

Kevin Sims

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EDUCATION

Künstlerische Ausbildung, Master of Music in Percussion Performance July 2008
Musikhochschule Freiburg, Germany

DAAD (German Academic Exchange Program) Scholarship 2006-2008
Awardee

Bachelor of Music in Percussion Performance May 2005
Manhattan School of Music, New York

Academic Exchange Program 2003-2004
Royal College of Music, London

SELECTED PERCUSSION STUDIES

Bernhard Wulff – Pedagogue, Conductor and Professor of Percussion
Musikhochschule Freiburg 2006-2008

Steven Schick – Soloist, Conductor, and Professor of Percussion
Manhattan School of Music 2004-2006

Christopher Lamb – Principal Percussionist, New York Philharmonic
Manhattan School of Music 2001-2005

James Preiss – former Percussionist, Steve Reich and Musicians; former Principal Percussionist, Brooklyn Philharmonic
Manhattan School of Music 2001-2005

SELECTED PERFORMING AND RECORDING

Composers Now Festival, percussionist
Performed with saxophonist/composer Dan Blake and others at Laguardia Community College, Queens (Sept. 2024) and National Sawdust, Brooklyn (January, 2024)

Between Breath Roulette (Brooklyn, NY, June 2024), solo percussion
Performed several solo works for composer Scott Wollschleger's album release show

Vagary Suite (Notice Recordings 2024)
Album of original improvised music with Moth Bucket, name Best Experimental Music by bandcamp.com November 2024

Yarrow Canon (Orb Tapes 2023)

Solo album of pieces for percussion. Performed, composed, recorded and mixed audio.

Fantasy on 'Item de Virginibus' (Orb Tapes 2024)

Duet for violin composed and performed by Du.O, after St. Hildegard. Served as recording engineer and producer.

Spherule: There Will Always Be Instruments (Orb Tapes 2023)

Trio album with guitarist Lucas Brode and saxophonist Patrick Shiroishi. Performed and co-engineered audio.

Ensemble Échappé, percussionist

Perform in the American Academy of Arts and Letters award concert, New York, NY 2022-present

Seegman's Woe, percussion solo by Scott Wollschleger

Outdoor premiere performance, State College, PA 2020

Battle Hymn of the Public (Orb Tapes 2020)

Solo project performing, composing, designing, and recording original compositions for percussion and electronics. Recorded and mixed in Aaronsburg, PA 2016-2020

Open Music, founder, director, performer 2012-present

Ongoing ensemble and concert series presenting original music and works by 20th and 21st century composers. Founded on principles of participation and experimentation found in the work of Cornelius Cardew, Asger Jorn, Pauline Oliveros, the AACM, and combining professional and amateur performers at every stage of the artistic process. Perform instrumental, electronic, and theatrical works by Peter Ablinger, John Cage, Pamela Z, Yoko Ono, Terry Riley, Samuel Beckett, Bertolt Brecht, Mulatu Astatke, Sun Ra, Leah Asher, Morton Feldman, Christian Wolff and others. Performances have taken place at Webster's Bookstore Cafe, The Workshop in Centre Hall, Bellefonte Art Museum, The Pajama Factory (Williamsport), The Bremen Town Ballroom (Millheim), The State Theatre, and at the Penn State School of Music.

Moth Bucket, experimental music duo w. James Searfoss 2015-present

Perform and record improvised and scored original music on percussion, electronics, found objects, and field recordings. Serve as recording co-engineer on recording projects. Recent releases include *Music for Around the House* (Lurker Bias 2020), *Music for Homemade Instruments* (Arachnidiscs Recordings 2018), and *The Rich Have Interchangeable Heads* (Flag Day Recordings 2018).

We Have Taken and Eaten, percussion monodrama by Scott Wollschleger and Abby Minor

Commissioned, premiered, and toured an evening length percussion monodrama exploring the origin stories of biblical Genesis and Thomas Hariot's *Narrative of the First English Plantation in Virginia*. Premiered in Millheim, PA in 2015, toured in 2016 at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock and the OK Electric Festival in Tulsa, Oklahoma. European premiere given as part of the 2018 NOW! Oper der Gegenwart (contemporary opera) festival in Graz, Austria.

Red Light New Music, founding member, soloist, and percussionist 2005-2015

Contemporary chamber music ensemble of composers and performers. Premiered and performed works by Brian Ferneyhough, Chaya Czernowin, Chris Cerrone, Ted Hearne, Scott Wollschleger, Nils Vigeland, Morton Feldman, John Luther Adams, John Cage, Erik Satie, Beat Furrer, and others. Released *Barbary Coast* (New Focus Recordings 2014), an album featuring works written for and premiered by the ensemble between 2009-2013.

Ensemble XII, founding member and organizer 2006-2013

Founded at the Lucerne Festival Academy in 2006, a twelve-person percussion ensemble in residency at the Lucerne Festival from 2007-2009. Premiered works by Liza Lim, Philippe Schoeller, Fritz Hauser, Johannes Fischer, and others at concerts and festivals in Switzerland, Austria, and Germany. In 2009, in residency at the University of California, San Diego recording *Pieces For Percussion* (hat[now]ART 2013), an album of works by Swiss percussionist and composer Fritz Hauser, conducted by Steven Schick.

