

# Benjamin Runkel

Percussionist  
Educator  
Composer

630.927.1330  
Runkel.Ben@gmail.com  
[www.benrunkel.com](http://www.benrunkel.com)

## EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts Degree in Percussion Performance** (2009)  
Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

**Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music Education** (2009)  
Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### **Front Ensemble Technician**

Blue Stars Drum and Bugle Corps, Lacrosse, WI (2015 to Present)

- Instructs the front ensemble for pre-season weekend camps and the 2016 summer tour

### **Adjunct Professor of Percussion**

Goshen College (2015 – Present)

- Coordinates and instructs private lessons for all percussion majors
- Organizes, maintains and updates percussion instrument inventory

### **Percussion Section Coach**

South Bend Youth Symphony Orchestra (2013 – Present)

- Directs percussion sectionals in preparation for each concert series
- Orchestrates and rearranges parts for various instrumentations
- Performs with the students on select concerts

### **Percussion Specialist**

Concord Community Schools (2009 – Present)

- Full-time percussion instructor for grades six through twelve
- Instructs five percussion techniques courses daily
- Developed a comprehensive percussion curriculum for all grade levels
- Arranges for and instructs multiple ensembles: Percussion Ensemble, World Percussion, Marching Band, Concert Band, Winter Drumline
- Organizes, maintains and updates percussion instrument inventory
  - Wrote a proposal and successfully replaced the entire front ensemble equipment in 2015
- Creates fundraisers and events that have raised over \$10,000 for the percussion program
- Created the annual percussion show, "Groove!"
- Awards/Honors for Concord Percussion while under my direction
  - Performing group in the Macy's 2013 Thanksgiving Day Parade
  - Class B State Champions (2011)
  - Class B State Runner-Up (2013 and 2014)
  - Featured Drumline for the Indiana All-Star band in the 2013 Indy 500 Parade

## *Teaching Experience continued...*

### **Front Ensemble Technician**

Madison Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps, Madison, WI (2008)

- Directed the front ensemble for pre-season rehearsal camps and five weeks of tour

### **Associate Faculty**

Birch Creek Music Performance Center, Percussion and Steel Band Session (2007 – Present)

- Directs student ensembles in preparation for eight concerts each session
- Teaches master-classes on timpani, percussion accessories, snare drum, and marimba
- Featured on Wisconsin Public Television's broadcast about Birch Creek conducting student groups in concert
- Perform in the faculty ensemble for students and public

### **Percussion Instructor**

Amos Alonzo Stagg High School (2007 – 2009)

- Arranged for and instructed the drumline for the competitive season

Naperville Central High School (2006 – 2009)

- Arranged for and instructed the front ensemble for the competitive season
- Arranged "In the House of Tom Bombadil" for percussion ensemble for their annual "Drumshow"

### **Private Lesson Instructor** (2005 – Present)

- Teaches weekly individual lessons to percussion students
- Prepares students for Solo and Ensemble contest and college auditions

## **PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE**

### **Solo Concerto**

*Stubernic Fantasy*, by Mark Ford with Windiana Wind Ensemble (2015)

*Concerto for Drumset and Concert Band* with the Northern Indiana All-Star Band (2015)

*Percussion Concerto*, by Joseph Schwantner with the Elkhart Municipal Band (2013)

*Der Gerettete Alberich*, by Christopher Rouse with the St. Paul Civic Symphony (2010)

*Veni, Veni, Emmanuel* by James MacMillan with the Northern Illinois University Philharmonic (2008)

### **Recitals**

Goshen College, Solo Faculty Recital (2016)

Goshen College, Afternoon Sabbatical (2014)

Goshen College, Christopher Fashun Faculty Recital (2013)

Concord Community High School, Solo Faculty Recital (2013)

Nappanee Missionary Church, Holiday marimba recital (2012)

Bethel College, Guest performer/speaker for Chapel (2011)

Northern Illinois University, Senior Recital (2008)

Northern Illinois University, Junior Recital (2007)

## *Performance Experience continued...*

### **Orchestral Experience**

#### Section Percussionist

- South Bend Symphony Orchestra (2013 – Present)
- Elkhart Symphony Orchestra (2010 – Present)
- Kishwaukee Symphony Orchestra (2005 – 2009)

#### Principal Timpanist

- Alfred Publishing Studio Orchestra (2008 – 2010)
- Northern Illinois University Philharmonic (2006 – 2008)

