



SHARPE WORLD MUSIC

Art Form: Music

Style: Symphonic Percussion

Culture: Global

Technical Needs

- ❑ Electrical outlets
- ❑ A level performance space 15' x 15' or larger
- ❑ A flat cart for unloading and loading (if possible)

Meet the Artist

Tom Sharpe is an internationally recognized award-winning composer, percussionist, pianist, and recording artist. He is a graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy and holds M.M. and B.A. degrees in music from DePaul University. Along with his own works, Tom is also the touring drummer for Dennis DeYoung, the legendary singer/songwriter/pianist from the famed rock group, STYX.

Tom's professional awards include winning the grand prize for world music in composition from the John Lennon Songwriting Contest and the Broadjam World Music competition. He has also received outstanding achievement awards in composition from VH1, the USA Songwriting Competition, the Great American Songwriting Contest, and Disc Makers. Along with Urban Gateways, the Yamaha Corporation of America, Vic Firth Sticks and Mallets, and the Illinois Arts Council professionally endorse Tom.

Recent national performances of Tom's work include the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, the NAMM Show in Anaheim, the Nashville New Music Conference in Nashville, and the Yamaha National Percussion Festival in Indianapolis. Tom also embraces the Chicago metropolitan community by performing at area universities and colleges, including DePaul University, Benedictine University, Elmhurst College, Robert Morris College and Harper College. He was featured in the PBS special "Arts Across Illinois." Tom has

provided the live soundtrack for Dance Chicago's World Rhythms and Dance series, International Rhythms series, and Grand Finale at the Athenaeum Theatre in Chicago, as well as performed on stage. He premiered his first symphony with his ensemble and the Elmhurst College Choir in April of 2007. Tom is dedicated to motivating and inspiring students, and is a sought out clinician, performer, and artist-in-residence. For more information on Tom visit his website at www.tomsharpe.com.

About the Performance

Sharpe World Music is **Tom Sharpe** is a classically trained musician who dramatically blends his orchestral background with world music instrumentation and an exciting visual style. His performance creates an experience that invites the listener into the heart of the musical moment – wildly emotional and technically precise, with a gutsy edge of percussive frenzy and tribal ritual.

Weaving together powerful elements of sound and rhythm, Tom's performance leaves the audience wondering exactly what he is going to do next, while knowing that it will most likely be something unlike they have ever seen. Seamlessly blending genres from the Middle East, Africa, Western classical music, popular music and performance art, Tom moves between traditional instrumentation and electronics with ease and precision. Tom performs his original works, demonstrates musical techniques and discusses his life as a performing artist. Students will leave energized, amazed, and inspired!

Contextual Information

The nature of music can be a widely varying, beautiful, emotional experience that is well-defined by its various genres. **Classical Music** is primarily a *written* musical tradition, preserved over time in formal music notation, as opposed to being transmitted orally, by rote, or in recordings. Though particular performances of classical music are recognized, it is the written music that transcends any one particular performance. Normally, classical musicians gain their abilities of music reading and performance through formal training.

Classical music is meant to be experienced for its own sake, unlike other forms of music that serve merely as a vehicle for poetry or other lyrical content. In a performance of classical music, the audience is expected to remain silent, so that everyone can hear each note and nuance. Classical compositions aspire to a very complex relationship between the emotional content of the music and the idea content.

In almost direct contrast, **Popular Music**, in a broad sense, means any sort of music intended for mass consumption, enabling an inclusive, rather than

exclusive audience. Though there is a more specific sub category called pop music, popular music can include rock, country, rhythm and blues, gospel, or any number of styles that were widely popular in their time.

World Music is a general term covering all music that is not part of popular music or classical music, and has some kind of ethnic component. It is often referred to as popular, folk, or traditional music from the third world, or European popular and folk music influenced by third world countries.

Performance Art is where the *performance* constitutes the work. It can be any situation that involves the four basic elements of time, space, the performer's body, and a relationship between the performer and audience.

As we gain access to more and more communication devices, our world is becoming smaller. Travel is easier, and sending music through the internet is now standard practice. The mutual influence of artists is now more comprehensive than ever. This has created a new phenomenon called the **Crossover Artist**: musicians from everywhere enriching and influencing musicians from everywhere, and genres are blended to create this new and exciting form of artistic discipline.

Vocabulary

Chinese Cymbal: A thin metal plate 12 to 22 inches in diameter. Usually suspended on a stand and struck with a stick or mallet. The Chinese Cymbal differs from other types of cymbals in that the rim has been turned upward, which creates the "trashy" effect that has made this a popular cymbal.

Doumbek: A goblet or hourglass shaped finger drum used in Arab, Persian, Balkan and Turkish music. Its thin, responsive drumhead and resonance help it produce a distinctively crisp sound. It is of ancient origin.

Drum Machine: An electronic device containing a sequencer that can be programmed to arrange and alter digitally stored drum sounds.

Drum Trigger: An electronic drum, pad, or device that activates a sound or a pattern from a drum machine.

Electronic keyboard: An electronic instrument simulating many features of the piano in look, feel, and sound. First created by means to make a portable piano, modern electronic keyboards are now equipped with a full library of sounds, including pianos, orchestral instruments, percussion, voices, and ethnic instruments.

Gunghroos: Traditional leg bells from India, generally worn for the classical dances Bhratanatyam and Kathak, in which there is a lot of foot stomping.

Klong Yaw: A large hourglass shaped drum native to Thailand, where their unique shape and sound adds an authentic character to the religious music of the Buddhist temples. They traditionally produce a very deep low when struck in the center, with a higher-pitched basic tuning and a rope tension system, which gives them an even more unique and mysterious sound.

Maraca: A rattle made from a dry gourd filled with seed. When the maraca is shaken, the seeds rattle against the inside of the gourd, making a hissing or rattling sound.

Mark Tree: Many small chimes – typically cylinders of solid metal, varying in length, and mounted hanging from a bar. The chimes are played by sweeping a finger or stick through the length of the hanging chimes. They are mounted in pitch order to produce rising or falling glissandos.

Piano: A keyboard instrument in which the keys make hammers strike strings, causing them to sound. Its name is an abbreviation of the original name Pianoforte, Italian for “soft-loud”, referring to the fact that the player can produce softer or louder tones by varying the finger pressure on the keys – a feature not present in either of the pianos predecessors, the harpsichord or the clavichord.

Polyrhythm A term in which two or more rhythms or meters are performed simultaneously.

Tambourine: A shallow drum consisting of a head that is stretched over a wooden hoop strung with metal plates. When the drum is struck, rubbed or shaken, the metal plates come in contact with each other, creating a jingling sound. Instruments similar to the modern day tambourine have been used since ancient times.

Tam Tam: Similar to a Gong, yet without specific pitch. A large metal disk having a shallow rim, generally struck near the center with a mallet. Struck softly, its sound is mysterious. Struck with more velocity, it has a crashing effect. The tam tam has a long sustaining decay.

Tar (or Frame Drum): A drum consisting of a shallow cylinder with a membrane stretched tightly over one end, usually played with the fingers and hands as opposed to a stick or mallet.

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