Brant Roberts
Percussionist, Educator

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A. Educational Background

Doctor of Musical Arts in Percussion Performance and Literature — 2025
The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Cognate: Music Education
Dissertation: World Percussion Applications for Studio Percussion Teachers

Masters of Music in Percussion Performance *summa cum laude*
Rutgers University, The State University of New Jersey — 2018

Bachelor of Science in Music Education s*umma cum laude*
Indiana University of Pennsylvania — 2014

B. University Teaching Experience

Collegiate Experience

University of Illinois-Springfield, Springfield, IL
Adjunct Instructor of Percussion/Drums — Fall 2023-Present

- Teach private percussion lessons & percussion studio
- Implemented student recruitment; exceeded goals each year
- Maintain percussion equipment
- Serve on juries across instrumental areas
- Perform in faculty groups

Faculty Recital:
Date Night with The World of Percussion
UIS Performing Arts Center — February 29th, 2024

University of Louisville, Louisville, KY
Part-Time Lecturer in Music & Music Education — Fall 2022-May 2024

- Taught percussion methods & intro to music study courses
- Served on the music education committee
- Managed percussion education budget (≈$2,000)
- Oversaw new student mentorship program

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL
Drum set instructor for Unit One — 2023-2024

- Artist-teacher of drum set/percussion
- Taught a variety of musical styles, including pop, rock, hip-hop, jazz, Afro-beat, & Latin
- Fall 2023/Spring 2024, Ranked Excellent by Students Review
- Implemented student recruitment program, exceeded class capacity each semester

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL
Teaching Assistant of Latin American Ensemble/
Fellow for Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies — 2022-2023, 2024-2025

- Co-creator/leader of the ensemble
- Teaching Artist and Consultant for Center for Latin-American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS)
- Pioneered connection between CLACS/Music Dept.
- Obtained funding for 25% TA position
- Performed and arranged music from Central/South America, The Caribbean, and Spain
- Fall 2022/Spring 2023, Ranked Excellent by Students Review
- Sang & taught songs in Spanish

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL
Graduate Teaching Assistant in Percussion — 2021-2022

- Taught percussion lessons & percussion methods courses
- Repaired & maintained studio equipment
- Administered departmental announcements, percussion moves, inventory, and rentals
- Directed & conducted percussion ensemble
- Fall 2021/Spring 2022, Ranked Excellent by Students Review

Rutgers University, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ
Co-adjunct Lecturer in Percussion — 2015-2017

- Taught percussion lessons & percussion methods courses

- Redesigned curriculum for this position
- Repaired & maintained studio equipment
- Administered departmental announcements, percussion moves, inventory, and rentals
- Directed & conducted percussion ensemble

Precollege & Youth Education

Illinois Summer Youth Music, Urbana-Champaign, IL
Percussion Staff 2023-2025

Percussion Staff for Junior and Senior Concert Band/Orchestra — Responsible for running auditions, sectionals, and technique classes and assisting during ensemble rehearsals for junior and senior concert bands.

Rutgers Community Arts, New Brunswick, NJ
Percussion faculty 2018-2021

Rutgers Youth Percussion Ensemble — Director of Rutgers Youth Percussion Ensemble. Conductor and artistic director of the ensemble responsible for scheduling concerts, outreach, and directing the ensemble.

Montgomery High School, Montgomery, NJ
Percussion ensemble director and faculty 2017-2020

Percussion Ensemble, Group Lessons, Marching Percussion Director — Created and directed Montgomery High School Percussion Ensemble. Performed a yearly concert as part of a chamber music series. Conducted bi-monthly group lessons with four levels of percussion groups. Instruction consisted of creating advanced skills in orchestral performance for Montgomery High School students. Director and composer of marching band percussion sections and music.

C. Arts Administration Experience

Turn Around Series, Urbana, IL
Co-Artistic Director 2023-present

Turn Around Series seeks to bring together Urbana residents through an ongoing series of house concerts and related events that focus on the many forms of recent and historical Urbana-based musical creativity, including music performance, composition, improvisation, theatrical works, and more. Responsibilities as co-artistic director include concert programming, promotion, social

media management, publications, coordinating guest artist schedules/hospitalities, and grant writing.

Grant Applications:

Urbana Arts Grant	2024
Illinois Arts Council Grant	2024

Publicity:

Smile Politely E-Magazine	Sept. 2023
Sonorities, Music Magazine of The University of Illinois	Winter 2024

D. Orchestral Experience

Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra, Champaign, IL, section percussion	2020-present
Sinfonia da Camera, Urbana, IL, acting principal timpani & percussion, section percussion	2020-present
Danville Symphony Orchestra, Danville, IL, principal timpani	2020-present
Bravura Philharmonic, Princeton, NJ, principal timpani	2017-2020
Bound Brook Opera Company, Bound Brook, NJ, principal percussion	2018-2019
Garden State Philharmonic, Ocean County, NJ, principal timpani	2017-2019
Altoona Symphony Orchestra, Altoona, PA, section percussion	2014
Westmoreland Symphonic Winds, Greensburg, PA, section percussion	2009-2010

