

MICHAEL COMPITELLO, PERCUSSIONIST

Associate Professor of Percussion, Arizona State University
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Positions

Arizona State University, Associate Professor of Percussion *Tempe, AZ (2022-present)*

Arizona State University, Assistant Professor of Percussion *Tempe, AZ (2020-2022)*

Studio instruction, chamber music coaching, seminars at undergraduate and graduate level.
Coordinate enrollment and registration for studio of 35 percussionists. 95% job placement since appointment.

Manage percussion ensembles, coordinating placement and faculty coaching responsibilities

Supervise percussion faculty, teaching assistants, and student workers

Logistical and production management for events on- and off-campus

Primary academic advisor for graduate students, Honors College Advisor

Creighton University School of Medicine, Humanities Instructor *Phoenix, AZ (2021-present)*

Teach “Drumming Cultures of the World” as part of medical humanities program.

University of Kansas, Assistant Professor of Percussion

Lawrence, KS (2015-2020)

Studio instruction, chamber music coaching,

Percussion area coordinator, and manager of percussion inventory

Cornell University, Director of Percussion

Ithaca, NY (2012-2015)

Coordinated undergraduate chamber music program

Directed the Cornell Steel Band, West African Drum and Dance Ensemble, and Cornell

Percussion Group.

Studio instruction

Supervised maintenance and organization of percussion instrument collection

Avaloch Farm Music Institute, Assistant Director

Boscawen, NH (2015-2022)

Curated residency season with >100 ensembles per year

Production and technological manager

Managed budget with Artistic Director

Education

Yale School of Music, New Haven CT

DMA, Percussion Performance, 2016

Teaching assistant in Hearing, 20th century music history

Research area: oral performance practice in works of Kagel, Stockhausen, Lachenmann

Yale School of Music, New Haven, CT

MMA, Percussion Performance, 2012

Teaching assistant in percussion area

Outstanding student award

Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst, Frankfurt, Germany
Fulbright Study Grant, 2009-2010
Research Project: Ensemble Modern and composer/performer collaboration

Yale School of Music, New Haven, CT
MM, Percussion Performance, 2009

Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD
BM, Percussion, 2007
BA, American History, 2007
Teaching assistant for History of Rock and Roll, percussion area assistant

Ensemble Work

New Morse Code, percussionist (2011-present)
Duo with cellist Hannah Collins dedicated to bold and engaging performances of contemporary music and long-term collaborations with composers and artists. More information at newmorsecode.com.
2021 Ariel Avant Impact Performance Grand Prize Winners
2015 Chamber Music America Showcase Ensemble
2014 Chamber Music America Classical Commissioning Grant
2014 Concert Artists Guild Competition Finalists

Selected Residencies and Guest Artist Performances: Dayton ArtsLive, Newman Center, Lied Center, Virginia Arts Festival, Furman University, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Princeton University, Cornell University, Yale University, UMass Amherst, Catholic University of America, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music

The Percussion Collective (2017-present)
Ensemble made up of alumni of the Yale School of Music
Selected Performances:
Chamber Music performance at Kennedy Center
Soloist with Colorado Symphony, Phoenix Symphony
Residencies at University of Nebraska, University of Texas, New York University

MikeDrop Duo (2017-present)
Percussion duo with Mike Truesdell focused on theatrical performances and wide-ranging repertoire.
Selected Performances:
Pharos International Contemporary Music Festival (Cyprus), Cornell University, Ithaca College

Cortona Collective (2017-present)
Faculty ensemble in residence at Cortona Sessions for New Music (Cortona, Italy)

