



NSSBE

National Society of Steel Band Educators

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

February 24-25, 2023
University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA

President's Welcome



Welcome to the NSSBE 2022 Professional Conference.

Greetings, and welcome to the campus of the University of Iowa, where host Dr. Daniel Moore and our Conference Planning Committee have put together an outstanding lineup of presenters and performing artists. This is not the first time that our conference has taken place on a college campus, as our first two events in 2018 and 2019 were held at Miami University, where I teach and serve as chair of the Department of Music.

We at NSSBE are grateful to Dan and everyone here in Iowa City for making us feel at home in the land of the Hawkeyes.

A professional conference not only affords opportunities for enrichment and the sharing of knowledge, but also for building community. Artists, attendees, and vendors will gather together this weekend with a common purpose – to celebrate the wonderful art form of pan. We are fortunate to have a vibrant community, and we should relish this opportunity to strengthen our connections with one another, while at the same time deepening our understanding of steel band.

My sincere appreciation goes to our talented lineup of presenters, and also to our Conference Planning Committee, chaired by Mike Greer. Please take a moment to thank these individuals as you interact this weekend. Also, if you have ideas to share on how we might continue to advance our mission, please let us know. We want to be responsive to our members' needs and desires, and we are interested in your thoughts and feedback, not only regarding this event, but also with respect to all our initiatives.

In closing, I thank you for attending our 2023 Professional Conference. Time and energy are precious resources, and we appreciate your investment in NSSBE through your presence here. It is our hope that our society will continue to grow and thrive in the years to come, and this will only happen through the dedicated efforts of our members. Best wishes to you as you enjoy all that this weekend has to offer.

Chris Tanner President, NSSBE

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Tanner'.

Special Thanks

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Schedule

FRIDAY, February 24

1:00 P.M. (All times CST)
Check-In/Registration (Voxman Lobby)

2:00 P.M. (PERCUSSION SUITE)
Steel Band Recording Workshop (hands on)
Presenters: Dan Moore and James Edel

This workshop is for anyone interested in recording steel pans and steel bands. The session will include a live recording session where participants can experience how a session is organized and executed. Attendees can choose to participate in the session as a performer or simply observe. Understanding how a professional studio operates before attempting to record can save time, money, and frustration, and make your sessions run more smoothly. We will discuss how to plan and prepare for recording your steel band or other ensembles.

Topics include:

- Planning for a recording session
- Full band vs. multi-track recording session? Best practices
- Preparing the musicians
- Setting up the recording session
- Microphone placement
- Organizing and executing the session
- Editing and mixing

5:00 P.M.
Dinner

7:30 P.M. (CONCERT HALL)
Iowa Steel Band featuring Victor Provost
Director: Dan Moore

The Iowa Steel Band, under the direction of Dr. Dan Moore, is perhaps the most active ensemble from The UI School of Music. The band performs extensively throughout Iowa and the Midwest under the auspices of the UI Arts Share program. The Iowa Steel Band was formed in 1996 and typically features 15-20 performing members. They have performed in 40 of Iowa's 99 counties and are still counting.

In 2013, the band won the Percussive Arts Society international World Percussion Ensemble Competition as part of the Iowa East—West Percussion Ensemble. The competition was sponsored by PAS, the largest and most prestigious percussion organization worldwide.

The Iowa Steel Band has released four critically acclaimed recordings: *everywhere Calypso*, *Noise Brigade*, *Queen of the Bands*, and their latest album, *Jungle Music* with Andy Narell, which can be heard on Spotify, YouTube, and most other streaming platforms.

Schedule

One reviewer had this to say about *Jungle Music*:

“This album should be on the shelf of any steel pan enthusiast. The playing and production are superb, and serve as an excellent example of not only how to record steel pans but more importantly, how to play them.”— Josh Armstrong, Percussive Notes Magazine

In addition to their regular on-campus concerts and annual spring tour, the band maintains a strong commitment to volunteerism. They have appeared six times for the Compeer of Johnson County’s Sounds of Friendship fundraiser concert. They have also performed at events sponsored by UI Cancer Survivors, American Heart Association, UI Dance Marathon, United Way of Johnson County, The Belin-Blank Honors Center, and many others. Each December, the band presents the annual Holiday Percussion Pops concert which supports CommUnity Crisis Services and Food Bank of Johnson County. The concert brings in hundreds of pounds of food and cash donations to support the Food Bank.

Their repertoire includes music of the Caribbean such as calypso, soca, and reggae as well as folk music of the world, American popular music, and jazz. They regularly perform the most challenging and uplifting music for pans written by composers such as Ray Holman, Andy Narell, Victor Provost, Liam Teague, Mat Britain, Pelham Goddard, Machel Montano, and many others.

SATURDAY, February 25

7:30 A.M.
Coffee/Check-In

8:00 A.M. (2400 VOXMAN)
Welcome: Dr. Chris Tanner, NSSBE President
Conference Sponsor: Tereasa Evans, West Music

8:15 A.M. (2400 VOXMAN)
Hit the Pan Running: Beginning Improvisation in the Steelband Classroom
Presenter: Victor Provost

This clinic will cover strategies for encouraging young musician to improvise in a Steelband setting:

- What do we do when we improvise?
- Overcoming anxiety
- Working with rhythm
- Call and response
- Expanding the Pentatonic Scale
- Not THAT Blues Scale!

