

The ALAPAS Newsletter



**PERCUSSIVE
ARTS SOCIETY**

*Newsletter of the Alabama Chapter of the Percussive Arts Society
Published by Gene Fambrough and the UAB Department of Music*

Day of Percussion—March 11th, 2006 at Hoover High School

DOP Clinicians:

- Terry Bozzio, international drumset artist
- Gordon Stout, marimba
- Chris Moore, vibraphone
- Gene Fambrough, electronic percussion

12th Annual Day of Percussion is set!

We are fortunate to have a wonderful line-up of clinicians, ensembles, and events scheduled for the Alabama Chapter Day of Percussion, set for March 11th at Hoover High School. We are excited to have the event at this location, and on behalf of the entire chapter, "Thank You" to Jeff Fondren for serving as host for the event. The event will begin at 10:00 AM and conclude at 5:30 PM.

Along with the clinicians listed at left, we are fortunate to have several high school percussion ensembles performing at our

event this year: Muscle Shoals High School (David Waters, director), Oak Mountain High School (Kevin Ownby, director), Shades Valley High School (Greg Gumina, director), and Spain Park High School (Jody Bryant, director). As the host school, the Hoover High School percussion ensemble will be performing with Gordon Stout as part of his clinic session. We have decided to offer performing opportunities to high school ensembles at our event this year, and these groups should prove to be as entertaining and talented as we are accustomed to.

Along with the clinicians and performing ensembles, there will be display booths for perusal during breaks: from several local vendors and sponsors to recruiting booths from state colleges and universities, there should be something for everybody!

Concessions and lunch will be available at the event, and plenty of door prizes will be given out. Admission is \$10 for PAS members and \$15 for non-PAS members (with the option to join at the event).

We hope to see you there!

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Message from the President: Neal Flum

Welcome to our newsletter! It is so good to be out of self-imposed newsletter dormancy and back sharing with you the activities of the Alabama Chapter of PAS and its members.

Since we last sent out a newsletter, many developments have taken place within our chapter. And now we are getting ready to present our 12th Annual PAS Day of Percussion on March 11, 2006. Thank you to Jeff Fondren for serving as host: you have undertaken an enormous task and we are grateful for your contributions to our chapter. Of course, we hope many

of you will join us for that day as the featured clinicians are Gordon Stout and Terry Bozzio. Gordon is one of the most prolific composers in the world of concert percussion and solo marimba literature and Terry Bozzio, simply put, is one of the most acclaimed percussionists performing today. Info on our event will be presented in this newsletter or you can always go to our website for the latest info on chapter-related information.

We're glad to be back sharing with you the good work of the Alabama Chapter of PAS. Please consider joining the Ala-

bama Chapter through a membership in PAS. There are several types of memberships available, including the online e-memberships. Find out more by going to: www.pas.org And please remember that more members means a higher level of dues reimbursement from PAS and the possibility of doing more for percussion education and performance in our state.

We'll see you on March 11 at Hoover High School!

Yours in drumming,

Neal Flum

Hoover High School Band in Tournament of Roses Parade



A slight drizzle during the parade...

Congratulations to the Hoover High School Drumline, under the direction of member Jeff Fondren, for their participation in the 117th Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California. One year's worth of preparation went into their performance that was viewed by millions of viewers in over 75 countries. Their performance was televised on 4 major television networks.

The drumline participated in various activities throughout the week, including a performance in "Band Fest" which show-

cased the talents of the participating musical units. The Hoover High School Band performed their halftime show to a standing ovation.

Possibly the most noteworthy accolade for the HHS Drumline was their performance during the parade itself. This year's Rose Parade marked the first time in 51 years that it rained. And rain it did...a driving rain that poured throughout the event. Most of the parade was marched in two inches of standing water. Nevertheless, the Hoover High School Drumline

completed the 5.5-mile route with every member standing, making the state of Alabama proud, as well as our chapter of PAS.

Again, congratulations to Jeff Fondren and the HHS drumline!

The Hoover High School Band is under the direction of Harry McAfee, Dennis Carroll, and Sallie White.

-contributed by Chris Moore

"It was great fun playing at AMEA. A good time was had by all and I would certainly do it again."

Shades Valley HS Percussion Ensemble at AMEA

On January 19, 2006, the Shades Valley High School Percussion Ensemble performed at the Alabama Music Educators Convention in Tuscaloosa. The ensemble is under the direction of Greg Gumina, who is currently in his 8th year at Shades Valley. Of the performance, he said "It was great fun playing at AMEA. The group worked really diligently everyday. A good time was had by all and I would certainly do it again."

The program consisted of the following: "Sabre Dance" by Aram Khachaturian, "For Jerry", "Dreamscape", and "Split Personalities" by Greg Gumina, a traditional African drumming piece, "Rhythm Song" by Paul Smadbeck (arranged by Gene Fambrough), "Beirut" by Mike Maineiri, and "Oye Como Va" by Tito Puente.

