



NSSBE

National Society of Steel Band Educators

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

February 23-24, 2024

McCallum Performing Arts Center
Austin, TX

President's Welcome



Greetings, and welcome to sunny Austin, Texas!

The weather here represents quite a change from what I'm accustomed to back home in Southwest Ohio, where temperatures typically max out in the 40s at this time of year. As such I am glad to be in the Lone Star State for the NSSBE annual Professional Conference. On behalf of the Board of Directors and our entire leadership team, I express our gratitude to local host CJ Menge for hosting us at McCallum High School. Our Conference Planning Committee, chaired by Mike Greer, has worked closely with CJ over the past year to put together a terrific schedule of sessions and performances, and I am certain that everyone will have great takeaways from this weekend's slate of activities.

This year's featured artist is Gary Gibson, an incredibly talented musician who has been deeply involved in the steel band idiom for decades. I can speak from personal experience as to Gary's bona fides, having invited him to appear as a guest artist with my ensemble on several occasions. He is the total package – a great player, composer/arranger, ensemble director and teacher. Thanks to Gary and to all our esteemed presenters this year who will share their time and expertise with us.

A professional conference not only provides opportunities for us to learn and grow as individuals, but also to connect with others who share a common purpose. Despite our differences in background, experience, teaching situation and location across the country, we are all here because of the relationship we have to pan. Coming together allows us to celebrate old friendships and to create new ones, while we develop and strengthen our understanding of this beautiful art form. I encourage all of us to find time to make connections with each other, especially in the moments outside of sessions where socializing is readily available.

In closing, I thank you for attending our 2024 Professional Conference. If you have ideas to share with us on how NSSBE might best serve your needs, we'd love to hear them. Please contact us through our website, or in person this weekend. Our goal is to grow our membership and to continually improve how we fulfill our mission: advancing steel band education in the United States. The more connected and involved you become, the more successful we are in our efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Tanner". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Chris Tanner
President, NSSBE

Special Thanks

NSSBE would like to thank our Sponsors:

Wendeln Music Works

Pan Ramajay

Angel Lawrie

Rick Kurasz

Greg Haynes

Eugene Novotney

Patty Dee

NSSBE would like to thank our Vendors:



Schedule

FRIDAY, February 23

7:00 P.M. (MAIN THEATER)

Inside Out Steelband

with McCallum HS Knights of Steel

featuring Gerion Drummerville Williams and Carolyn Trowbridge

Director: CJ Menge

SATURDAY, February 24

8:00 A.M.

Check-In/Registration (PAC LOBBY)

8:35 A.M. (BAND HALL)

Welcome: Dr. Chris Tanner, NSSBE President

8:45 A.M. (BAND HALL)

Engine Room Workshop - Basics and Current Trends

Presenter: Gerion Drummerville Williams

This interactive session will give workshop participants hands on experience playing authentic engine room parts that effectively support and integrate with current steel band performance trends. Participants will learn essential drum set, conga, iron, bell, timbale, and scratcher rhythms from one of the world's top soca and steel band drummers. Steel band directors will given valuable tools to help strengthen their engine room sections of any skill level.

10:00 A.M. (CHOIR ROOM)

Solo and Chamber Repertoire for Steelpan

Presenter: Larkspur Percussion Duo

Larkspur Percussion Duo (Lauren Molloy and Louis Raymond-Kolker) will perform solo and duo transcriptions and compositions for tenor and double second pans. They will discuss the benefits of studying solo and chamber literature, especially at the high school and university levels. The commissioning process for creating new works will also be addressed.

Schedule

11:15 A.M. (MAIN THEATER)

Steelband Rehearsal Techniques - From Zero to Performance

Presenter: CJ Menge

Designed for both student participants and steel band directors, players will learn a new, original soca composed by CJ Menge specifically for the NSSBE conference and perform the piece by the end of the session. Steel band directors will be given the complete score and parts to the composition, which they can take back to their programs if desired. Topics to be addressed include: rehearsal strategies, time management, touch and tone, level specific rhythmic considerations, ensemble awareness-dynamic contrast.

12:15 P.M.

Lunch/Vendor Time

2:00 P.M. (BAND HALL)

Padding the Program: Maximizing Arrangements with Economic Variation

Presenter: Gary Gibson

This workshop is a survey of economic arranging methods, in particular variations over a basic melodic form that can stretch your tunes without costing loads of time in rehearsal. The goal is a compact, concert-length arrangement that stays interesting to the end.

3:15 P.M. (MAIN THEATER)

Michael Mizma and San Jacinto College Central Steel Band

4:15 P.M.