Schedule

9:30 A.M. (RECITAL HALL)

Panel Discussion: Strategies for Successful Steel Band Programs in the University Setting

Presenter: Obe Quarless

This session will feature music educators and scholars in higher education who are experts in various aspects of steel band education in America. The panelists will share challenges, strategies for success, and unique approaches to steel band education and leadership relative to their institutions and personal experiences. Attendees will be encouraged to engage in the conversation with their own questions or comments, as well.

10:45 A.M. (CONCERT HALL)

Get Organized Behind the Drums!

Presenter: Larnell Lewis

In this clinic Larnell shares his approach to organizing his musical ideas and general thoughts when he is at the drums. Figuring out what to practice can be a challenge as there is a vast amount of material available today. Even understanding how to support a song, a moment, or even what kit piece to hit at any particular moment can be a frustrating experience. Larnell believes that the key to freedom with expressiveness is finding ways to organize your thoughts and your options when you're at your instrument.

12:00 P.M.

Lunch/Vendor Time (on your own)

1:45 P.M. (2400 VOXMAN)

Introduction to Steelband Arranging

Presenter: Joy Lapps-Lewis

This workshop focuses on approaches to arranging music for beginner steelbands. Topics include understanding instrument range, voicing, and creating arrangements that are engaging for students and listeners while also meeting pedagogical constraints of time and classroom management.

Highlights Include:

- Instrument Range and Layout
- Arranging for Beginner Steelband
- Steelband Performance
- Classroom Management

Schedule

3:00 P.M. (CONCERT HALL)

Northern Illinois University Steelband: 50th Anniversary Celebration Concert

Director: Liam Teague

The Northern Illinois University Steelband (NIU Steelband) is dedicated to demonstrating the versatility and profundity of the steelpan, the national instrument of Trinidad and Tobago.

Created in 1973 by G. Allan O'Connor, the NIU Steelband is the first active steel orchestra formed at an American university and will celebrate its 50th Anniversary on Sunday, April 16th, 2023.

NIU is also one of the few institutions in the world at which students may pursue undergraduate and graduate music degrees with a steelpan emphasis.

The ensemble has performed throughout the United States and across the globe. Some of the band's most notable appearances include a performance for 18,000 soccer fans at Yankee Stadium, tours of Taiwan in 1992 and 1998, concerts with symphony orchestras (including the St. Louis Symphony and the Chicago Sinfonietta), and several performances at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PASIC). In 2000, the NIU Steelband had the distinction of placing 2nd at the World Steelband Festival in Trinidad and represented the USA at the 2002 Seoul Drum Festival in South Korea.

The NIU Steelband regularly appears in concert at public schools, universities, conventions, and arts series, and has many recordings to its credit, including *Dangerous*, which features an eclectic blend of musical styles.

After many years under the leadership of G. Allan O'Connor and steelband legend Clifford Alexis, the ensemble is now directed by head of steelpan studies and professor of music, Liam Teague. The band's instruments are maintained by Yuko Asada, music instrument technician, and she also significantly contributes to the daily operations of the NIU Steelband.

4:30 P.M.

Dinner/Vendor Time (on your own)

7:30 P.M. (CONCERT HALL)

Finale Concert

Presenters: Larnell Lewis with Joy Lapps-Lewis and Friends

Selections to be announced from the stage

Board of Directors



Chris Tanner (D.M.A., West Virginia University, 2000) is Chair of the Department of Music at Miami University and the founder and director of the Miami University Steel Band. He first became interested in world music as an undergraduate student at West Virginia University, where he studied African percussion with Phil Faini, and had the opportunity to work closely with Trinidadian native Ellie Mannette, one of the pioneers of the steel pan art form.

In the steel band idiom, Tanner is active as a performer, educator, and composer/arranger. In October 2011 he released his recording *First Impression*, featuring original music for steel band and jazz soloists. He has served as a guest clinician or performing artist at numerous festivals, workshops, high schools and universities. He is a frequently commissioned composer/arranger, and his works are published through Pan Ramajay Productions, Engine Room Publishing, and

Panyard, Inc. In December 2006, Rowman & Littlefield Education published his book *The Steel Band Game Plan: Strategies for Starting, Building and Maintaining Your Pan Program*, a comprehensive resource covering all fundamental topics relating to the development of a steel band program.

Dr. Brandon Haskett is a Professor of Music Education at Saginaw Valley State University and teaches music education courses, general education courses, Percussion Ensemble, and Valley Steel. He graduated from Arizona State University with a Doctor of Musical Arts in Music Education and a Masters of Music in Percussion Performance.

Haskett previously taught at North Georgia College and State University as the Coordinator of Music Education. Previously, he taught band, orchestra, jazz band, and steel band at Kenilworth School (K-8) in Phoenix, Arizona. Haskett's main research focus includes the study of world music ensembles in the public schools and adult/community music education. His work has been published in the *International Journal of Community Music*, *Update: Applications of Research in Music Education*, and *Percussive Notes*. He is a frequent presenter of academic and pedagogical presentations throughout the United States."



Tom Miller's vast experience as a performing percussionist, steel drummer, composer, arranger and educator has made him one of the most respected and sought after soloists and clinicians today. Tom has performed worldwide with his own popular group Pan Ramajay as well as with other notable pan artists, Andy Narell, Ray Holman, Len "Boogsie" Sharpe, and Othello Molineaux and has also been a featured guest performer at Trinidad and Tobago's annual "Pan and Jazz Festival," on several occasions. Other collaborations have produced work with Calypso vocal artist, David Rudder; jazz drummer, Peter Erskine; percussionist, Luis Conte; composer, Vince Mendoza; bassist Michael Manring; Germany's famed WDR Big Band and the Berkeley Symphony under the direction of Kent Nagano. He has added his unique style of percussive touch to numerous recordings

Board of Directors

covering a variety of musical styles with artists such as Grammy award winners, Allison Krause and the late John Denver, and Venezuelan songstress, Maria Marquez. Tom's playing has also been featured on film scores for the movies, *Commando*, *Nina Takes a Lover*, and *The Mystic Masseur*, as well as ads for Minute Maid, Sony, the SIMs computer games and many others.