Published Albums/Audio Recordings

<u><i>The Language of Landscapes</i></u>	2024
New Morse Code (Hannah Collins, cello; Michael Compitello, percussion) performs work by Christopher Stark. Released on vinyl and digitally on Bandcamp	
<u><i>Lost and Found</i></u>	2023
Chamber and solo music by composer Robert Honstein, released on New Focus Recordings	
<u><i>Unsnared Drum</i></u>	2021
Solo album of new works for snare drum, released on New Focus Recordings	
<u><i>Driving While Black</i></u>	2021
New Morse Code with Roberta Gumbel. Original Cast Recording of Susan Kander's chamber opera, released on Albany Records	
<u><i>Empty Shell Girl</i></u>	2020
EP of works by Amy Beth Kirsten	
<u><i>George Lam: The Emigrants</i></u>	2020
New Morse Code, released on Bandcamp and all streaming platforms Documentary chamber work focused on interviews with musical emigrants.	
<u><i>Flux, Vol. 33.: IMAGE</i></u>	2019
New Morse Code with Sarah Frisof, flute, released on Navona Records.	
<u><i>Vanitas</i></u>	2019
Music by Matthew Barnson, released on innova Recordings	
<u><i>And All the Days Were Purple</i></u>	2019
Music by Alex Weiser, released on Cantaloupe Records 2020 Pulitzer Prize Finalist	
<u><i>Simplicity Itself</i></u>	2017
New Morse Code with Katie Hyun, violin and Timo Andres, piano. Released on New Focus Recordings.	
<u><i>Prayers Remain Forever</i></u>	2014
Music by Martin Bresnick released on Starkland Records, ST-221	
<u><i>Inuksuit</i></u>	2013
Debut recording of John Luther Adams' work for 9-99 percussionists performing outdoors, released on Cantaloupe Music, CA21096	

Published Video Recordings

I strive to publish video recordings on the YouTube channels and web platforms of significant arts organizations, in order to maximize reach beyond what my own channels might provide.

<u><i>Lost and Found</i></u>	2023
Marimba solo released by Vic Firth Inc on their YouTube channel (620k subscribers)	
<u><i>Hannah Lash: Start.</i></u>	2021
Snare drum solo released by Pearl Drums	
<u><i>Nina C. Young: Heart.throb.</i></u>	2021
Snare drum solo released by I Care if You Listen	
<u><i>Tonia Ko: Negative Magic</i></u>	2021
Snare drum solo released by ScoreFollower	
<u><i>Amy Beth Kirsten: Ghost in the Machine</i></u>	2021
Snare drum solo	
<u><i>Susan Kander: Driving While Black</i></u>	2020
Chamber opera released by Opera Omaha and Baruch Performing Arts Center.	
<u><i>Thomas Kotcheff: Then and Then and Then This.</i></u>	2020
Cello/percussion duo released and by Classical Post.	
<u><i>Tonia Ko: Blue Skin of the Sea</i></u>	2019
Marimba solo released by Vic Firth, Inc (517,000 subscribers)	
<u><i>Iannis Xenakis: Psappha</i></u>	2019
Percussion solo released by Vic Firth, Inc	
<u><i>Georges Aperghis: Retrouvailles</i></u>	2019
Percussion duo released digitally by I Care if You Listen.	
<u><i>Caroline Shaw: Limestone and Felt</i></u>	2018
Cello/percussion duo released by Vic Firth, Inc	
<u><i>Oswaldo Golijov: Mariel</i></u>	2018
Cello/percussion duo released by Vic Firth YouTube channel	
<u><i>Mark Applebaum: Aphasia.</i></u>	2018
Solo performer released by Second Inversion	
<u><i>Robert Honstein: Down Down Baby</i></u>	2017
Cello/percussion duo released and promoted by Vic Firth, Inc	
<u><i>David Lang: Stuttered Chant</i></u>	2018
Cello/percussion duo released by <i>I Care if You Listen.</i>	
<u><i>Caroline Shaw: Boris Kerner</i></u>	2017
Cello/percussion duo released by I Care If You Listen	
<u><i>Tonia Ko: Hush</i></u>	2017
Cello/percussion duo released by Vic Firth, Inc	
<u><i>Robert Honstein: Patter</i></u>	2017
Cello/percussion duo released by Vic Firth, Inc	