Auditions for Professional Orchestras:

Peoria Symphony Orchestra, Peoria, IL	2023
Lafayette Symphony Orchestra, Lafayette, IN	2021
Symphony in C, New Brunswick, NJ	2019
Bravura Philharmonic, Princeton, NJ	2017

Collegiate Ensembles:

University of Illinois Symphony Orchestra, Urbana, IL, principal timpani/percussion	2020-2022
Rutgers University Symphony Orchestra, New Brunswick, NJ, principal percussion	2015-2017
Rutgers University Wind Ensemble, New Brunswick, NJ, principal timpani	2015-2017
Indiana University of PA Wind Ensemble, Indiana, PA, section percussion	2011-2014

E. Chamber Music Experience

Turn Around Series, Urbana, IL	2024-present
University of Illinois Percussion Ensemble, Champaign, IL	2020-2023
Ohm Duo, Flute and Percussion Duo, New Brunswick, NJ	2017-2018
Rutgers University Helix! Contemporary Music Ensemble, New Brunswick, NJ	2015-2018
Rutgers University Percussion Ensemble, New Brunswick, NJ	2015-2017
Indiana University of Pennsylvania Percussion Ensemble, Indiana, PA	2010-2014

Jazz, Pop, & World Music Experience

University of Illinois Latin-American Ensemble, Teaching Assistant, percussionist	2022-2024
University of Illinois Latin-Jazz Ensemble, Champaign, IL, conga player, percussionist	2021-2022
Rutgers Afro-Cuban Ensemble, New Brunswick, NJ	2015-2018
Indiana University of Pennsylvania Jazz Ensemble, Indiana, PA, drummer	2010-2014

Musicals:

A Little Night Music	2022
Cabaret	2017
Nunsense, Amen!	2015
Jesus Christ Superstar	2015
Beauty and the Beast	2014
Godspell	2013
1776	2013

F. Other Musical Employment

Central Illinois Youth Chorus, percussionist	2021-present
University of Illinois, Dance Department, dance accompanist	2021-present
University of Illinois, Lyric Theater, percussionist/timpanist	2022-2024
New York Percussion Service, studio manager and driver	2018-2021
Martha Graham Dance Company, NYC, NY, staff musician	2018- 2020
Paterson Music Project, Wharton Arts, Berkeley Heights, NJ, percussion director	2018-2019
Peridance Studios, NYC, NY, substitute dance accompanist	2018
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, dance accompanist	2016-2020

G. Music Compositions

"Chronic Translation" choreography by Sojung Lim 2024
Link: https://vimeo.com/942493099/027ec33be3
US Premier: February 8th, 2024

"blOck it oUT" choreography by Chaley Santiago 2022
Link: https://vimeo.com/1051557667/cb4d59719f
US Premier: October 15th, 2022
European Premier: January 25th, 2025

"Raison d'être" choreography by Rachel Calabrese 2019
Link: https://youtu.be/TZVidOX5Ty0?si=Dc-ZkYKXdoVYJBq

H. Awards, Festivals, Presentations

College Music Society Presentations:
Attended:
Great Lakes Conference 2025
Paper Talk: Female Composer Experimentalism in Recent Percussion Works

Selected for Best Student Presentation Award

North-East Conference 2025

Recital: Female Composer Experimentalism in Recent Percussion Works

Invited:

Northwest Conference 2025

Paper Talk: Female Composer Experimentalism in Recent Percussion Works

New Music on the Point, Emerson Wahl "So Good" Memorial Fellowship Recipient 2024,2025

Ball State University, electronic music concert series, invited soloist 2024

Composer's Forum Presentation, University of Illinois "Turn Around Series" 2024

Midwest Graduate Music Consortium, participant 2024

New Music Gathering, contemporary music conference Portland, OR, soloist 2023

Krannert Debut Artist Competition, finalist 2023

Presentation: Percussion Accompaniment for Modern Dance, University of Illinois 2022

Nief-Norf Contemporary Music Festival, performer 2017-2018

Mason Gross School of the Arts Chamber Music Contest Winner 2017

- Ohm Duo performing Gareth Farr *Kembang Suling*

Zeltsman Marimba Festival, performer 2014, 2015, 2018

Undergraduate Scholar's Forum, Indiana University of Pennsylvania 2014

- Presentation: "The Marimba/Vibraphone Duo: History and Evolution"
- Awarded Overall Best Presentation in College of Fine Arts

Undergraduate Scholar's Forum, Indiana University of Pennsylvania 2013

- Presentation: "Performing on the Marimba: From Bach to Abe"

Delta Omicron Solo Competition, first runner-up, marimba, Indiana, PA 2013

I. Language Skills

Introductory level of Mandarin Chinese

- Completed 4 Modules of Pimsleur Mandarin Chinese (60hours)

J. References

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Ricardo Flores, Associate Professor of Percussion
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Dr. Javier Diaz, Part-Time Lecturer, Percussion
The Juilliard School & Rutgers University
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Dr. Guido Alejandro Sánchez-Portuguez, Assistant Professor of Guitar and Theory
Director of The University of Illinois Latin-American Ensemble
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