

Benjamin Runkel

Percussionist
Educator
Composer

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BIOGRAPHY

Ben Runkel (b. 1986) is a versatile percussionist, educator, and composer who seeks to bring powerful experiences to his audiences through the percussive arts. A native of Naperville, Illinois, Ben was a winner in the WAMSO Young Artist Competition and has been a soloist with the St. Paul Civic Symphony, Windiana, Elkhart Municipal Band, Northern Indiana All-Star Band, and the Northern Illinois University Philharmonic. He has performed locally and internationally including Costa Rica, Millennium Park Chicago, Goshen College, Bethel College, Concord High School, and all across the United States as a member of the Madison Scouts and Blue Stars Drum and Bugle Corps.

Ben currently serves as the Adjunct Professor of Percussion at Goshen College and as the Percussion Specialist for Concord Community Schools in Elkhart, IN. Ben is also an Associate Faculty member of the Birch Creek Music Performance Center Percussion & Steel Band Session in Egg Harbor, WI, as well as a front ensemble instructor with the Blue Stars Drum And Bugle Corps.

Ben earned his Bachelor of Arts degrees in Music Performance and Music Education from Northern Illinois University's School of Music where his primary teachers were Greg Beyer, Robert Chappell, Rich Holly, and Rodrigo Villanueva. He is proud to endorse many fine percussion companies including Mapex and Majestic Percussion, Sabian Cymbals, Evans Drumheads, and Vic Firth Sticks and Mallets, and to be a member of the Percussive Arts Society where he currently serves on the Education Committee.