Tom is equally as comfortable in the studio as a producer having produced and mixed several critically acclaimed steel band recordings for his own group, Pan Ramajay, as well as master pannist, Ray Holman, The Chabot Panhandlers Steel Orchestra, the Miami University Steel Band and the Lamont Steel Drum Ensemble. He is the founder of the chamber steel drum ensemble, Pan Nation, a steel drum octet performing original compositions composed by the group's members and recently releasing their debut EP recording, "Altered Perception."

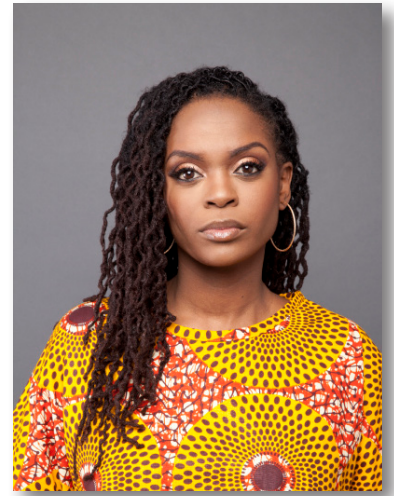
Tom's composing talents have earned him grants from the prestigious Meet the Composer Foundation on five occasions, fostering the creation, performance and education of audiences through his compositions featuring steel drums and percussion. This dedication to musical education has won Tom many invitations as an artist in residence at numerous universities and colleges throughout the U.S. He currently serves as adjunct faculty at the University of Denver, Lamont School of Music where he is the director of Steel Drum Ensembles and the World Percussion Studio as well as instructor of several music business academic classes. He has also served on the faculty of the JAZZ School in Berkeley, CA, the Mannette Steel Drum Workshop in Morgantown, WV, the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival, the Lamont Summer Academy, and the University of Delaware Summer Steel Drum Workshop. Tom is the founder and director of the Pan Ramajay Summer Steel Drum Festival, in Denver, CO.

Tom is president of one of the foremost steel drum music publishing companies, Pan Ramajay Productions (www.ramajay.com), which features Tom's own compositions and recordings as well as those of other prominent steel drum composers worldwide.

Presenters

Internationally lauded artist and composer **Joy Lapps** activates spaces for community building and creative expression. The award-winning instrumentalist of Antiguan and Barbudan descent treats the steelpan as a tool for engagement, anchoring her artistry in a profound, community-centered musical tradition. She aims to amplify women's contributions in every facet of her work, giving nuanced attention to women of the steelband movement.

At her core, Joy connects to music as participatory. The Toronto native has performed alongside Stewart Goodyear, Roberto Occhipinti, Larnell Lewis and the Toronto Mass Choir, and recorded with Gramps Morgan, whose 2022 release *Positive Vibration* received a GRAMMY nod, Elmer Ferrer, Jeremy Ledbetter, Johnny Reid and her musical mentor, pannist-composer Andy Narell. As a leader, Joy has appeared at Lula Lounge, Toronto Jazz Festival, The Rex, The Jazz Room, Mutahti's International Drumming Festival, Island Soul Festival, AfroFest, The Women in Jazz Performance Series, McMaster University Concert Series and Autumn Leaves on Steel; as part of steelbands, she's performed at the Queen's Park Savannah for Panorama Semi-Finals with Birdsong Steel Orchestra, Lamport Stadium for Pan Alive with Pan Masters and Pan Fantasy, Le Petit Journal Jazz Lounge with Calypsociation and at the Brooklyn Museum with Pan Fantasy.



To date, Joy has issued five independent albums: *How Great Thou Art* (2004), *Make a Joyful Noise* (2006), *It's Christmas Time* (2007), *Morning Sunrise* (2014) and *Girl In The Yard* (2022). Her repertoire teems with Afro-Caribbean- and Afro-Brazilian-inspired rhythmic and harmonic patterns, garlands of melody and plenty of space for spontaneity, and a fondness for hit song forms and reimagined choirs emerges frequently in her compositions.

Joy focuses her academic work on facilitating multimodal teaching and learning that centers ensemble as a practice. Her university pedagogy and varied community education programming integrates ensemble teaching to promote individual and collective success. She stays active in diverse arts organizations; from 2017 to 2019, she served as Artistic and Creative Director for her multidisciplinary project *From Skin 2 Steel & Beyond*, a steelpan-focused community arts project launched in Toronto.

A lifelong scholar, Joy has received her IBBA Honours Degree from the the Schulich School of Business at York University in Toronto; her Master of Arts in History, Development and Composition for Steelpan in the Jazz Ensemble at York; internship placement at Calypsociation Steelband music school in Paris, and the Royal Conservatory of Music and OAC Arts Education Foundation; and lessons from diverse creative improvisers. Joy earned the 2014 Dr. Alice E. Wilson Award to support graduated studies from the Canadian Federation of University Women; the 2015 Caribbean Music and Entertainment Award as Top Steelpan Soloist from PenPro Productions; and the 2016 HUTTers Phenomenal Woman Award for Leadership in Community Arts.

