



THIRD COAST PERCUSSION: Drums in the Concert Hall

Art Form: Music

*Culture: North-American, South-American,
European, and African influences*

Technical Needs

- ❑ Performance space must be no less than approximately 200 sq ft in size. Auditoriums, assembly rooms, gymnasiums, and large classrooms are appropriate.

For shows in larger rooms and auditoriums:

- ❑ 1 Microphone w/stand*, PA system for amplification*
*these items can be supplied by artist if necessary

Meet the Artists

Praised by Time Out Chicago for their "chops, polish, and youthful joy in performing," Third Coast Percussion effortlessly combined the energy of a rock concert with the finesse of classical chamber music. This Chicago-based group has swiftly gained national attention with their performances at the Kennedy Center and the Chicago Cultural Center, as well as their concert and festival appearances in Florida, California, Texas, and throughout the Chicago-land area. With repertoire and influences ranging from traditional and contemporary classical music, world music traditions, and popular music, Third Coast Percussion is as dynamic and diverse as the musical landscape of the 21st century.

Equally dedicated to education and exposure to the arts, the ensemble has worked with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago's *MusiCorps* program and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra / University of Chicago's *CONNECT* program in addition to their work with Urban Gateways in presenting educational and outreach programs to primary and secondary schools throughout Chicago and the greater Illinois area.

Members of Third Coast Percussion hold degrees in music performance from Northwestern University, the Yale School of Music, the New England Conservatory,

and Rutgers University. In addition to their own performance activities, members also hold teaching positions at Northeastern Illinois University, Trinity International University, Northwestern University, and Libertyville and Fremd High School's in IL.

About the Performance

Goals: To introduce audiences to the instruments of percussion, their history, and how they all come together to create the music of a modern percussion ensemble.

Performance Description: Third Coast Percussion's exciting educational program introduces an eclectic array of musical styles including orchestral music, military drumming, ragtime, and world music, and shows how all of these genre's have come together in contemporary chamber music for classical percussion. This interactive performance teaches students about the many different types of percussion instruments and demonstrates how these instruments have been used in different time periods and cultures throughout the world. Through a performance and discussion format involving active audience participation, students are offered a unique, engaging, hands-on experience as they learn about the extraordinary and diverse world of percussion music.

Performance Outline:

- I. Performance – *Away Without Leave* by Bob Becker**
- II. Introduction (speaking)**
 - a. Introduce members of group
 - b. What is percussion?
 - c. Introduce Instruments used in *Away Without Leave* (short performance demonstrations)
- III. Performance – *The Down Fall of Paris***
- IV. Orchestral Percussion / Classical Music (speaking)**
 - a. Introduce new Instruments (short performance demonstrations)
 - b. Ask for volunteers!
 - c. Discuss percussion in an Symphony Orchestra (European)
 - d. Introduce the role of conductor
- V. Performance W/ VOLUNTEERS– *Orchestral Percussion***
- VI. Melodic Percussion (speaking)**
 - a. Introduce keyboard percussion
 - b. Marimba and Xylophone (short performance demonstrations)
 - c. Ragtime / Novelty Music
- VII. Performance – *Ragtime Robin* by G.H. Greene**
- VIII. World Music / Hand Drumming (speaking)**
 - a. Introduce Percussion instruments you play with only your hands (no sticks) and where around the world they are from. (short performance demonstrations)
 - b. Discuss and demonstrate sounds you can make with your hands on instruments
- IX. Performance – *Ghanaia* by Matthais Schmidtt**
- X. Closing Discussion (speaking)**

- a. All the instruments and all the styles of music from around the world and across time come together to create the music of a percussion ensemble
- b. **Open forum for questions from audience**

XI. Performance / Finale – *Ritual Music* by David Skidmore (ca. 4 min.)

Contextual Information

Third Coast Percussion is a classical music ensemble that performs music composed exclusively for percussion instruments. The ensemble also draws heavily upon non-western and popular music styles from around the world, including music from a variety of historical contexts.

Third Coast Percussion offers an engaging introduction to classical music and the wealth of influences and styles associated with this tradition. The group also brings a unique perspective from their work with living composers who are writing the classical music of the future.

Vocabulary

Rhythm – the patterns that drive the music. The first few seconds of Queen “We Will Rock You” is all about the rhythm.

Pitch – how high or low a sound is. A squeaking mouse is the highest kind of sounds, the rumble of thunder is the lowest kind of sound.

Tempo – how fast or slow the music is.

Marimba – a percussion instrument with made of wood that has pitches just like a piano.

Djembe – a drum that comes from Africa that is played with the hands.

Crotales – small metal discs that produce a very high sounds. They have pitches, just like a piano.

Additional Resources

- ❑ Ensemble Website: www.thirdcoastpercussion.com
- ❑ Myspace page: www.myspace.com/thirdcoastpercussion