

Elevating the Art of Percussion: Unleash Your Musical Odyssey

In the ever-evolving landscape of classical percussion, the past two decades have witnessed a breathtaking transformation. Gone are the days when percussionists were solely trained to blend seamlessly into the symphonic orchestra. Today, they stand at the forefront of a vibrant spectrum of artistic endeavors. From enchanting theater performances and captivating chamber music to the rhythmic magic of percussion ensembles, they ignite thrilling collaborations with visionaries in dance, visual arts, and the realm of DJing. These modern-day virtuosos embark on journeys across the globe, specializing in diverse styles like Japanese and African Percussion, tango, (jazz) improvisation, Contemporary- & Minimal Music and much more. Many carve their own path, birthing unique musical entities that captivate the performing arts world.

Welcome to the Percussion Department of the Fontys Academy of the Arts (FAA), where we elevate percussion education to a transcendent level. Our mission is to empower you to become a percussion maestro of unparalleled prowess. In the first two years, we forge an unshakable foundation, sculpting your technical finesse and nurturing your musical soul through solo and chamber music repertoires. But it's not just about mastering instruments; it's about discovering your true calling in the world of performance arts.

As you enter the third year, your artistic journey takes flight, guided by your unique passions. Here at the FAA, we believe in cultivating individual taste and style, allowing your main interest to flourish into a Master of Music degree. It's a program designed to set your career on an exhilarating trajectory.

Let's delve deeper into the captivating world of percussion at the Academy of the Arts:

Technique Beyond Mastery:

At the heart of being a remarkable percussion artist lies a rock-solid technical foundation. Whether you're tackling the snare drum, timpani, or mallet instruments, we prioritize one fundamental principle: relaxation. Your journey involves seamlessly weaving technical exercises into breathtaking performances, ensuring you're prepared for any musical challenge.

The Art of Sound:

As a percussionist, you're a creator of sound in its purest form. We'll guide you to extract exquisite melodies not just from vibraphones and snare drums, but from everyday objects like coffee cups or car bumpers. By immersing yourself in a rich tapestry of sounds and music from diverse cultures and eras, you'll refine your ability to discern good from exceptional sound. Our commitment to exposing you to live performances across genres will spark your creativity and broaden your horizons.

A Tapestry of Art Forms:

At our department, we encourage you to intertwine your core percussion skills with other art forms. By connecting with theater, dance, and visual arts, you'll infuse your performances with a unique energy and depth. A percussionist who has experienced the magic of theater, audio & visual opportunities, or the vibrancy of dance brings an unparalleled dimension to their art.

Mastering Your Craft:

Time is precious for a musician. We empower you to develop a personalized practice regimen that is not just thorough but incredibly efficient. Our aim is to equip you with the skills to swiftly and precisely prepare your parts, enabling you to handle a multitude of projects and adapt to ever-evolving demands.

The Power of Ensemble:

Music thrives when shared. At FAA, you'll collaborate in percussion ensembles during the initial two years. This immersive experience exposes you to a vast repertoire and the expansive world of percussion instruments. Most importantly, it introduces you to your fellow musicians. Together, you'll explore questions of creativity, problem-solving, and audience engagement, forging bonds that transcend the stage.

Crafting Your Musical Destiny:

Starting in the third year, your journey becomes deeply personal. Our curriculum embraces the concept of 'free choice,' empowering you to design a 30 EC's (=study points) program that aligns with your passions. This allows you to delve into specialized aspects of percussion and music, shaping your unique artistic identity. Our dedicated faculty, both internal and external, will provide unwavering support as you craft your own musical path.

The Symphony of Sound:

Sound is your canvas, and from the third year onward, it takes center stage. Whether you aspire to master the timpani or explore the boundless realms of electroacoustic music, sound becomes your muse. This journey leads to a heightened intensity in your lessons, sparking profound questions that propel your growth as an artist. Our teachers transform from masters to trusted confidants, guiding your evolution with insight, inspiration, and unwavering support.

Navigating the World Stage:

Becoming a successful percussionist demands more than just mastery of your craft; it requires astute self-management and entrepreneurial prowess. FAA not only hones your business acumen but also keeps you abreast of the latest trends and innovations in the percussion world. With masterclasses, collaborations, and internships, we ensure you're well-prepared for a successful career in the 21st century.

At our Fontys Academy of the Arts Percussion Department, we don't just nurture musicians; we forge exceptional artists who leave an indelible mark on the world stage. Our commitment is to provide you with the tools, knowledge, and inspiration to become a true luminary in the world of percussion.

Unleash your potential, and let your journey begin here, where the art of percussion reaches unprecedented heights.

Join us in shaping the future of music, one beat at a time.

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