Presenters

Following the release of *Girl in the Yard*, Joy plans to share a new research- and interview-driven multidisciplinary project she's been developing alongside dancers Esie Mensah and Tamla Matthews and award-winning poet Canisia Lubrin, among other featured artists, that spotlights women's contributions to the steelpan community. Follow Joy on social media at @JoyLappsMusic.



Larnell Lewis is a GRAMMY Award winning musician, composer, producer, and educator. A Toronto native, Larnell has quickly established himself as one of the most diverse and in demand drummers currently on the music scene. Along with his long standing position behind the drums in Snarky Puppy, Larnell has led many highly successful groups of his own and toured the globe with some of the most well known names in music, including Laila Biali, Etienne Charles, Gregory Porter, Benny Golson, Lalah Hathaway, John Scofield, Pat Metheny, Lisa Fisher, Kurt Elling, Gary Burton, and more.

Larnell's immense talent, fierce creativity, and continually evolving musical style is what has kept him at the top of the list as a musical collaborator for artists across the globe. In June 2018, Larnell released his highly anticipated debut album *In The Moment*, which featured ten original compositions in a variety of musical styles. In Spring 2020, Larnell revisited 6 of those compositions as well as one new piece titled, *The Forgotten Ones*, for his second album, *Relive the Moment*. This album was recorded live at Jukasa Studios along with studio videos for his dedicated following on Youtube.

His vast talents, not just as a musician but as a producer also landed him the opportunity to act as Musical Director for a performance during the Toronto International Film Festival's premiere of the critically-acclaimed documentary of Quincy Jones "QUINCY", (directed by Rashida Jones & Al Hicks), where he led performances from the likes of Yebba Smith, Mark Ronson, and Chaka Khan.

Among his many accolades, including the 2004 Oscar Peterson Award for Outstanding Achievement in Music (Humber College), Larnell was named as the fourth recipient of the Toronto Arts Foundation's "Emerging Jazz Award" (2017), which is a \$10,000 cash prize intended to support the creation of a project that features original compositions from each recipient.

Larnell's talents can be seen worldwide via his various social media platforms, which have a combined total of over 175,000 followers. His reach to fans and musicians of all generations is proof that he not only possesses undeniable talent, but a spirit unlike any other that excites, inspires, and encourages music fans of all ages to further explore their musical tastes as they follow him on the road he has paved for himself.

Presenters



James Edel is the Music Production Manager and Instructor of Audio Recording at The University of Iowa School of Music. His audio and video expertise includes live-sound reinforcement, live performance production and streaming, and in-studio production of high-fidelity professional release recording projects. James has recorded, edited, mixed, and /or mastered between 75-100 full length releases in a variety of genres with a specialization in Classical, New Music, and Jazz. In addition to his music production work, James teaches and trains a small cohort of student engineers, several of whom now enjoy their own rewarding careers in recording and production.

Joe Galvin was appointed assistant professor of music in jazz studies and Latin American and Caribbean music at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music in 2022. He was previously visiting lecturer in music in percussion at the school.

Having taken a varied path to becoming a steelpan performer and Afro-Cuban percussionist, Galvin studied piano and violin at a young age, and by high school, he was drawn to the drum set.

While there, he sought out and participated in as many music groups as possible, accompanying ensembles on piano and drums, singing in choirs, and playing various strings in everything from orchestras to garage rock bands. This musical eclecticism led him to begin college studying piano, but he quickly shifted to non-Western percussion, where he fell in love with the Trinidadian steelpan.



A few of his most noted appearances include as a featured soloist and ensemble member with the Aguavá New Music Group in 2005 at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.; sharing the stage with steelpan virtuoso Liam Teague and marimbist Kevin Bobo; performing several times at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention; and presenting at the National Society of Steel Band Educators conference. He performed in Trinidad's Panorama competition with the BP Renegades in 2013 and the PCS Nitrogen Silver Stars, directed by Liam Teague, in 2016.

Galvin earned his music degrees from the Jacobs School of Music, culminating in a doctor of percussion performance degree with a focus on steelpan and Afro-Cuban percussion traditions under retired professor and master drummer Michael Spiro. Galvin continues Spiro's educational legacy at Jacobs, directing several Latin American ensembles in both folkloric and popular music styles and teaching applied lessons in Latin percussion.

Presenters

Galvin and Spiro's most recent collaborations include a documentary on classic Cuban rumba, *Los Bandos: Rumba en Cazuela*, which was nominated for a 2021 Cubadisco Award for Best Musical Documentary. The awards are the equivalent of the U.S. Grammys and Oscars combined. They also created an in-depth method book on the musical traditions of the Arará Savalú community in Matanzas, Cuba.

Galvin can also be heard on two Grammy-nominated albums: the Wayne Wallace Latin Jazz Quintet's *Intercambio* and Spiro and Wallace's *Canto America* with La Orquesta Sinfonietta.

Released in 2017, Galvin's most recent album, *BÁKINI: En el Nuevo Mundo*, is a collaboration with Spiro combining the folkloric music of Afro-Cuban, Afro-Brazilian, and Trinidadian lineages into a contemporary sound.



Kim Kattari is an Associate Professor in the School of Performance, Visualization, and Fine Arts at Texas A&M University, where she teaches courses in Music and Performance Studies. She earned her Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology and a doctoral certificate in Cultural Studies from the University of Texas at Austin in 2011, a Master of Music from UT Austin, and Bachelor's degrees in Anthropology and Ethnic Studies from the University of California, Berkeley.