Dinner/Vendor Time

7:00 P.M. (MAIN THEATER)

Finale Concert

**Gary Gibson and Friends in Concert,
featuring Gerion Drummerville Williams, Carolyn Trowbridge, Obe Quarless,
Benjamin Irom (piano), and Glenn Rexach (bass)**

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

Gary Gibson is an internationally-known percussionist and composer, specializing in steel pan, drumset, and vibraphone, and has visited 200+ steel band programs throughout the United States as guest artist/clinician. He has recorded four critically acclaimed albums of progressive original music for the steel pan (and other instruments), was a winner of Trinidad's "Panorama National Steelband Championship" with the Exodus Steel Orchestra in 2004, and the 1st Prize winner of two out of three categories of Trinidad's "Symphony and Steel" composition competition.



A jazz musician at his core, he holds a masters degree in classical music performance, and is regularly commissioned by groups ranging from steel bands to symphony orchestras to choirs to compose original works, often involving the steel pan or steel band in some way.

He has been active in his home area of Seattle, Washington, USA, as a percussionist, including working on film soundtracks with musicians of the Seattle Symphony, drumming in the pit at Seattle's 5th Avenue and Paramount theaters, and drumming or playing vibraphone in numerous local jazz groups. He was on the faculty at Cornish College of the Arts, was a regular faculty at the Jazz Port Townsend summer jazz camp, and directs the steel band program at the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival. He also has directed steel bands in the Kent and Edmonds school districts, and the University of Washington steel band.

He established his Seattle-based non-profit steel band program, "Steel Magic Northwest," in 2016. It has grown to almost 100 members, and continues to grow.



Larkspur Percussion Duo (Lauren Molloy and Louis Raymond-Kolker) is a duo dedicated to presenting music for everyone. Their repertoire includes a wide range of transcriptions, arrangements, and newly composed music, and they have performed in all sorts of venues (at bookstores, coffeeshops, and even a grocery store!) – in addition to traditional concert venues

Most recently, they recorded Jonathan Scales' "The Questions Unanswerable" and Louis Raymond-Kolker's "Obsidian, White Tea & Ginger" at Avaloch Farm Music Institute with Blank House Media. Both of those recordings are available on YouTube, Bandcamp, Spotify, and other streaming services.

Presenters

Mr. **Gerion Williams** is a self-taught drummer who hails from the twin Island Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. He spent his childhood in Tunapuna, a small town in East Trinidad. It was here, from age 5, that he was sent by his parents to learn to play the steelpan. His first love however, was playing the drums which he practiced secretly. After 10 years of playing the pan however, he defied his parents' wishes and decided to follow his dream of becoming a world-class drummer. He continued to practice, publicly this time, and it was not long before his natural talent as a drummer was recognized. At age 15 his drumming prowess was realized by Ken 'Professor' Philmore, the then arranger for the Invaders Steel Orchestra, who gave him his first opportunity to play in the country's National Panorama Steelband Competition. While they did not win the competition that year, he has since won a beaver trick (4 back-to-back wins – 2016 to 2019) in the medium band category of the Panorama Competition with the Pan Elders Steel Orchestra.



By age 22, Gerion was recognized as one of the most prolific drummers in Trinidad and Tobago and became the official drummer for soca star Shurwayne Winchester's band – Y.O.U. His growth has been exponential and today, his is one of the most 'sought-after' names in the soca industry with many top artistes engaging him for the recording of live drums. He has performed both live and in studio with Maxi Priest, Machel Montano, Voice, Kees, Bunji Garlin, Fayann Lyons, Ricardo Drue, Destra Garcia and Nailah Blackman to name a few.

As a community service, Gerion began hosting monthly 'drum-shed' events where drummers from around the island would come together to share drumming techniques, ideas for the improvement of percussion education, and even teach interested persons the art of drumming. These events usually ended with a 'drum-off' where all the drummers would solo on a particular rhythm. The event was dubbed 'Drummerville' and as time went by, Gerion's peers fondly began to refer to him by the same name. Drummerville, the event, evolved into a community where drummers/percussionists in Trinidad and Tobago remain connected and continue to share opportunities, events, techniques and provide immeasurable support for each other.

In recent times, Gerion has been invited to speak on numerous podcasts and workshops to share his expertise on Panorama/Steelband drumming techniques including recommended equipment and gear. He is also a brand ambassador for the renowned KAW Drums in Trinidad and Tobago.

He also continues to be in great demand as a drummer for the national Panorama competitions in Trinidad and Tobago, where many bands vie for his expertise as their drummer of choice for the various categories of the many competitions.