Selected Other Performances: Solo/Concerto/Chamber

Phoenix Symphony Orchestra	2024
Concerto soloist with Percussion Collective	
Reclaimed Timber	2024
Southwest tour with Chicago-based percussion ensemble Beyond This Point	
Music Instrument Museum (Phoenix, AZ)	2023
Reverb Concert Series (Phoenix Symphony, Phoenix AZ)	2023
Downtown Chamber Series (Phoenix, AZ)	2022
<i>Unsnared Drum</i> Album Release (Tenri Cultural Institute, New York, NY)	2021
Nief-Norf Summer Marathon (virtual)	2020
Colorado Symphony Orchestra	2020
Concerto soloist with Percussion Collective	
<i>Tribeca New Music</i> (New York, NY)	2019
University of Kansas Wind Ensemble	2018
Percussive Arts Society International Convention	2017
Solo performance as part of curated event focusing on new works	
Percussive Arts Society International Convention	2015, 2016, 2017,
Invited individual showcase concert, other solo performances as part of conference activities.	2018, 2019
<i>Breath, Contained</i>	2015
Interdisciplinary installation and musical composition by composer-artist Tonia Ko with Sandbox Percussion	
Bartok Sonata with the Cornell Symphony Orchestra	2014
Bartók's Sonata for Two Pianos, Percussion, and Orchestra, with Xak Bjerken, Miri Yampolsky, Ji Hye Jung, and the Cornell Symphony Orchestra. (Ithaca, NY)	

Masterclasses/Presentations

Colorado State University	2025
Toolbox International Creative Academy	2023
The Juilliard School	2022
University of Kansas	2022
Boston Conservatory	2022
Longy School of Music	2022
University of Denver	2022
Old Dominion University	2022
Arizona Day of Percussion	2021
UMass Amherst	2021
Baylor University	2021

Boston Conservatory	2021
George Mason University	2020
University of North Carolina, Greensboro	2020
Southern Oregon University	2020
Western Carolina University	2020
The Juilliard School	2020
Vanderbilt University	2020
Truman State University	2019
University of Central Missouri	2019
Missouri Western State University	2018
Cleveland State University	2018
Kent State University	2018
Arizona State University	2018
Ithaca College School of Music	2017
University of Pittsburgh	2016
Furman University	2015
University of Tennessee, Knoxville	2015
Catholic University of America	2015
Austin Peay State University	2014

Selected Commissions

*: Compositions I premiered

New Morse Code (cello/percussion duo):

*Andy Akiho: <i>Pyroxene</i>	2022
Premiered March 29, 2022	
*Florent Ghys: <i>November Foxtrot</i>	2019
Premiered January 14, 2020	
*David Crowell: <i>Cathersis</i>	2018
Premiered January 14, 2020	
*George Lam: <i>The Emigrants</i>	2018
Supported by Queens Council on the Arts	
Premiered December 10, 2018	
*Thomas Kotcheff: <i>then and then and then this</i>	2018
Premiered June 30, 2018	
*Susan Kander: <i>Driving While Black</i>	2018
Premiered March 5, 2018	
*Sam Suggs: <i>Origen Jaw</i>	2017
Premiered June 30, 2018	
*Robert Honstein: <i>Down Down Baby</i>	2016
Premiered October 4, 2016	
*Matthew Barnson: <i>Vanitas</i>	2015

Premiered February 20, 2018	
*Robert Honstein: <i>Unwind</i>	2015
Premiered September 20, 2016	
*Christopher Stark: <i>The Language of Landscapes</i>	2014
Premiered November 2, 2015	
*Caroline Shaw: <i>Boris Kerner</i>	2012
Premiered November 20, 2012	
*Tawnie Olson: <i>Les Voyelles</i>	2013
Premiered November 10, 2013	
*Paul Kerekes: <i>Trio in Two Parts</i> , for marimba, cello, and piano	2013
March 7, 2013	

Solo Percussion:

*Thomas Kotcheff: <i>Obbligato Snare Drum Music No. 1: The Power of Love</i> , for Solo Snare Drum and Playback	2021
Premiered March 3, 2021	
*Hannah Lash: <i>Start</i> , for Solo Snare Drum	2017
Premiered February 14, 2019	
*Nina C. Young: <i>Heart.Throb</i> for Solo Snare Drum	2017
Premiered February 14, 2019	
*Amy Kirsten: <i>Ghost Sketch</i> , for Solo Snare Drum	2017
Premiered February 14, 2019	
*Tonia Ko: <i>Negative Magic</i> for Solo Snare Drum	2017
Premiered October 15, 2019	
*Robert Honstein: <i>Lost and Found</i> , for marimba solo	2017
Premiered September 22, 2019	
*Tonia Ko: <i>Blue Skin of the Sea</i> , for marimba solo	2014
Premiered February 1, 2015	
*James Wood: <i>Secret Dialogues</i> , for marimba solo	2014
Premiered March 7, 2015	
*Amy Kirsten: <i>Empty Shell Girl</i> , for marimba solo	2014
Premiered March 14, 2014	
David Crowell: <i>Celestial Sphere</i> , for marimba and electronics	2013

Percussion Ensemble:

Christopher Theofanidis: <i>Drum Circles</i> (concerto for percussion quartet and orchestra, commissioned by the Percussion Collective).	2019
*Alejandro Viñao: <i>Stress and Flow</i> (percussion quartet with electronics, commissioned by the Percussion Collective).	2018
Premiered May 9, 2019	
Garth Neustadter: <i>Seaborne</i> (percussion sextet, commissioned by the Percussion Collective).	2018

Publications

The Creative Snare Drum Workbook

In Progress

Accepted for publication by Liquidrum Publishing (boutique publishing firm) for Fall 2025. Method book for percussionists focused on integrating creativity and improvisation into daily practice

Professionalizing Your Practice

2025

Percussive Notes 63.3

Article on linkages between professional development and musical facility for Percussive Arts Society's peer-reviewed publication

Lessons from Long-Term Collaboration

2023

Percussive Notes 61.6

How-to guide for performer/composer collaboration for Percussive Arts Society's peer-reviewed publication

What to Practice Before You Practice

2023

Percussive Notes Rhythm Scene, January 2023

Drumming up New Music, Second Inversion

2018

First in a series of four articles for contemporary music website Second Inversion about creative collaborations and the snare drum.

<https://www.secondinversion.org/2018/11/27/michael-compitello-unsnared-drum/>

Summer Residency Snapshots, New Music Box

2016

A four-part series for NewMusic Box documenting and profiling creative collaborations between composers and performers at Avaloch Farm Music Institute.

4) *Where Trust Meets Productivity* (August 25, 2016).

<http://www.newmusicbox.org/articles/summer-residency-snapshots-where-trust-meets-productivity/>

3) *Into the Workshop* (August 18, 2016).

<http://www.newmusicbox.org/articles/summer-residency-snapshots-into-the-workshop/>

2) *The Composer/Performer Mind Meld* (August 11, 2016).

<http://www.newmusicbox.org/articles/summer-residency-snapshots-the-composerperformer-mind-meld/>

1) *Lessons in Dynamic Collaboration* (August 4, 2016).

<http://www.newmusicbox.org/articles/summer-residency-snapshots-lessons-in-dynamic-collaboration/>

Work in Progress/Submitted Proposals

Language of Landscapes Hub

2020-Present

Michael Compitello, PI. The Language of Landscapes Hub (LoL Hub) is a multi-media public digital resource designed to encourage action on climate change through engaged and collective observation and communication. The LoL Hub synthesizes field recordings, collectively recorded and performed music, interviews with humanities scholars and scientists, and community activity models generated by musical ensemble New Morse Code and participants in a number of community engagement activities throughout the US.