Her primary research interest is Subcultural Studies. She is interested in how people's lifestyles and interests (particularly non-normative ones) reflect and affect their personal experiences and identities. Her book, *Psychobilly: Subcultural Survival* (Temple University Press, 2020), explores a musical subculture called psychobilly, which blends aspects

of punk and rockabilly with lyrics, themes, and symbols derived from horror and 1950s B-movie subjects.

In 2013, she started playing pan in Maroon Steel, Texas A&M University's steel band. One year later, she became the band's faculty advisor, when it transitioned from a curricular ensemble to a student organization. She has had the pleasure of performing with guest artists such as Gary Gibson, Andy Narell, and Lord Relator. She has presented on the importance of culturally responsible pedagogies and performance practices in steel bands at local and national meetings of the Society for Ethnomusicology.

Presenters

Dan Moore is the director of the Iowa Steel band and Iowa Percussion, he has produced eleven commercial recordings that are nationally / internationally distributed in both physical and digital formats, and have received many favorable reviews.

The Iowa Steel Band's most recent recording, *Jungle Music*, featuring Andy Narell has been described by Percussive Notes as "...one of the best steel pan albums produced in a while, in regard to sound." Dan has recorded several albums as a soloist and with the Britain Moore Duo (the BMD), along with steel pan artist Mat Britain. He has recorded, produced, edited, mixed, or performed on more than 40 distinctive projects.



As a percussionist and composer, **Eugene Novotney** has performed and presented lectures and master classes in North America, South America, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia, and Africa. Born in 1960 in Cleveland, Ohio, Eugene Novotney received his Bachelor of Music Degree in Percussion from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and his Master of Music Degree & Doctor of Musical Arts Degree from the University of Illinois, with emphasis in Percussion, Composition, and Ethnomusicology. He is recognized internationally as a composer of contemporary percussion music, and his compositions are widely performed as standards of the literature.

He is also well known as a steelpan artist and scholar and has been involved in the steelpan movement in the United States since 1982. In 1985, he founded the first steelband in the California State University System, the Humboldt Calypso Band, which he still leads and directs. He has performed in Trinidad's National Panorama Competition five times (1993, 1994, 2003, 2010, 2020), and he serves regularly as an adjudicator for many organizations, including Pan Trinbago,

Pan European, the Virginia Arts Festival, and the Percussive Arts Society. He was a member of the adjudication panel of Trinidad's World Steelband Festivals in 1998, 2000, and 2008 held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, and also was an adjudicator for Trinidad's World Steelband Festival 2005 held in Madison Square Garden, New York, NY. In addition, he was a member of the adjudication panel of the 2000 European Steelband Festival held in Paris, France, the adjudication panel for the 2005 Trinidad National Schools Music Festival held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, and an adjudicator for the 2010, 2011, and 2019 Virginia Arts festival PANoramas held in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Presenters

He is Professor of Music and the Director of Percussion Studies at Cal Poly Humboldt in Arcata, California, and is the founder of the 'Percussion in World Music' program for the California State University Summer Arts Program. In 2006, Dr. Novotney was awarded the Wang Family Excellence Award by the California State University Board of Trustees, an award that recognizes California State faculty who, through extraordinary commitment and dedication, have distinguished themselves through exemplary contributions and achievements in their academic disciplines. In 2014, Dr. Novotney was honored as the recipient of Cal Poly Humboldt's distinguished Outstanding Professor Award, an award reserved for faculty who have made superlative contributions to the university and the community in terms of their service, their professional and creative activities, and their outstanding record of teaching excellence. In 2017, Dr. Novotney was selected as the recipient of the Sunshine Award for Education and the Performing Arts in a ceremony held at the AXA Equitable Theatre in NYC for his lifelong dedication to the promotion of Caribbean culture worldwide. Eugene Novotney currently serves as a member of the Percussive Arts Society World Percussion Committee, and is the Senior Editor of *The Steel Times*, the professional journal of the National Society of Steel Band Educators. His recordings have been released on the Bembe, Delos, SANCH, Pogo, Rituals and Earthbeat (Rhino) labels, and his compositions and arrangements are available through Smith Publications of Sharon, Vermont and Mau Mau Music of Cleveland, Ohio. His professional artists endorsements include Black Swamp Percussion and REMO Incorporated.

Born and raised on the island of St. John, Virgin Islands, **Victor Provost** is widely regarded as one of the world's leading voices on the unique, and often misunderstood, steelpan. Through appearances at concert halls, clubs, and stages throughout the world, he has developed a reputation as a "dazzling" soloist, crafting an impressive improvisational voice and style. With a strong foundation in Bebop, a contemporary sensibility, and deep roots in Caribbean music, he seamlessly melds and mixes genres.

The Washington D.C. City Paper named him "Jazz Percussionist of the Year" six years in a row. His most recent recording, *Bright Eyes*, debuted at #5 on the iTunes Top 40 Jazz Charts and was met with praise from The Washington Post, Downbeat Magazine, and Jazz Times.

Victor has performed and recorded with Jazz Luminaries such as Wynton Marsalis, Paquito D'Rivera, Hugh Masekela, Monty Alexander, Joe Locke, Nicholas Payton, Terell Stafford, Dave Samuels, Steve Nelson, Ron Blake, and Wycliffe Gordon, among others.