Gerion is a patriot and today, even while he travels the world, performing at various carnival and steelband events including Miami Carnival, New York's Labor Day, Caribana in Canada and the many carnival celebrations across the Caribbean, his affinity to his beloved country remains deeply rooted in his being.

Presenters



CJ Menge's passion for building community through music has led to a diverse career as a steel pan performer, educator, and composer. He is a classically trained percussionist who has been playing steel pan professionally since 1992. He currently serves as Executive Director of Inside Out Steelband, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Menge co-founded professional steelband Bandandee-A in 1992 and renamed the group Inside Out Steelband in 1996, when he widened his vision to develop an Arts-in-Education program promoting the Trinidadian steel pan tradition in the greater Austin, Texas area. Since that time he has worked diligently to create a community of steel bands in Austin and Central Texas, many of which are year-round curricular school programs.

He founded the Inside Out Community Steelband in 2000, which extends the reach of Inside Out programs outside of schools and into the general population. This group currently includes 30 members of all ages. Menge has held long-term teaching artist or director positions with several school programs, including McCallum High School and Fine Arts Academy (Austin ISD), Sam Houston High School (San Antonio ISD), James Bowie High School (Austin ISD), KIPP Austin College Prep, KIPP Austin Collegiate, the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Covington Middle School (Austin ISD), Round Rock High School (Round Rock ISD), and the University of Texas at Austin. As a clinician, Menge has worked with steel bands of all levels (Pre-K, Elementary, Middle School, High School, Community, and University) throughout the United States and beyond.

CJ is recognized for his skill as a director of mass steel band performances and festivals, in which several steel band programs come together to present performances as one unified ensemble. He has been presenting mass steel band performances since 1997. The annual Inside Out Steelband Festival places students from multiple Austin schools together onstage, performing as a mass band alongside internationally recognized guest steel pan artists such as Liam Teague, Andy Narell, Ray Holman, Mia Gormandy-Benjamin, Leon "Foster" Thomas, Josanne Francis, Victor Provost, Jonathan Scales, Kendall Williams, and many others.

Menge has composed and arranged over 150 works for steel band. His works have been performed throughout the United States, and have been featured at national and international festivals. Many of his compositions and arrangements may be found at Boxfish Music Publishing, Inc. (www.boxfishmusic.com), a sheet music publishing company he founded in order to promote original music for steel band. Recent commissions include works for solo steel pan, steel band, timpani, and percussion ensemble.

Presenters

Carolyn Trowbridge is a steel pannist and multi-instrumentalist based in Austin, Texas. As a performer and recording artist, she has collaborated with musicians all over the world. Carolyn has been a featured artist for numerous bands in the Austin music scene, performing and recording with the Grammy-nominated Black Pumas, Adrian Quesada, renowned saxophonist Alex Coke, and Austin bands such as Star Parks, Hardproof, The Azmaris and more. Most recently, she performed with Adrian Quesada's Boleros Psicodélicos at the ACL Music Festival, which was also taped as a ACL TV broadcast on PBS. She leads and composes for her own neo-exotica instrumental group, Found Memories.

Carolyn began playing steel pan in 2003 at James Madison University where she received her Bachelor's in Music. In 2009 she received her Master's in Music at The University of Texas at Austin and has been involved in the Austin steel band and percussion community since. She has performed in Trinidad's Panorama, and has been involved with Tracy Thornton's Pan Rocks.

As an educator, Carolyn teaches percussion, piano, composition, improvisation, music theory, and assists the Inside Out Community Steelband. In 2018, her percussion ensemble from Walsh Middle School (Round Rock, TX ISD) was awarded as a winner of the International Percussion Ensemble Competition, and performed at PASIC.



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 19th 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.

Obe Quarless is a Trinidadian-American percussionist, performer, and music educator specializing in steel pan. Following a lineage of Trinidadian musicians, Obe promotes his family legacy and cultural heritage by pursuing his musical career in steelpan performance and education. Obe has performed internationally with world-renowned steel bands WITCO Desperadoes (Trinidad), Laborie Steel Pan (St. Lucia), and Pan Evolution Steel Orchestra (USA) and has made several guest appearances with secondary schools and universities around the country as a performer, drill master, and arranger.

Since 2023, Obe has been the steel band director at the nationally recognized Horace Mann School in Bronx, New York. Previous positions in the education sector include university admission counselor, academic advisor, and state program administrator, to name a few. Obe holds a Bachelor of Arts in music from Whitworth University and a Master of Music in steelpan performance from Northern Illinois University.



Conference Committee

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.

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 Cincy 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 EKU 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 Boogie 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



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 Maccsen—or listening to records, playing guitar, or watching basketball.

The Steel Times

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 serves as the Senior Editor of *The Steel Times*.

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.

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.