### **Other Select Ensemble Experience**

“My Sinatra,” Off-Broadway Frank Sinatra tribute show (2015)

Goshen Community Chorale, Percussionist for the Spring concert (2015)

Indiana University South Bend Ensemble Concept/21 (2014)

“Inuksuit,” by John Luther Adam’s, South Bend, IN (2015) and Chicago, IL (2012)

Madison Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps, Front Ensemble (2006)

Blue Stars Drum and Bugle Corps, Snare Drum (2005)

Northern Illinois University Percussion Ensemble (2004 – 2008)

- Featured performance at the Costa Rica Festival Internacional De Ensamblas De Percussion (2009)
- Featured performance at the IMEA conference in Peoria, IL (2007)

Northern Illinois University Steel Band (2004 – 2007)

- Featured performance of “Wood and Steel” with the Chicago Sinfonietta at the Chicago Symphony Center (2006)

## **RECORDINGS**

### **Connection Worship** – “*Ever Yours*” (2015)

- Drumset on multiple tracks of the album
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### **Connection Worship** – “*Without Borders*” (2014)

- Drumset on multiple tracks of the album

### **Connection Worship** – “*Songs of the Unashamed*” (2013)

- Drumset on multiple tracks of the album

### **Oneway Ministries** – “*Shine*” (2009)

- Drumset on “*Brand New Day*” track
- Album has been distributed overseas and all across the world

### **Keslinger** – “*Self-titled*” (2008)

- Drumset on the full-length album
- All original music compositions including the orchestral piece, “*Prologue*”

### **Kerri Sherwood** – “*As it is*” (2004)

- New York singer-songwriter with fifteen albums to her credit
- Recorded percussion on the instrumental album, “*As it is*”

## SELECT ARRANGING EXPERIENCE

### **Marching Percussion Ensemble Arrangements**

- Concord Community High School, Elkhart, IN (2009 – Present)
- Sandwich High School, Sandwich, IL (2014)
- Plymouth High School, Plymouth, IN (2011 – 2013)
- Hazel Park High School, Hazel Park, MI (2008)
- Amos Alonzo Stagg High School, Palos Hills, IL (2007- 2008)
- Naperville Central High School, Naperville, IL (2006 – 2009)

### **Commissions**

- Wisconsin Youth Symphony Percussion Ensemble, “*Stayin’ Alive*” (2013)
- Orlando Cotto, “*Marimba Transcriptions*” (2013)
- Keslinger, “*Prologue*” for chamber orchestra (2008)

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

### **Percussive Arts Society** (2004 – Present)

- Member of the Education Committee for the 2015 to 2021 term

## CORPORATE SPONSORS

**Sabian Cymbals** – Performing Artist Endorsement (2014 – Present)

**Evans Drumheads** – Performing Artist Endorsement (2014 – Present)

**Mapex and Majestic Percussion** – Performing Artist Endorsement (2013 – Present)

**Vic Firth Sticks and Mallets** – Performing Artist Endorsement (2009 – Present)

## AWARDS

**Finalist** – WAMSO Young Artist Competition (2009)

**Deans Award** – Northern Illinois University’s College of Visual and Performing Arts (2009)

**Concerto Competition Winner** – Northern Illinois University (2008)

**Sally Stevens Arts Scholarship** – Honor bestowed annually by the faculty to a rising senior student who exhibits academic and artistic excellence (2008)

**Full Tuition Dollar Award** – Full tuition scholarship to attend Northern Illinois University (2004-2009)

## REFERENCES

Dr. Christopher Fashun, Assistant Professor of Music  
Hope College – Music Department  
319-400-9073  
fashun@hope.edu

Dr. Gregory Beyer, Head of Percussion Studies  
Northern Illinois University - School of Music  
815-753-7981  
gbeyer@niu.edu

Robert Chappell - Distinguished Teaching Professor  
Northern Illinois University - School of Music  
815-753-7973  
rchappell@niu.edu

Ben Wahlund, Grammy Nominated Composer/Percussion Educator  
Black Dog Music Studios, Naperville Central High School, Birch Creek Music Performance Center  
630-464-0576  
bwahlund@hotmail.com

Jim Catalano, Product Manager  
Ludwig-Musser Drums and Percussion  
574-329-1923  
vibonation@aol.com