"In the jazz ecosystem... Provost is a rarity"
Downbeat Magazine



Presenters

Victor is an Adjunct Professor of Music at George Mason University and conducts residencies and masterclasses throughout the United States and the Caribbean at schools such as Berklee College of Music in Boston, University of Akron, Miami University, NYU, TTU, The University of Iowa, and Northern Illinois University. He is also an Arts Ambassador to his hometown of St. Johns, U.S. Virgin Islands, which honored him with a Special Congressional Recognition in 2014, and to which he returns frequently to perform and teach as part of Dion Parson's community-based arts initiative, the United Jazz Foundation.

Obe Quarless is a Trinidadian-American percussionist, education administrator, and performer, specializing in steel pan. Following a lineage of Trinidadian musicians, Obe continues to promote his family legacy cultural heritage by pursuing his own musical career in steel pan performance and education. In addition to his first love of performing on the steel pan, he also grew his abilities in composition, arranging and teaching.

Obe has performed internationally with world-renowned steelbands WITCO Desperadoes (Trinidad), Laborie Steel Pan (St. Lucia) and Pan Evolution Steel Orchestra (USA) and has made several guest appearances with colleges and universities in the Pacific Northwest as a performer, drill master, and arranger. Obe holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in music from Whitworth University, and recently completed a Master of Music degree in steel pan performance and world music studies at Northern Illinois University.



Conference Committee



Mike Greer (Chair) is a percussionist and educator with over 26 years of diverse performing and teaching experiences. He is currently in his 18th year as the steel band director at DuBose Middle School in Summerville, SC. The DuBose Steel Band program is currently one of the largest scholastic steel band programs in the country with over 200 members in eight steel bands. Over the last 13 years, Mike has also helped to start nine other steel bands in his district, leading a team of ten steel band directors that help more than 1000 students learn the Trinidadian art form of pan every day. In the Spring of 2017, Mike produced the

DuBose Steel Band's first album, *Momentum*, featuring members of the DuBose Steel Bands, as well as internationally acclaimed artists Gary Gibson and Victor Provost. In the fall of 2022, he co-produced along with John Willmarth DuBose Steel Band's second album *Trinidad Tidings* featuring Victor Provost, Gino Castillo, and many others.

Mike's diverse performing experiences began with the Broadway hit *Blast!* as a percussionist in the original London cast. Since moving to South Carolina, he has remained an active performer in the Charleston area, performing weekly on steel pan, percussion, or drum set. Mike has been the principal timpanist for the North Charleston Pops Orchestra since 2012, and the drummer for Ashley Ridge Worship since 2010. In the summer of 2017, he traveled to Laborie, St Lucia to perform with the Laborie Steel Band in the St Lucia Panorama. Mike holds a Bachelor of Music in Percussion degree and a Master of Arts in Teaching degree from Eastern Kentucky University, as well as Master of Music in Percussion degree from Miami University. Mike endorses Vic Firth Sticks & Mallets, Pearl Drums, and Adams Concert Percussion as a member of their education teams. While serving on the conference committee for the National Society of Steel Band Educators, Mike recently co-chaired the 2018, 2019, 2021 (Virtual), and chaired the 2022 and 2023 National Conferences for the NSSBE.

Dr. Dan Moore explores the many creative and expressive capabilities of percussion, making music with inspiring performers throughout the world in an array of diverse musical settings. As a vibes, marimba, and percussion artist, he has appeared on more than 30 professional recordings — 15 as a leader or co-leader. Dr. Moore is professor of music at the University of Iowa School of Music where he received the 2018 Iowa Board of Regents Award for Faculty Excellence.

Dan Moore is a Yamaha international performing artist, a signature mallet artist for Innovative Percussion, and a performing artist for Sabian Cymbals, Gon Bops Percussion, and Grover Pro Percussion. His music is published by Row-Loff Productions, Innovative Percussion, Alfred Publishing, Tapspace, and Cricket City Music and Media.

Conference Committee

Dr. Kayleen Justus is Director of Steel Bands at Leon High School, where she teaches the beginning, intermediate, advanced, stage side, and community pan ensembles. Prior to her appointment at Leon HS in 2021, Dr. Justus was Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology and World Music at Kennesaw State University, where she taught courses in world music, music history, music appreciation, Caribbean/African/Latin American musical cultures, seminars in ethnomusicology, and advised undergraduate research projects.



Dr. Justus has served as the director of university and community steel bands since 2007 and she frequently performs and records as a pan player, percussionist, and performance clinician in the United States and the Caribbean. She has shared the stage/studio with notable musicians, including the calypsonian Willard “Lord Relator” Harris, Bollywood composer A.R. Rahman, jazz pianist Andy Narell, Trinidadian arranger Ray Holman, drummer Stephen Perkins of Jane’s Addiction, drummer Mike Portnoy of Dream Theater, and bassist Billy Sheehan of Mr. Big. She has recorded several world music albums, including *Sasa Nifanye Nini* (2012) with members of the Tanzanian group “Mlimani Park Orchestra,” and two albums by the Miami University Steel Band – *One More Soca* (2003) and *Burnin’* (2001). Kayleen is also an active member of “Pan Rocks!” and has been featured on two recent album and documentary projects with the group: *Pan Rocks! Project L.A.* (2017) and *Pan Rocks! RUSH* (2018).