ORGANIZING AND LEADERSHIP

Open Music 2012-present

Founder and artistic director of the ensemble and concert series. Oversee programming, fundraising, rehearsing, and promotions. Work has included concert music, avant-garde musical theatre, film, and performance.

Summer Programs for Youth 2013-present

Designed and taught music and art curriculum for youth of various ages in collaboration with other local artists and venues. Most recent installment was **DJs, Beats, Buttons, and Drums**, a hands-on electronic music summer camp for teens at 3 Dots Downtown in State College, PA.

Red Light New Music 2005-2015

Founding member and percussionist. From 2012-2015 co-directed the ensemble with three other performers. Duties included grant writing, programming, promotion, and artistic directorship, in addition to performing.

COLLEGE TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Lecturer, The Pennsylvania State University 2023-present

- Direct and design the new experimental music group Other Arts Ensemble. Other Arts is an open-instrumentation ensemble dedicated to the hands-on work of experimental music as embodied in the work of Sun Ra, Pauline Oliveros, Christian Wolff, the AACM and others. Students work in this ensemble as full collaborators on artistic, arranging, rehearsing, and performing decisions. Other Arts has performed works by Julius Eastman, Karlheinz Stockhausen, Sarah Hennies, Sun Ra, Brian Eno, and more.
- Co-design and teach Digital Audio Fundamentals, a class that introduces students to the basics of recording, mixing, and mastering audio, as well as making original electronic music through synthesis and sampling. Altered the existing syllabus to be more hands-on, to work like a studio art class where students can regularly engage with the material in a collaborative and supportive setting.
- Design and teach a 400/500 level special topics course titled Organizing Sound: Getting (and Keeping) the Band Together in 20th and 21st Century Music. This course looks at various non-institutional musical organizations throughout the last 100 years with a goal of understanding how these artists thought about the collaborative social landscape they needed to make their music. The course is both an alternative history that focuses on groups rather than individuals, and also an inspirational template for students who will soon be leaving the university and needing to make their own collaborative decisions for their musical lives.

Lecturer, Juniata College 2015-2023

- Teach percussion lessons for non-major students, including orchestral and rudimental snare drum technique, reading skills, two- and four-mallet keyboard technique and repertoire, rock, jazz, soul, and latin styles on drum set, and hand percussion.
- Develop curriculum for advancing students' percussion technique, musical awareness, and creativity.
- Advise students on designing and preparing a final performance each semester. Performances range from popular repertoire and written solos, to composing, arranging, or improvising original music, and sometimes included aspects of recording and editing audio.

Guest Artist, Manhattan School of Music 2006-2009

- In collaboration with Red Light New Music, presented for and worked with student composers on details related to writing for percussion and operating a contemporary music ensemble.
- As a soloist, oversaw a semester-long workshop on writing for percussion with Dr. Reiko Fütting's composition students. Guided composers on the process of instrument selection, notation, and performance practice. Project culminated in the performance of six student pieces.

STUDIO TEACHING EXPERIENCE

State College Concert Percussion Academy State College, PA 2020-present

- Private instruction to dedicated high school students on orchestral and rudimental snare drum, two- and four-mallet keyboard percussion, drum set, and timpani.
- Director and conductor of percussion ensemble.

The Music Academy State College, PA 2011-2023

- Private instruction to students of all ages on drum set, snare drum, keyboard percussion, and piano.
- Design and maintain a curriculum for percussion combining technical proficiency with a broad awareness of musical styles, ear training, and improvisation.
- Design and maintain a curriculum for piano geared towards developing general musicianship as well as technical proficiency.
- Founder, conductor, and coach of the Music Academy Ensemble, a chamber group of variable instrumentation for middle and high school students. This ensemble focused on chamber music skills, arranging, improvising, and the basics of recording and editing audio.

Private Studio 2008-present

- Instruction on percussion, including drum set, snare drum, keyboard percussion, as well as piano. Instruction designed to encourage creativity and hands-on experimentation with musical practice that includes improvisation, theory, and composition alongside instrumental skills.

MUSIC FESTIVALS

Penn State New Music Festival guest artist and performer with Open Music
University Park, PA 2023

XFest Massachusetts performer
Glen Spey, NY 2022

Rhoneymeade Festival co-host and performer w. Open Music and Moth Bucket
Centre Hall, PA 2021-present

Ballroom Sonics Festival w. Open Music and Moth Bucket
Millheim, PA 2018-2019, 2022

Flag Day Festival w. Moth Bucket
Phoenixville, PA 2019

NOW! Opera Festival soloist
Graz, Austria 2018

OK Electric Festival soloist
Tulsa, OK 2016

Schallmaschine Maximus residency w. Ensemble XII and Fritz Hauser
Basel, Switzerland 2013

Usinesonore Festival w. Red Light New Music
Bevilard, Switzerland 2010

Lucerne Festival Academy student and residency w. Ensemble XII
Lucerne, Switzerland 2006-2009

LANGUAGE SKILLS

German, advanced speaking, reading, and comprehension.

REFERENCES

Scott Wollschleger

Composer
Senior Production Manager, Schott Music New York
254 W. 31st Street, Floor 15
New York, NY 10001
scott.wollschleger@gmail.com | (212) 464-8807

Eric Cha-Beach

Percussionist and Composer, So Percussion
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Brooklyn, NY 11205
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Julia Kasdorf

Poet and Professor of English
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