Guest performers with the group included Brad Palmer

(congas on "Oye Como Va"), Sean Womack (steel pan on "Split Personalities"), and Dr. Gene Fambrough (marimba on "Rhythm Song").

Greg Gumina holds degrees from West Virginia University and the University of Alabama. The Shades Valley High School Band is under the direction of David Allinder.

DoubleStop Percussion



Brad Palmer and Sean Womack of DoubleStop Percussion

Founded in August of 2004, DoubleStop Percussion serves as a supplement to aid music educators throughout the Southeast. The company offers instruction in percussion for all levels of experience. Working as a team with the programs and directors, Brad Palmer and Sean Womack serve to provide top quality education tailored to the needs of the client. The pair

teach clinics, masterclasses, ensembles, and private lessons.

They also do equipment maintenance and refurbishing, as well as arranging and composing music for every genre of percussion.

Currently, they provide services to over 25 schools and private

lessons to over 50 students. On January 17, 2006, they hosted Dr. Andy Harnsberger (solo artist) for a marimba clinic and masterclass at Vestavia Hills High School.

You can learn more about Brad, Sean, and DoubleStop by visiting their website at www.doublestoppercussion.com

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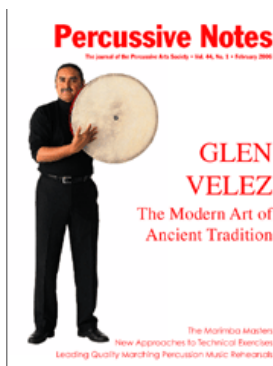
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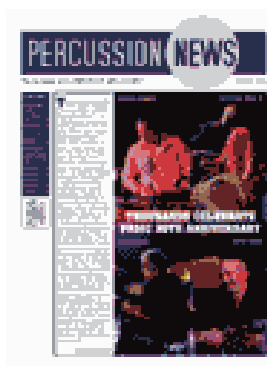
Sue Samuels, Director of Bands
Gene Fambrough, Assistant Director of Bands

Kornelious Gardner, administrative assistant
Janetta Lockhart, student assistant
Michael Harris, student assistant

Current National Publications:



Percussive Notes



Percussion News



Modern Drummer



Profile: Mark Lanter

Mark Lanter (Interim Director of Jazz Ensembles at the University of Alabama at Birmingham) hit the road as a traveling musician before he was even old enough to drive. The band was The Bonnevilles and it comprised Lanter and three other boys, all brothers from a different family. Lanter played the drums and sang sometimes on stages in cities surrounding his hometown of Tuscaloosa. "My friends were going to proms and ballgames, and I was all over the Southeast," he said. "I haven't been able to quit."

Indeed, Lanter's list of recordings isn't short. He made the first ones while in high school with Trans Improvisation artists Davey Williams and LaDonna Smith. Since then, he's performed and recorded with Michael Hedges, Mose Allison, Eric Essix, Vova Nova, Mundel Lowe, Giacomo Gates, Boots Randolph, Willie King and many others.

It was the fusion movement that stirred Lanter's interest in jazz. "The music was still rocking, but people were playing differently," he said. Artists like Chick Corea and John McLaughlin piqued his interest. "They had a different kind of sound." Teaching is something he never

thought he'd do. Indeed, Lanter, who didn't "read a note of music" until he was 18 years old and in college, didn't get his degree the first time he enrolled, quitting to play professionally instead. But after 10 or 12 years, he said, he ended up at UAB, where he finished his undergraduate degree. He went on to the University of Alabama for graduate studies. "I had a lot of connections and know-how, but I didn't have the stomach for it anymore," Lanter said of his transition from full-time musician. He had been living in Nashville and had "had enough at that point. I never really intended on going to grad school," he said. Going back to school rekindled his musicianship, though, and he realized that "the only way to survive as a musician is to adapt, to be open to opportunities."

Lanter, now in his fourth year teaching at UAB and teaching drumset lessons at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. He directs both the jazz ensemble and the jazz combo. Lanter pushes his students to do their best. He also wants to give them a taste of the experience of playing professionally

as a career. "The design is on what it would be like if they were going to go out and try to make a living playing jazz," he said. "I treat them like professionals I might hire." For Lanter, that means he expects his students to show up for every class and take it as seriously as if it were a paying job.

Lanter also encourages students to bring in their own compositions and arrangements for the band to play. "This is the only time they'll be able to do it for free," he said. Improvisation, the crux of jazz, is another skill he encourages. "That's what separates us from other ensembles," Lanter said. "I always have in mind what I think they should be exposed to," he said of the students. They play both standard and contemporary pieces. "My goal is to expose them to as much as I can. Ultimately, playing in a jazz ensemble trains them to be professional musicians."

Although Lanter's career has taken turns he may not have expected, he expects never to get away from the music. "I've been playing continuously for 33 years now, and I can't seem to get out of it," Lanter said. "I suppose I'm a lifer."

-Lori Herring, UAB Reporter
Dec. 5, 2005

"I've been playing continuously for 33 years now, and I can't seem to get out of it. I suppose I'm a lifer."