As a musicologist, her primary research interests include: the role of music in memory and personhood, Trinidadian steel band in the Caribbean and beyond, and American music history. Dr. Justus has presented her academic work at various international and regional conferences, including the National Society for Steel Band Educators (NSSBE), the Society for Ethnomusicology (SEM), the Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PAS), the American Anthropological Association (AAA), and the Eastern Caribbean Islands Cultures Conference (Islands in Between). Her work has recently been published in *Caribbean Languages, Literatures, and Cultures* (2020), the *SAGE International Encyclopedia of Music and Culture* (2019), the *Society for American Musicology Bulletin* (Spring 2018), *Pan Magazine* (2016), and *The World of Music Journal* (2014). She is an active member in several professional academic and teaching organizations, including NSSBE in which she serves on the Conference Planning Committee.

Obe Quarless is a Trinidadian-American percussionist, education administrator, and performer, specializing in steel pan. He recently completed his masters degree in steelpan performance and world music studies from Northern Illinois University.

Conference Committee

John Willmarth is the Director of Steel Bands at Summerville High School as well an adjunct percussion instructor at Charleston Southern University.

An active performer, John is currently the drummer for the *Word and Table* contemporary worship services at Bethany United Methodist Church. He has extensive experience as a jazz musician, performing regularly in Charleston.

An active composer, John's compositions have been performed at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PASIC) and the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic. His percussion compositions and arrangements are published by Innovative Percussion, Row-Loff Productions, TapSPACE Publications, and John Willmarth Music. John has over 80 published compositions and arrangements for steelband and created a sight-reading instructional method for the steelband classroom.

John endorses Innovative Percussion, Evans Drumheads and the Yamaha Corporation of America.



Education Committee



Mike Wendeln (Chair) has been teaching steelband full-time since 2009, and resides in Cincinnati, Ohio. Wendeln directs the steelband program at Walnut Hills High School and he is the founder and director of Cin-cy Steel, a community steel band. Accomplishments include teaching at Leon High School in Tallahassee, Florida for many years where the steelband program grew to be one of the largest and most successful in the state. Throughout college and his professional career, he has had the opportunity to perform alongside many of the great pan players and educators in steel pan today, and has traveled to Trinidad on three occasions to absorb pan culture firsthand. In both 2015 and 2016, Wendeln performed with Birdsong Steel Orchestra in the Trinidad National Panorama competition.

Away from the classroom, Wendeln currently serves as the chair of the Education Committee for the National Society of Steel Band Educators, and in the past, has co-chaired their National Conference. He has also written a method book, called *Steelband in the Classroom*, and publishes

sheet music for steel bands through his company, Wendeln Music Works. He has earned a Bachelor degree in Music Education from Miami University and a Masters degree in Percussion Performance from Eastern Kentucky University and was a member of the Miami University Steel Band under Dr. Chris Tanner and ECU Steel Band under Dr. Jason Koontz.

Patty Dee has been a committed and successful music educator for over twenty years teaching elementary, middle and high school classroom music, band, and steel band in California. Patty has a Master's Degree in Education. For fifteen years, she has led various steel drum performing groups that have performed at festivals, weddings, and community events. Patty has performed on steel drums as a soloist at Carnegie Hall and other venues with local high school and professional choirs and orchestras. She attends year-steel drum workshops in West Virginia and Colorado, and continues to compose and arrange for steel band and directs two steel bands at Cuesta College Community Programs in San Luis Obispo, California.



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Education Committee



Matt Dudack is currently senior lecturer in percussion at the University of Akron where he is artistic director of the acclaimed University of Akron Steel Drum Band. He received two Emmy nominations for his work with *Hammer on Steel*, a PBS broadcast and DVD which has since aired all over the United States.

Collaborations have included such notable steelpan artists as Boogsie Sharpe, Cliff Alexis, Ray Holman, Tom Miller, Liam Teague, Robert Greenidge, Earl Rodney, Andy Narell, Relator, and David Rudder. Matt is also artistic director of the steelband at the Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts in Akron. His arrangements and method books are published by MauMauMusic.

Vincent Talbert, a native from Ninety Six, SC, is a percussionist and highly involved music educator who values relationships, community, and excellence through music. Vincent holds a Bachelor degree in Music Education from the University of South Carolina under the direction of Dr. Scott Herring. He is currently in his ninth year as the steel band director at River Oaks Middle School in North Charleston, SC. As the director of the Bobcat Steel Band, he teaches 6 steel bands daily with over 175 students participating throughout the year.

The Bobcat Steel Band, under his direction, have been featured performers at the North Charleston Arts Festival (2014-16), Coastal Carolina Fair (2019), and Disney Performing Arts Showcase (2015-16). The Bobcat Steel Band have also been consistent participants at the Steel Festival at the SC Day of Percussion and NSSBE SC Festival of Steel earning multiple Superior Ratings in 2018, 2019, and 2020.



Communication and Outreach Committee



Amanda Duncan (Chair) is a multi-faceted percussionist and music educator based in Southern California. She has taught music since 2004 to people of all ages and abilities, and is the Director of Percussion at Santa Margarita Catholic High School, where she teaches Steel Drums, Percussion, and AP Music Theory, and is also the Instrumental Music Instructor for the Talon Academy of the Performing Arts. Additionally, she teaches through The Den Collective, an online music lesson platform and community, and is the percussion instructor at Orange Coast College. As a performer, Amanda plays drums and percussion with a wide variety of groups throughout Los Angeles and Orange County. She frequently performs and records with Tracy Thornton and Pan Rocks!, drums and keyboards with her band Three Forks Junction, local musical theatre companies, as a solo steel pannist, and has shared the

stage and recording studio with artists ranging from Mike Portnoy, Stephen Perkins, and Billy Sheehan to Liam Teague, Martin Chalifour, and Michael Giacchino. Amanda also serves as the chair of the Communication and Outreach Committee for the National Society of Steel Band Educators, and worked as music supervisor for the short documentary “The Jill of the Trade,” produced by Xplore the World Productions. She’s been interviewed by the Trinidad Guardian, When Steel Talks, the podcasts “Strike Up” and “Concert Honesty”, and featured on Pan Magazine’s social media accounts. Passionate about the steel pan and music of the West African diaspora, Amanda performed with the Silver Stars Steel Orchestra in the 2016 Panorama finals competition in Trinidad, visited the Mangrove Steelband in London, UK in 2019, and has also twice studied samba drumming and Brazilian culture in Rio de Janeiro and Salvador, Bahia. Amanda received her Bachelors and Masters degrees in Percussion Performance from the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at CSULB and Northern Illinois University, respectively.