Work in Progress

- Collaboration with faculty in ASU School for Earth and Space Exploration on integrating field recording and music composition into SES 202, “Biology of a Changing Earth” (2025-present)
- Project with Barrett Honors Undergraduate Thesis to build out ArcGIS framework for LoL Hub (2025-present)
- Humanities Institute Seed Grant (in prep)
- National Endowment for the Humanities revision and resubmission (in prep)

Applications Submitted

- Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg Artist in Residency Program (2024)
 - Artist in residence at interdisciplinary science fellowship program
 - Not selected
- Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity Leighton Artist Residency Program (2025)
 - Two-week competitive international residency to develop composition around LoL Hub materials
- Arizona Commission on the Arts: Arizona State Parks Artist in Residency (2024)
 - Artist in residence at AZ State Parks
 - Not selected
- Grant Proposal: National Endowment for the Humanities Digital Projects for the Public (2024)
 - PI for \$100,000 grant application with ASU faculty in Humanities, Earth and Space Exploration, and Music to support development of Language of Landscapes Hub, an online resource focused on community engaged musical performance and composition.Not selected.
- Ariel Avant Impact Performance Prize (2021)
 - \$20,000 towards supporting residency period at Indiana University and concert engagements with presenters across the United States. This tour formed the core of LoL Hub’s field recording database.

Soundscape Imaginaries

2024-present

Daniel Galfallin, Steve Zuiker, co-PIs. Interdisciplinary project encouraging civic engagement on environmental justice by inviting youth to explore how sound can ignite ecological imagination.

Work in Progress

- Pilot program at Phoenix Bat Cave with students from Arizona School for the Arts planned for Fall 2025

Proposals Submitted

- “Exploring Local Soundscapes for Long-Term Ecological Engagement.” ASU Humanities Institute Seed Grant (2024). Not Selected.

SciDance

2024-present

Lekeilia Jenkins, PI. Music director and co-author for National Geographic-funded project exploring efficacy of dance interventions on receptivity to scientific data about endangered Sea Turtles. Dance Intervention with community members completed in March 2024.

Work in Progress

SciDance Findings (Jenkins, Compitello, et. al): in prep

A Performer's Guide to Learning

2023-Present

Book project focused on interdisciplinary learning practices for performing musicians

Work in Progress

- Proposal currently submitted with at Routledge
- Sample chapter completed

Next November

2020-present

Sophomore Album for cello/percussion duo New Morse Code, featuring new commissions for cello, percussion, electronics, and video.

Work in Progress

- **All works except for one recorded, mixed, and mastered**
- Contract signed with New Focus Recordings for release

Proposals Submitted

- Aaron Copland Fund for Music: Recording Program (\$8,000): Under review

Awards/Grants/Research Funding

Banff Centre for the Arts Leighton Artist Fellowship	2025
International residency program supporting creation of new work for cello and percussion	
ASU Design and Arts Corps Collaborative Course Engagement Grant	2025-
\$650 Grant to support programming between Arizona School for the Arts and ASU Percussion Studio	2026
National Endowment for the Humanities Digital Projects for the Humanities	2024
PI for \$100,000 grant application with ASU faculty in Humanities, Earth and Space Exploration, and Music to support development of Language of Landscapes Hub, an online resource focused on community engaged musical performance and composition.	
Not awarded.	
Herberger Institute Research Building Initiative	2023
Grant of \$5,000 from Arizona State University to fund commissioning of	

