Fort Lewis College
Percussion Studio
Handbook

Dr. Jonathan Latta
Director of Percussion Studies

Last updated: August 2011
Introduction

Welcome to the Fort Lewis College Percussion Studio. The purpose of this handbook is to answer questions you may have during your time of study at Fort Lewis College. Please refer to this handbook often to best understand how to successfully serve as part of the percussion studio.

Faculty

Dr. Jonathan Latta is currently Assistant Professor of Music at Fort Lewis College teaching applied percussion, percussion ensemble, non-western music and orchestration. He holds a Bachelor’s of Music in Performance and Music Education from the University of the Pacific Conservatory of Music and a Master’s of Music in Performance from East Carolina University. In 2009 Jonathan finished his Doctor of Musical Arts Degree from the University of Arizona School of Music.

Prior to returning school Jonathan was a member of the United States Air Force Band of the Golden West. During his time with the band he performed in over 300 performances serving as percussion/timpani for the Concert Band, drumset for the Commanders Jazz Ensemble, marching percussion for the Ceremonial Band and drumset for the Golden West Dixie Ramblers. Performances included the 2003 Tournament of Roses Parade, the 2004 Sacramento Jazz Jubilee and the internment of former President Ronald W. Reagan. As a member of the percussion section and the jazz ensemble rhythm section he gave clinics to elementary through college-age students throughout the west coast.

Jonathan’s other performing experiences include the Music in the Mountains Festival Orchestra, San Juan Symphony, North State Symphony, Long Bay Symphony, Tar River Symphony and the Texas Music Festival Orchestra. He has performed as a chamber musician in the Durango Chamber Music Festival and the Animas Music Festival. Recently he performed at the Percussive Arts Society Museum in Indianapolis, IN for a historic performance on Lou Harrison’s American Gamelan. He is currently a member of the Percussive Arts Society Education Committee and is chair of the College Pedagogy Committee He served as president of the Arizona Chapter of the Percussion Arts Society from 2007-2008.
Jonathan was also recently published in *Percussive Notes* in April 2007, June 2009 and November 2009.

**Philosophy**

The Fort Lewis College Percussion Studio will provide the student with a process to assess goals and to make consistent efforts towards achieving those goals. The student will regularly discuss goals in lessons and masterclasses and work with the faculty to strategize plans throughout their course of study. A fundamental basis for technique will be discovered by all students in the percussion studio. Also, a development of musicality will serve to enhance performance and creativity within the student experience. Students will consistently perform in solo, chamber and large ensemble settings to grow in all aspects of performance. During their time at Fort Lewis College students will engage in a rigorous review of percussion instruments, pedagogy, literature and performance. Upon completion of the degree plan, the student will receive guidance in pursuing those goals beyond that of the Bachelor’s degree.

**Audition Requirements for Percussion Studies at Fort Lewis College**

Students wishing to audition for the Fort Lewis College Department of Music in the area of percussion must perform on at least two of the following categories: **Snare Drum**: Prepare one excerpt or exercise for snare drum. It can be either a rudimental or concert snare drum solo. Also be prepared to demonstrate an understanding of the 40 PAS International Drum Rudiments. Some examples of solos may come from:
- Portraits in Rhythm by Anthony Cirone
- Intermediate Snare Drum Studies by Mitchell Peters
- Adventures in Solo Drumming by William J. Schinstine
- The Snare Drum in the Concert Hall by Al Payson
- The All-American Drummer by Charley Wilcoxon
**Keyboard Percussion**: Prepare one solo from the keyboard percussion repertoire or one etude. Also be prepared to demonstrate an understanding of major scales and arpeggios. Some texts with etude examples may include:
- *The Orchestral Mallet Player* by Anthony Cirone
- *Percussion Keyboard Technic* by Thomas McMillan
- *Bach for Bars arr.* by Roger Faulmann
- *Masterpieces for Marimba arr.* by Thomas McMillan
- *Marimba: Technique Through Music* by Mark Ford (Four Mallets)

**Timpani**: Prepare on etude or solo on timpani. Students should also be prepared to tune the drums to different intervals. Some etude and solo books could include:
- *Modern Method for Timpani* by Saul Goodman
- *The Complete Timpani Method* by Alfred Friese and Alexander Lepak
- *The Solo Timpanist* by Vic Firth

**Drumset**: Prepare a short demonstration on drumset that shows your understanding of different styles and tempi. Students may be asked to perform in a swing style, jazz waltz, rock, funk, samba and Afro-Cuban. Also be prepared to improvise and trade fours between keeping time and soloing.

**Applied Lessons**

Students wishing to pursue a degree that major’s or minor’s in music with the study of percussion will enroll in applied lessons. Lessons will be for one credit hour minimum, with a two credit hour option to be used in preparation for recitals or at the instructor’s discretion. The syllabus for lessons is as follows:

**Course Objectives**

Applied percussion lessons will meet once a week at the scheduled time. Students will experience difference facets of percussion as they prepare for juried performance, public performance and recitals. The lessons will facilitate growth towards teacher objectives and student goals.