Steel Band, anyone?

UAB Summer Steel is available for hire to play events during the months of May, June, and July. The size of the group can range from 3 to 6 players with negotiable instrumentation.

Please contact Dr. Gene Fambrough for more information at gfambro@uab.edu or (205) 975-5823.

Event Calendar

Amy Smith, percussion clinic, Alabama Honor Band, Saturday, February 4.

Joseph Gramley, percussion masterclass, Independent Presbyterian Church.

Joseph Gramley, percussion concert, IPC, February 10, 7:00.

Naoko Takada, marimba recital, R/K Recital Hall (UAB), February 12, 7:00 PM.

Luis Benetti, Latin Percussion clinic, JSU, February 15.

Dr. Gene Fambrough, UAB faculty recital, Hulsey Recital Hall, February 16, 7:30 PM.

Chix with Stix, percussion ensemble, JSU, February 26.

Dr. Andy Harnsberger, marimba clinic/concert, JSU, March 8.

Junior recital, James McDaniel, JSU, March 15.

Junior recital, Chris Ozley, JSU, March 16.

Bob Jones HS Indoor Drumline, WGI Regional (Franklin, TN), March 18.

University of Alabama Percussion Ensemble, March 30, Moody Concert Hall, 7:30 PM.

Alabama A-Day - high school

percussionists invited to join marching band for the day. April 1. More info: www.mdb.ua.edu/aday.html

Bob Jones HS Indoor Drumline, SCGC Championships (Chattanooga, TN), April 1.

UAB Marching Band Expo. Scholarship auditions for high school seniors, April 8.

UAB Percussion Ensemble, Alys Stephens Center, April 11, 8:00 PM.

JSU Percussion and Mallet Ensembles, April 12.

Auburn University Percussion Ensemble, April 12, 7:30 PM.

University of South Alabama Percussion Ensemble, April 13, 7:30 PM.

UAB Steel Band, Hulsey Recital Hall, April 14, 5:30 PM.

Samford Percussion Ensemble, Wright Center, April 18.

Senior Performing Artist Recital, Diedra Robinson, Hulsey Recital Hall (UAB), April 22, 7:30 PM.

UNA *Global Culture Night*, with the UNA Percussion Ensemble, April 22.

UNA Percussion Ensemble, Brazilian Ensemble, Indoor Drum-



line, with the Muscle Shoals HS Percussion Ensemble, April 24.

“Future Percussion” - ASC Kids’ Club presentations by Dr. Gene Fambrough, UAB, April 30, 1:30 and 3:00 PM.

Oak Mountain High School Concert Percussion Festival, May 6.

Muscle Shoals Music Fest, with the Muscle Shoals HS Percussion Ensemble, May 11.

North Alabama Percussion Festival, Austin High School (w/ Thom Hannum), May 12.

UAB Drumline auditions, May 20, 9 AM–5 PM.

Yamaha Sounds of Summer Camp, Samford, May 31-June 1.

2nd Annual Million Dollar Band HS Percussion Clinic featuring: Thom Hannum, Julie Davila, Mike Macintosh, Bret Kuhn, and John Brennan. July 15.

University of Alabama marching percussion audition camp, July 14 - 16.

UAB Electro-Acoustic Percussion Ensemble, July 27.

AUGUST 15—Deadline for submission of events to be included in the fall newsletter. Please send any and all information to gfambro@uab.edu

ALAPAS Chapter Officers:

President— Neal Flum

Vice President— Grant Dalton

Secretary— Pat Wise

Treasurer— Clif Payne

DOP Host— Jeff Fondren

Drum Corps in Alabama

Our home-state DCI member, **Spirit from Jacksonville State University** (Clint Gillespie, percussion caption head) has begun working on their 2006 production, “Old, New, Borrowed, Blue.” The percussion staff has set the snare line and bass line, and will set the tenor section and front ensemble at the next camp. If anyone is interested, they are still looking for a strong timpanist to fill out the pit.

We also have state ties to two perennial top-12 drum corps. Brad Palmer (DoubleStop Percussion) is serving in his 3rd year as front ensemble instructor for the **Bluecoats** (Canton, Ohio). Their show this year is entitled “connexus,” and will feature the music of Don Ellis, Pat Metheny, Benoit Jutras, and others.

Iain Moyer (University of North

Alabama) is in his third year serving as front ensemble instructor for the **Madison Scouts** (Madison, Wisconsin).

Their show is entitled “Primal Forces” and will feature original music based on the symphonic works of Alberto Ginastera, Ennio Morricone, and Isaac Albeniz.

This summer, DCI shows in Ala-



Spirit from JSU

bama will be June 22 at Spain Park High School, July 18 at Jacksonville State University, July 25 at Troy University, and July 26 in Russellville.



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

<http://www.pas.org/Chapters/Alabama/>

TERRY BOZZIO to highlight Alabama Day of Percussion— March 11, 2006!!!

Other DOP Clinicians:

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