagradi
- Performer* – Smackdown, Lexington, KY (December 2015)
- Performed drum set/percussion part with The Repertory Theatre’s annual Christmas musical
- Performer* – Henry Clay High School, Lexington, KY (November 2014)
- Performance with University of Kentucky Jazz Ensemble and Mega-Sax
- Performer* – Kentucky Educational Television Summer Celebration (June 2014)
- Performed as one of two live Latin hand drummers for salsa lessons at annual fundraiser
- Performer* – Rock Shabbat, Louisville, KY (May 2014)
- Performance with Temple Adath Israel Choir at Temple Shalom in Louisville
- Guest Lecturer* – University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY (April 2014)
- Gahu Drumming & Dancing, MUS 335: Exploring World Music and Ethnomusicology
- Guest Lecturer* – University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY
- Gahu & Ewe Culture, Recruiting event
- Guest Lecturer* – University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY (March 2014)
- Gahu & Ewe Culture, MUS 390: World Music and Culture
- Performer* – Miss Kentucky Pageant, Lexington, KY (June 2013)
- Event music with Blue Steel Caribbean Ensemble
- Guest Lecturer* – University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY (March 2013)
- Overview of World Music in Percussion, MUC 157: Class Instruction in Percussion Instruments
- Guest Lecturer* – University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY (September 2012)
- Overview of World Music in Percussion, MUC 157: Class Instruction in Percussion Instruments
- Performer* – Alltech Celebration of Song, Lexington, KY (December 2011-2013)
- Performance with Blue Steel Caribbean Ensemble
- Performer* – “Rhythms of the World” at the Lexington Opera House, Lexington, KY (October 2011)
- Performed with the University of Kentucky Percussion Ensemble alongside the Lexington Philharmonic
- Performer* – Collage: A Holiday Spectacular (December 2011 – 2014)
- Performed as a member of Blue Steel Caribbean Ensemble and an African drumming ensemble
- Performer* – University of Kentucky Choirs (2011 – 2014)
- More than fifteen performances with the University of Kentucky Men’s Chorus, Women’s Choir, Choristers, and Paws and Listen (female a capella group) on hand percussion and auxiliary instruments

Artistic Collaboration

La Casa de la Cultura La Barquereña Staff

- Collaborated and performed with music staff for various projects including Colombian Pacific coastal music, modern jazz, symphonic music, and hip-hop (June-July 2016)

Brad Dutz

- Performed with the University of Kentucky Percussion Ensemble with Brad Dutz and Chris Wabuch (March 2014)

Chris Wabich

- Performed with the University of Kentucky Percussion Ensemble with Brad Dutz and Chris Wabuch (March 2014)

Inner Mongolian University Faculty

- Performed with the University of Kentucky Percussion Ensemble at Living Landscapes, a collaborative performance with faculty from Inner Mongolian University
- Performed with the University of Kentucky Jazz Ensemble and faculty from Inner Mongolian University on the world premier of a collaborative big band chart entitled "*CultureScape*" by Raleigh Dailey

Bob Mintzer

- Performed with the University of Kentucky Jazz Ensemble at the Midwest Clinic with Bob Mintzer, Wycliffe Gordon, and the Osland/Dailey Jazztet (December 2012)

Wycliffe Gordon

- Performed with the University of Kentucky Jazz Ensemble at the Midwest Clinic with Bob Mintzer, Wycliffe Gordon, and the Osland/Dailey Jazztet (December 2012)
- Recorded student project with colleague, Chase Fleming, featuring Wycliffe Gordon as a soloist on Fleming's arrangement of "D Natural Blues" (July 2013)

Osland/Dailey Jazztet

- Performed with the University of Kentucky Jazz Ensemble at the Midwest Clinic with Bob Mintzer, Wycliffe Gordon, and the Osland/Dailey Jazztet (December 2012)

Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra

- Performed with the University of Kentucky Symphony Orchestra in An Evening With the Pops, a side-by-side concert with the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra

Aaron Marsala

- Co-produced and performed Pulse of Nations, a duo percussion concert

Jeff Coffin

- Performed with the Fishers High School Jazz Band at the group's annual Jazz Café in Fishers, Indiana

Recordings

"*Sohana Sha Kirpal*" (CD) Label (P) 2017 Mark Records – Stinkin' 3.0 (2015)

"*Sweet Faced Lie*" (CD) Label (P) 2017 Mark Records – Stinkin' 3.0 (2015)