Abby Rehard is a second-year PhD student in Musicology at Florida State University (FSU). Her research interests center on Afro-Brazilian drumming traditions like capoeira and maracatu and issues of race, gender, representation, and social activism. She earned a BM in Percussion Performance from the University of Missouri (MU) in 2013 and MM in Percussion Performance from Northern Illinois University in 2015. She directed MU’s steel band from 2016 to 2018 and currently leads Mas ‘n’ Steel at FSU. Abby also serves as assistant editor of the Ethnomusicology journal.



Communication and Outreach Committee



An educator, composer, steelpanner, and tuner, **Khuent Rose** is a busy man. He has been an essential collaborator on Brooklyn Arts Council's Bringing J'Ouvert to the Forefront program over the years.

In the classroom – both real and virtual – he's keen on growing with his students and meeting them where their creative interests are.

Khuent, a sought-after accompanist, does not take a passive approach to the profession. On Sundays in Brooklyn, he is accustomed to making modest,

two-keyboard sanctuaries sound like the St. Paul's Cathedral.

"From playing pan, it's become very engrained in my biochemistry to have an instrument physically react to me when I play it. I use applications that will amp up the sound quality of recordings produced with my phone. But to do all of this out of one box has been very unusual," Khuent says. "It still doesn't make it real because the meaning of writing the music that way is because I gave it to a human being. But I don't have a human violinist, or one for my bass, or one for my brass section. I find that a lot of my friends – and I've been spending more time learning how to translate and really produce the music in boxes. We're all relying on interfaces now. That's not a thing that we even thought about three or four years ago," he acknowledges. "But now, we're all becoming mild experts in this field. We're all taking online classes in how to mix and master."

While the deeply tactile experience of interacting with analog musicians might be on the backburner for the duration of 2020 and beyond, his years with the steelpan as a performer and a tuner have taught him invaluable lessons about time and patience; lessons that come in handy during a moment of transition and tumult. As deceptively simple and shiny as a sleek computer or smartphone may be, the pan requires much deeper aptitude for creation, for performance, and maintenance. Khuent alludes to several patient masters in the pan community: the late, great Ellie Mannette, largely credited with initiating American academics into all things steel pan; and a hearing-impaired acquaintance who is one of the most adept pan tuners he knows.



Tyler Swick is an elementary music teacher in Las Vegas, NV where he runs an award-winning music program of 1,000+ students and manages the YouTube channel, "Swick's Classroom." Swick is a member of the inaugural Yamaha 40 Under 40 Music Educator class, a Grammy Music Educator quarter-finalist, and the only elementary music teacher to receive the Heart of Education Award. Swick has presented on technology in music education at NAMM, NAFME, IMES, Ti:ME, NSSBE, and state-level conferences. Outside of teaching, he has performed at the Latin Grammys, Panorama, and was featured in an international LG phone commercial.

The Steel Times

Eugene Novotney is a percussionist/composer who is well known as a steelpan artist and scholar. He serves as the *Senior Editor of The Steel Times*.



Dr. Dave Gerhart, Assistant Marketing Manager, Education for the Yamaha Corporation of America and Lecturer of Percussion at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at CSU, Long Beach, is a nationally recognized performer, composer, and educator. Dr. Gerhart, originally from Fairfield, California, holds a D.M.A. from the University of Southern California in Percussion Performance with a secondary emphasis in Music Education, Ethnomusicology, and Music Industry & Technology. He received a M.M. in Percussion Performance and Instrumental Conducting and a B.M. in Music Education from California State University, Long Beach. Dr. Gerhart has been featured on CDs with the Robin Cox Ensemble, Steven Hartke, and Gabriela Ortiz.

Dave's compositions and arrangements for triangle, timpani, percussion ensemble and steel drum orchestra are published by Bachovich Music Publications, Boxfish Music Publishing and Living Sounds Publications.

Emily Lemmerman builds and tunes pans for her company, Barracuda Steel Drums, based in Austin, Texas, and is the only woman working full-time as a professional steelpan craftsman and tuner. She travels to work with bands around the world primarily as a tuner, but also as a clinician, adviser, songwriter and performer. Through her travels, Emily has gained uncommon access to and perspective on the global steelband landscape, and has cultivated relationships with many vibrant and interesting people in our worldwide steelband family.



Casey Vaughn is an educator, designer, and illustrator from Eureka, California. Casey holds a degree in Art with a focus on graphic design and jewelry/small metals, and he is a faculty member in the Department of Art and in the Department of Journalism at Cal Poly Humboldt in Arcata, California. He also owns his own professional graphic design business, Live Loud Design. When he isn't designing, he is probably hanging out with his wife, Leah, and his sons, Kendrick and Macsen—or listening to records, playing guitar, or watching basketball.