cello/percussion work by Andy Akiho

Institute for Humanities Research Publication Development Grant \$6,000 award from Arizona State University to support publication of performers guide to works for solo snare drum.	2022
New York Foundation for the Arts City Artist Corps Grant of \$5,000 to fund live performances in New York City. Collaborated with composer Nina Young on album release event at Tenri Cultural Institute around <i>Unsnared Drum</i>	2021
Herberger Institute Research Building Initiative Grant of \$5,000 from Arizona State University to fund completion of solo percussion album.	2021
Ariel AVANT Impact Performance Award Award supporting programming and commissioning around the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Prize includes five-city concert tour, \$20,000 in fees, and \$10,000 to commission new works from Andy Akiho and Viet Cuong.	2020
New Music USA Project Grant Co-Recipient of a grant to fund a musical residency in Kansas' Lansing Prison. Projects are selected from a national pool by committee.	2018
University of Kansas General Research Fund Grant for \$5,350 to fund recording of four significant new works for solo snare drum from highly esteemed American Women. General Research Fund grants are competitive within the University and awarded based on merit of the project and feasibility.	2018
New Faculty General Research Fund, University of Kansas Grant for \$7,942 to commission and record four significant new works for solo snare drum, composed by highly esteemed American women. New Faculty General Research Fund monies will be used to fund commissioning fees for these new works, the critical first step in a larger CD recording project. Funding period is 2017-2019	2017
Chamber Music America Classical Commissioning Program Award of \$10,000 to support new work for cello, percussion, and electronics by Christopher Stark	2014
Cornell Council for the Arts Independent, competitive grant-giving organization funding interdisciplinary projects by Cornell students and faculty through competitive annual applications.	
▪ <i>Breath, Contained</i> : \$2240 grant supporting interdisciplinary exhibition/concert featuring works for amplified bubble wrap and percussion.	2014
▪ <i>Dramas, Games</i> : \$3000 grant to fund concert exploring the overt and implicit theatricality of the post-war German avant-garde	2013

- *Nukporfe*: \$1960 to fund a series of collaborations between Cornell's World Drum and Dance Ensemble and Binghamton University's African Dance Drumming group. 2012

Service/Committee Work:

Black Swamp Percussion Ensemble Contest Judge	2025
Judged national high school percussion ensemble competition	
Aaron Copland Fund for Music: Committee Member for Performance Program	2024
Refereed applications for funding from long-standing foundation for over 200 ensembles, opera companies, and professional choirs	
Arizona MusicFest: Solo Competition Judge	2025
Judge for regional high school chamber music competition	
Avaloch Farm Music Institute: Application Adjudicator	2020-present
Worked with application committee to determine admission status for over 300 applications for music residency program in New Hampshire.	
Percussion Area Coordinator	2020-present
Music Business Search Committee Member	2023
Herberger Institute HIDA Day Curation Committee Member	2022
Barrett Honors College Faculty Advisor	2022-present
Popular Music Search Committee Member	2022
Sound Engineer Search Committee Member	2021
HIDA Day Planning Committee Member	2021-2022
Percussive Arts Society Keyboard Committee	2021-present
Percussive Arts Society New Music/Research Committee	2015-2020
University of Kansas New Music Committee	2017-2020
University of Kansas Honors Recital Committee	2017-2020
Avaloch Farm Music Institute Board Member	2015-present

Student Mentorship

DMA Thesis Advisor and Committee Chair

Arizona State University

- Matthew Sandridge (DMA '27)
- Maria Petropoulos (DMA '27)
- Christopher Goulet (DMA '25)
- Tony Kirk (DMA '24)
- Morgan Sutherland (DMA '24)
- Kemi Chen (DMA '24)
- Daniel Barsetti-Nerland (DMA '24)
- Tyler Wales (DMA '21)
- Egha Kusuma (DMA '21)

University of Kansas

- Ryan Pearson (DMA '20)
- Luke Helker (DMA '22)
- Fofo Tsai (DMA '16)

MM Thesis Advisor and Committee Chair

Arizona State University

- Nathan Hossenlop (MM '26)
- Eric Saroian (MM '26)
- Evan Kirschbaum (MM '24)
- Angelita Ponce (MM '23)
- Christopher Goulet (MM '22)
- Justin Kang (MM '22)

University of Kansas

- Alexander Alfaro (MM '20)
- Jackson Graham (MM '19)
- Theodore Musick (MM '18)
- Graham Deckard (MM '17)
- Matthew Ernster (MM '16)
- Taylor Long (MM '16)
- Alex Betsold (MM '16)