"*The Easter Islander*" (CD) Label (P) 2014 Mark Records – 2013 Midwest Clinic University of Kentucky Jazz Ensemble (2013)

"*Free Food?*" (CD) Label (P) 2014 Mark Records – 2013 Midwest Clinic University of Kentucky Jazz Ensemble (2013)

"*Aha*" (CD) Label (P) 2014 Mark Records – 2013 Midwest Clinic University of Kentucky Jazz Ensemble (2013)

"*CultureScape*" (CD) Label (P) 2014 Mark Records – 2013 Midwest Clinic University of Kentucky Jazz Ensemble (2013)

"*Emily*" (CD) Label (P) 2014 Mark Records – 2013 Midwest Clinic University of Kentucky Jazz Ensemble (2013)

"*I Thank You*" (CD) Label (P) 2014 Mark Records – 2013 Midwest Clinic University of Kentucky Jazz Ensemble (2013)

"*Spook Country*" (CD) Label (P) 2014 Mark Records – 2013 Midwest Clinic University of Kentucky Jazz Ensemble (2013)

"*Things to Come*" (CD) Label (P) 2014 Mark Records – 2013 Midwest Clinic University of Kentucky Jazz Ensemble (2013)

"*Fairy Fountain*" (CD) Dave Henderson Studios – Chase Fleming – Chronopolis

"*D Natural Blues*" (CD) Dave Henderson Studios – Chase Fleming – Chronopolis

"*Circle of Wills by Jordan Munson*" (CD) – The University of Kentucky Percussion Ensemble (2012)

"*Red Sky EP*" Label ©2012 W.J.H. Music Group – University of Kentucky Wind Symphony

"*Tonisation by Edgar Varese*" (CD) Label: ©2012 Alex Harmon Music – The University of Kentucky Percussion Ensemble

"*Symphony No. 1 by Thomas Pasatieri*" (CD) – University of Kentucky Symphony Orchestra (2011)

World Premieres

Transferencia by Glenn Kotche (November 2014)
Bell Power by Anders Åstrand (November 2014)
The Parting Glass arr. for live-looped vibraphone and bodhran by Michael McSweeney (March 2014)
Three Weeks in Ghana by Mark Rabuck, arr. for live performance by Michael McSweeney (March 2014)
Spook Country by Raleigh Dailey (December 2013)
CultureScape by Raleigh Dailey (November 2013)
Concerto Maxo Mosso by Mike Mower (March 2013)
Till Brandon by Anders Åstrand (December 2012)
Red Sky by Anthony Barfield (October 2012)
Circle of Wills Movement 2 by Jordan Munson (March 2012)
Drumkit Quartet #51 by Glenn Kotche arr. By James Campbell (November 2011)
Circle of Wills Movement 1 by Jordan Munson (November 2011)
Symphony by Thomas Pasatieri (October 2011)

Honors/Awards

Graduate Assistantship – Northern Illinois University Center for Southeast Asian Studies (Fall 2016 – Spring 2017)
Graduate Artistic Talent Tuition Scholarship – Northern Illinois University School of Music (Fall 2015 – Spring 2016)
School of Music Grant in Aid – University of Kentucky Vocal Department (Fall 2013)
School of Music Grant in Aid – University of Kentucky Jazz Department (Fall 2012 – Spring 2015)
School of Music Grant in Aid – University of Kentucky Percussion Department (Fall 2011 – Spring 2015)
Honorary Bandsman – University of Kentucky Marching Band (February 2012)

Degree Recitals

MM Solo Recital, “Stories Retold” – Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL (April 2017)
Music Performed (*World Premiere):
- “*Monkey Chant*” by Glenn Kotche, video by Michael McSweeney
- “*Africa*” by Toto, arranged for Steel Pan and Guzheng by PanZheng Duo
- “*Synergy*” by Anika Nilles, arranged for Joropo maracas by Michael McSweeney
- **“Loulan”* by Hiraeth Quartet
- “*Waves*” by Sami El-Quqa, arranged for Afro-Cuban rhythm section by Michael McSweeney
- “*La Enfermería de San Jaime*” arranged by Salsa del Norte
BM Solo Recital, “Repurposed” – University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY (March 2014)
Music Performed (*World Premiere):
- “*Pure Imagination for Solo Marimba*” arranged by Alex Stopa
- “*Omnipresent*” by Andy Akiho, arranged for double seconds by Michael McSweeney
- “*Blues for Gilbert*” by Mark Glentworth, arranged for jazz combo by Michael McSweeney
- “*Homage to Max*” by Rande Sanderbeck
- **“The Parting Glass”* arranged for live looped vibraphone and bodhran by Michael McSweeney
- “*Prime Ordinals*” by Jim Casella
- **“Three Weeks in Ghana”* by Mark Rabuck, arranged for live performance by Michael McSweeney
BM Duo Recital, “Pulse of Nations” – University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY (April 2012)
Music Performed (*World Premiere):
- “*Gyro*” by Tomer Yariv
- “*Vertical River*” by Blake Tyson
- “*Rancho Jubilee*” by Andrew Beall
- “*Udarep Akubrad*” by Avner Dorman
- **“He Lives In You”* by Lebo M, arr. for small steel band, choir, and voice by Michael McSweeney and Aaron Marsala

