

Greg Beyer – Percussionist

Hailed a “fine percussionist” in The New York Times and second prize winner of the 2002 Geneva International Music Competition, Gregory Beyer has given solo performances and masterclasses throughout the world. A contemporary music specialist with significant experience in contemporary, orchestral, jazz and world music, Beyer melds the multiple disciplines of 21st Century percussion into a singular artistic voice.

Of primary importance to him is his project, ARCOMUSICAL – an endeavor that involves ethnomusicological research about, and the composition and commission of new works for, the *berimbau* - an Afro-Brazilian musical bow instrument. Festival appearances include multiple iterations of PASIC and SEAMUS, CrossDrumming (Warsaw), RICMA (Buenos Aires), Beijing Modern Music, The Stone (NYC), and multiple performances in São Paulo and Bahia, Brazil. His berimbau sextet, “Bau House,” has premiered five new works in as many years and has performed at PASIC 2009. His own compositions, *Bahian Counterpoint* (2002) and *Vou-me embora* (2006) have garnered multiple performances, prizes and positive reviews.

Beyer is a founding member of the flute/percussion duo, DUE EAST, a group that has performed throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Brazil and China. The duo is dedicated to the advancement of virtuosic contemporary music for flute and percussion, and it won first prize in the 2008 National Flute Association Chamber Music Competition. DUE EAST’s first recording, *Simultaneous Worlds*, is available on Albany Records. Their second release, *drawn only once*, is available on New Amsterdam Records.

Beyer is a member of the Chicago-based new music ensemble, Dal Niente. Additional chamber music activities include performances and/or recordings with Third Coast Percussion, Sō Percussion, Eighth Blackbird, Present Music, CUBE, ICE, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Speculum Musicae, NewBand, Sequitur, and the S.E.M. Ensemble.

An Associate Professor of Percussion at Northern Illinois University, Greg Beyer directs the Percussion Ensemble (performed at PASIC in 2009), New Music Ensemble, and Latin Jazz Ensemble. He endorses Bosphorus cymbals, Innovative Percussion sticks and mallets, Pearl/Adams percussion instruments, and Evans Drumheads.

Beyer is currently serving as President of the Illinois Chapter of the Percussive Arts Society.

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