

Meehan/ Perkins Duo

Since its founding in 2006, the Meehan/ Perkins Duo (Todd Meehan and Doug Perkins) has redefined the American percussion duo through its diverse commissions and engaging performances. The Duo has been called “exuberant” by the New York Times, “superb young players” by the New Yorker, and “gifted percussionists” by the Wall Street Journal. Dedicated to creating a new body of work for the percussion duo genre, to date the Duo has collaborated with composers David Lang, Paul Lansky, Tristan Perich, John Supko, Nathan Davis, Jonathan Leshnoff, Alex Wroten, Scott Lindroth, and Matt McBane to expand the repertoire and produce eclectic new acoustic and electro-acoustic works for percussion. The Duo has shared this music with audiences throughout the country, including performances at Weill Recital Hall, MoMA, the Bang on a Can Marathon, (le) poisson rouge, the Ojai Music Festival, the Yellow Barn Music Festival, the International Festival-Institute at Round Top, the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, and abroad in Russia, Brazil, and Mexico.

The Meehan/ Perkins Duo uses Vic Firth sticks and mallets, Pearl/Adams drums and keyboards, Black Swamp Percussion accessories, Remo drumheads, and Zildjian cymbals.

Artist Bios

Todd Meehan currently serves as Associate Professor of Percussion at the Baylor University School of Music. He joined the faculty in 2003 and was honored with Baylor University’s 2010-2011 Outstanding Faculty Award in Teaching. His performance endeavors are focused on the creation of new music for percussion. In this capacity he has commissioned works from Paul Lansky, David Lang, Charles Wuorinen, Alejandro Viñao, Tristan Perich, John Supko, Matt McBane, and Jonathan Leshnoff, among others, and has presented numerous premieres for solo and chamber percussion.

Todd began his professional life as a founding member of So Percussion, a group called “consistently impressive” by the New York Times and “astonishing and entrancing” by Billboard. During his tenure with the group, Todd worked with composers Steve Reich, David Lang, Evan Ziporyn, and James Wood, among others. He can be heard on So Percussion’s debut, self-titled album released on Cantaloupe Records in 2003.

As an orchestral musician, Todd has performed throughout the United States, Europe, and Japan, including performances under conductors Christoph Eschenbach, Michael Tilson Thomas, Gunther Schuller, Robert Spano, Myung Whung Chung, and Peter Oundjian. He has performed with the Austin Symphony Orchestra, the Austin Lyric Opera, and is an alumnus of the Pacific Music Festival and the International Festival-Institute at Round Top. He currently serves as Principal Timpanist of the Waco Symphony Orchestra.

Notable performance credits include multiple appearances at the Bang on a Can Marathon, the BAM Next Wave Festival, Miller Theater's Composer Portrait Series, the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, the International Festival-Institute at Round Top, and several Percussive Arts Society International Conventions. Additionally, Todd has performed live on WNYC's New Sounds Live hosted by John Schaefer. As a chamber musician he has performed alongside members of the Vienna Philharmonic, the London Symphony Orchestra, and the Tokyo String Quartet. Todd has recorded on Cantaloupe Music, New World Records, Bridge Records, and Arizona University Recording's Contemporary Composer and Performer Series. Todd received his Doctor of Musical Arts and Bachelor of Music degrees from the University of Texas at Austin, and his Master of Music degree from Yale University. He also pursued non-degree studies at DePaul University. His principal teachers include Robert van Sice, George Frock, James Ross, and Michael Green.

Todd Meehan plays [Vic Firth Drumsticks and Mallets](#), [Pearl/ Adams Musical Instruments](#), and [Black Swamp Percussion accessories](#), [Remo Drumheads](#), and [Zildjian Cymbals](#).

Doug Perkins specializes in new works for percussion as a chamber musician and soloist. His performances have been described as "terrific, wide-awake and strikingly entertaining" by the Boston Globe and he has been declared a "percussion virtuoso" by the New York Times. He has appeared at countless venues around the world including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Spoleto USA Festival, the Ojai Festival, and the World Expo in Lisbon, Portugal.

Commissioning and collaborating to create new works is important to Doug. He has commissioned and premiered nearly 100 pieces and regularly works with composers David Lang, Steve Reich, Paul Lansky, John Luther Adams, Christian Wolff, Nathan Davis, Larry Polansky, and Tristan Perich. He founded the percussion quartet So Percussion and the Meehan/ Perkins Duo and performs regularly with groups like Signal, eighth blackbird, and the International Contemporary Ensemble. He has also had the privilege to work with artists like Glenn Kotche, Matmos, Max Roach's M'Boom, the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, and pianist Jeremy Denk.

Doug's critically acclaimed recordings as a soloist, conductor, producer, and member of the Meehan/ Perkins Duo and So Percussion can be heard on the Bridge, Cantaloupe, New Focus, and New World labels. They have been called "brilliant" by the New York Times, named to numerous Top 10 of the Year lists, and the recording that he produced and performed with the Meehan/ Perkins Duo, "[Restless, Endless, Tactless: Johanna Beyer and the Birth of American Percussion Music](#)", was hailed as "immaculately played by the duo" by the BBC Music Magazine and "an engaging experience" by Gramophone. Fanfare Magazine perhaps best sums up the recording by stating "This is a must-hear for anyone remotely interested in the development of music in the past century and is strongly recommended." Doug's solo record, [Simple Songs](#) was just released in October on [New Focus Recordings](#).

Lately, Doug has been organizing large-scale percussion events that encourage a sense of community and new ways of experiencing live music. His production of Iannis Xenakis' *Persephassa* in and around Central Park Lake and John Luther Adams' *Inuksuit* in New York City were named Top Ten Performances in 2010 and 2011 by the New Yorker, New York Magazine, and Time Out NY. Alex Ross called *Inuksuit* at the Park Avenue Armory, "one of the most rapturous listening experiences of my life".

Doug is the Director of the Chosen Vale International Percussion Seminar at the Center for Advanced Musical Studies and serves with eighth blackbird as an Artist-in-Residence at the University of Chicago. Additionally, he served on the faculty of Dartmouth College where he taught percussion and directed the Contemporary Music Lab and the concert series The Way to Go Out.

Doug received his Bachelor's degree from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Master's and Artist Diploma degrees from Yale University, and his Doctorate from Stony Brook University. His principal percussion teachers were Jack DiIanni, Jim Culley, and Robert Van Sice.

He performs with [Vic Firth Drumsticks and Mallets](#), [Pearl/ Adams Musical Instruments](#), and [Black Swamp Percussion accessories](#), [Remo Drumheads](#), and [Zildjian Cymbals](#).