**Teaching Methods**

Students will begin each semester by completing a goal sheet. This sheet will reflect the goals of the students and will serve as guidelines for the applied study. Together the teacher
and student will develop a plan of study to aid in the growth of the student as a total percussionist as well as create paths to achieve the student’s musical goals.

Each week the student will be given a lesson assignment sheet. The student and teacher will each have a copy of this sheet. The assignment sheet will present weekly tasks to aid in the student’s progress as well as serve as a record for the student’s course of study.

In addition, the student will be required to bring a portable hard drive or jump drive to lessons. This will be used to take recorded materials from lessons back during the week to review.

**Grading**

Grading at the end of the semester can include: student’s overall progress as documented by the assignment sheet, the juried performance, performance in studio class, recital performance, concert attendance as well as overall lesson attendance and attitude towards study.

**Studio Class (masterclass)**

Studio class occurs at 12:20 on Tuesdays in Jones 209. All students in private lessons are expected to be present. In studio class students will do peer performances, study percussion instruments not done in lessons, possibly be tested on performance, and discuss readings and recordings assigned by instructor. A positive learning environment is expected at all times.

**Individual Student Sticks, Mallets and Instruments**

Students should make a concerted effort to own all sticks and mallets required for performance. This may mean that some items need to be purchased during the course of study. A wide variety of sticks, mallets and percussion instruments helps to prepare the students for professional performance outside of school. Regularly consult with percussion faculty on purchases and make consistent attempts to budget finances to allow for the regular purchase of percussion equipment.
**Guest Artist Masterclasses/Day of Percussion**

The Fort Lewis College Music Department will work to regularly bring in percussion artists to visit campus and give performances and masterclasses. These nationally and internationally recognized artists will present on all areas of percussion. Students are expected to be present when guest artists are on campus. If the student is unable to attend then they must discuss the conflict with the percussion faculty.

The Fort Lewis College Percussion Studio will host a Day of Percussion every other year. This event will be a day-long experience with masterclasses and performances. Students will be expected to be in attendance for the entire event and also be on hand to assist with any needs for the event.

**Juries/Sophomore Barrier**

At the end of each semester students enrolled in applied lessons will be required to perform a jury for the department faculty. Sign-up sheets are provided roughly one week before the jury period. Percussion students will prepare one to two works that will show the growth made in the semester on a particular area of percussion. Students will have instruments in the jury room before the time of the jury. Students will be expected to dress professionally and verbally introduce themselves and their pieces to the jury. Also, please prepare the jury forms found on the “Student Forms” website: http://www.fortlewis.edu/music/forms.asp

Sophomore Barriers are given at the end of the sophomore year of study and/or during the final semester of the music theory curriculum. This exam consists of a lengthy jury that will include:

- Proficiency Scale Patterns 1-10 in all Major and Harmonic Minor Keys
- Two contrasting percussion works on two different percussion instruments
- Sight-singing
- Interview question
Recitals

In accordance with the Fort Lewis College Catalogue all students pursuing a degree majoring in music will perform a recital. Students pursuing the General Music Studies Option, Music Business Option and Music K-12 Teaching Option will perform a 30-minute recital during their junior or senior year. Students pursuing the Music Performance Option will perform a 30-minute recital their junior year and a one-hour recital their senior year. Students pursuing the Jazz Studies Option will perform a 30-minute combo recital their junior year and a one-hour recital their senior year. Literature will be chosen to show growth in areas, demonstrate a variety of instruments and styles as well as meet the interests and goals of the student.

Ensembles

The Fort Lewis College Department of Music offers multiple ensemble experiences for the percussion student. Large ensembles include: Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble and Durango Youth Symphony. The chamber ensembles are as follows:

Percussion Ensemble: This chamber ensemble performs a wide variety of music throughout the school year. Students actively engage in different areas of percussion. Works may be conducted or not conducted to help the student grow in the art of chamber music performance. Works can include those from historical percussion ensembles, contemporary settings, world music and mixed ensembles.

Mallet Keyboard Ensemble: This course will give students the experience of performing chamber music for mallet percussion instruments. Students will develop a strong pedagogical approach to performing mallet keyboard percussion. The class will engage students in exercises for development of technique, sight reading and overall musicianship. Students will gain enhanced ensemble performing skills as well as develop an appreciation and understanding of chamber music performance.
Other ensembles may be created for the interest of the students to include world music ensembles and drumline. Different ensembles can be generated upon student request.

Percussion students are regularly requested to accompany many other ensembles in the department including: jazz combos, choir, brass ensemble, woodwind ensembles and chamber orchestra.

Students will prepare for each rehearsal with the utmost professionalism. They will arrive early, have parts marked, have all instruments set up before rehearsal and aid other percussion students in set up if needed. Students will be coached by faculty in the skills needed to prepare for the work found in being a successful ensemble performer in the area of percussion.