School Ensembles

Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL (Fall 2015 – May 2017)
- NIU Steel Band, NIU Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Combo, Latin Jazz Ensemble, Middle Eastern Music Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Indonesian Gamelan Ensemble
University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY (Fall 2010 – Spring 2015)
- Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Lab Band, Rep Band, Jazz Combo, Steel Band, Balinese Gamelan Ensemble, Brazilian Ensemble, African Ensemble, Symphony Orchestra, RockKats

SERVICE

Committees

Phi Kappa Theta, Illinois Psi Chapter Executive Board

- Vice President of Intellectual Affairs (October 2016 – April 2017)
- National Senator (April 2016 – October 2016)

WRFL, Radio Free Lexington 88.1 FM

- Sales and Underwriting Director, Board of Directors (January 2013 – May 2015)
- Member, Concerts and Events Committee (June 2013 – May 2015)

University of Kentucky Percussive Society

- Undergraduate Representative (August 2011 – May 2012)

Teaching and Community Outreach

Drum Set and Piano Teacher – Your Performing Arts Center (April 2018 – Present)

- Taught weekly drum set and piano students at beginning to intermediate levels

Percussion Teacher – Fox River Academy of Music and Art (February 2018 – Present)

- Taught weekly drum set students at middle school level

Interim Steel Orchestras Assistant – CYSO Steel Orchestras (August 2017 – December 2018)

- Assisted with ensemble instruction and accompanying administrative duties

Independent Private Lesson Instructor – Independent (2009 – Present)

- Taught percussion to students ranging in age from middle school students to adults in their thirties

Drum Set/Percussion Teacher – Community School of the Arts, DeKalb, IL (2016-2018)

- Taught drum set to students signed up for private lessons through the Community School for the Arts

“World Explorations” – Independent Performing Ensemble (2016 – 2017)

- Taught Gahu as learned at the Dagbe Cultural Institute to the ensemble
- Presented educational workshops and concerts to students in and around West Chicago Suburbs
 - o Littlejohn Elementary School

“Drums: From West Africa to Trinidad” – University of Kentucky Steel Band (2010 – 2015)

- Taught Gahu as learned at the Dagbe Cultural Institute to the University of Kentucky Percussion Studio
- Presented educational workshops and concerts to over 5,000 elementary school students annually
 - o Harrison Elementary School, Dixie Elementary School, Sayre Elementary School, Ashland Elementary School, Southern Elementary School, Glendover Elementary School, Rosa Parks Elementary School, Sandersville Elementary School, Wellington Elementary School, Squires Elementary School, Cardinal Valley Elementary School, Veterans Park Elementary School, Deep Springs Elementary School, William Wells Brown Elementary School, Picadome Elementary School

Central Music Academy, Lexington, KY (July 2014)

- Co-directed and instructed annual World Percussion Camp for underserved K-12 students who were unable to pay tuition

Dixie Elementary School, Lexington, KY (February – March 2014)

- Co-directed 4th and 5th grade after school steel band

Lexington Philharmonic Peanut Butter & Jelly Concert – Blue Steel Caribbean Ensemble (February, 2014)

- Performed as a member of Blue Steel Caribbean Ensemble at a Lexington Philharmonic Peanut Butter & Jelly Concert at Sayre School for elementary age children

Central Music Academy, Lexington, KY (July 2013)

- Co-directed and instructed annual World Percussion Camp for underserved K-12 students who were unable to pay tuition

Professional Affiliations

Percussive Arts Society (2010 – Present)

Phi Kappa Theta Fraternity (2015 – 2017)