**Pre- and Post- Concert Etiquette**

Fort Lewis College percussion students preparing for concerts should work as a team to move instruments to the required concert site. Instruments should be moved carefully and as a group. For example, chimes, timpani and large keyboard instruments should be moved by more than one individual. All instruments should be set up in the required site no later than 30 minutes prior to the dress rehearsal or concert. The set up for a concert is in accordance with normal rehearsal set up unless otherwise instructed by the director. If any questions arise in regards to the moving of instruments please consult the section leader of the ensemble section or the faculty.

Note: If damage occurs to a Fort Lewis College percussion instrument in the act of moving, it must be brought to the attention of the percussion faculty immediately. Upon review of the incident and damage the student may need to assist financially in the repair of the instrument.

If you happen to be in attendance of a concert with Fort Lewis College percussion students in the performance it is polite to offer assistance after the concert in returning the equipment to its home. If you offer to help someone else then they will most likely help you after one of your concerts.
**Percussion Colleague Support**

Whenever possible a percussion student should support another colleague’s performance. Students are expected to be at any solo recital given by another student. Also, it is strongly encouraged that students attend Student Recital when other percussionists are on the program. Finally, take advantage of having percussion colleagues and regularly play pieces for one another and give helpful feedback and encouragement. The Fort Lewis College Percussion Studio should be like a team and at all times respect and support should be given to one another.

**Instruments**

Fort Lewis College has one of the largest inventories of percussion instruments for a school its size. The instruments found at Fort Lewis College include (but not limited to):

- 5.0 Octave Marimba One
- Mark XIV Timpani
- Yamaha Timpani
- 4.0 Octave Yamaha Vibraphone
- Kori Xylophone
- Malletech Orchestra Bells
- Yamaha Maple Custom Drumset
- Black Swamp Snare Drum and Field
- Deagan Chimes
- Deagan 4.0 Octave Marimba
- Musser 4.3 Octave Marimba

Large instruments are either stored in the back of Jones 209 in an orderly fashion or in the appropriate storage area or practice room. Stands are to be placed in the appropriate slot in the wall cabinets in Jones 209. Also, accessory percussion instruments will be stored in the Wenger rolling cabinet in the back of
Jones 209. Most areas are labeled for the location of the instruments. If any questions arise, do not hesitate to contact the faculty or another member of the percussion section. When instruments are well cared for then the percussion studio is more likely to add to the inventory and continue to use of these professional level instruments.

Please note: if any instruments or stands are found to be missing please inform the percussion faculty immediately.

**Borrowing Percussion Instruments from Fort Lewis College**

Instruments can be borrowed from the percussion inventory. If you wish to borrow an instrument from the percussion inventory please consult with the percussion faculty. A form with the student’s signature will need to be completed before the instruments can be borrowed by the student. It is the intent of the percussion studio to aid in professional growth of the students by allowing them to borrow instruments. In order for this process to continue, students must speak with the faculty prior to borrowing the instruments and complete the form as needed.

**Practice Rooms/Keys**

Along with the regular Jones Hall practice rooms, percussion students also have access to two additional percussion practice rooms. Jones 250 is a mallet keyboard practice room and Jones 234 is a drumset and snare drum practice room. Percussion students can also sign up for the use of Jones 209 and when available should be used for additional practice space.

Keys are issued at the beginning of the term for all practice rooms mentioned above. Additionally students will also want to obtain keys to the white wall cabinets in Jones 209 and the rolling Wenger cabinet found in Jones 209. Also keys need to be processed through the Facilities and Maintenance Department on campus. Please see the percussion faculty to have keys issued and renewed as needed.
**Percussive Arts Society**

Students in the Fort Lewis College Percussion Studio are strongly encouraged to join the international, professional organization, the Percussion Arts Society. Membership in this organization includes many benefits and also shows a highly respected element on your resume. Please visit the PAS website to learn more about this rewarding organization. [www.pas.org](http://www.pas.org)

**Helpful websites**

**Percussion Studies**

[http://www.fortlewis.edu/music/Percussion.asp](http://www.fortlewis.edu/music/Percussion.asp)

**Music Department**

[http://www.fortlewis.edu/music/index.asp](http://www.fortlewis.edu/music/index.asp)

**Latta Bio**

[http://www.fortlewis.edu/music/Latta.asp](http://www.fortlewis.edu/music/Latta.asp)

**Physical Plant for Keys**

[http://www2.fortlewis.edu/physicalplant/OurServices/KeyIssuance.aspx](http://www2.fortlewis.edu/physicalplant/OurServices/KeyIssuance.aspx)

**Student Advising**

[http://www.fortlewis.edu/advising/](http://www.fortlewis.edu/advising/)

**Steve Weiss for Music and Equipment**


**Drummerworld**