

JOHN ALEXANDER SMITH

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EDUCATION

Doctorate of Musical Arts, Michigan State University (ABD spring 2017)

- Primary Professor: Prof. Gwen Dease.

Masters of Arts in Musicology, Michigan State University (2015)

- Thesis Title: “Reconnecting the Music-Making Experience: Avenues for Sustainability and Musical Artistry in Academic Percussion.”
- Thesis Adviser: Dr. Michael Largey.

Masters of Music in Percussion Performance, Michigan State University (2015)

- Primary Professor: Prof. Gwen Dease.

Bachelors of Music in Percussion Performance, East Carolina University (2010)

- Primary Professor: Dr. Jon Wacker.

NON-DEGREE STUDY AND RESEARCH

African Foreign Languages Initiative; Gainesville, FL (June 2016-July 2016)

- Studied the Ghanaian language Akan Twi with a Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship through MSU’s Center for Advanced Study of International Development.
- The intensive program included two two-hour lectures a day and three two-hour conversations a week among other activities and events.

Independent Study; Medie, Ghana (July 2012)

- Ethnographic research supervised by Bernard Woma.
- Studied gyil performance, Ewe drumming, and other Ghanaian styles.
- Began collecting data for my current research project entitled *Saving the Songwood: Global Consumption, Sustainability, and Value of Ghanaian Gyil*.

Independent Study; Recife, Brazil (Dec 2008-June 2009)

- Ethnographic research supervised by Dr. Jonathan Wacker.
- Completed project entitled *The Afro-Brazilian Musical Traditions of Recife, Pernambuco*.
- Emphases included the music and traditions of Candomblé, maracatu, afoxé, côco, and forró.

Study Abroad; Recife, Brazil (Feb 2008-July 2009)

- Completed exchange at the Universidade Federal de Pernambuco.

Drum Corps International; Allentown, PA (2005-2006)

- Marched as a tenor drummer with the Crossmen Drum and Bugle Corps.

UNIVERSITY WORK EXPERIENCE

Michigan State University

- *Teaching assistant in the area of percussion* (2015-Present)

- Instructor of MUS 173: Class Percussion I and MUS 174: Class Percussion II.
- Coach of percussion ensembles.
- Instructor of non-major lessons.
- Organized 2015 tour through Michigan.
- Serve as principal player in large ensembles.
- *Teaching assistant in Musicology* (2014-2015)
 - TA for IAH 241A: Music of Africa and the Diaspora and IAH 208: Global Pop.
- *Teaching assistant for the MSU Spartan Marching Band Drumline* (2013-Present)
 - Instructor, composer, and arranger for Dr. Jon Weber.
 - Coordinated the purchase of Brazilian Alfaias and assisted with show design components for the maracatu production of our *Latin Is America* show (November 25, 2014 and January 1, 2015).
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NdoHMLCrPGg>
- *Teaching assistant in the area of percussion* (2012-2014)
 - Instructor of MUS 173: Class Percussion I and MUS 174: Class Percussion II.
 - Coach of percussion ensembles.
 - Instructor of non-major lessons.

East Carolina University

- *Instructor for the ECU Marching Pirates Drumline* (2010)
 - Led sub-sectional and full ensemble rehearsals.
 - Managed and repaired equipment.
- *Founder, director, and arranger for the ECU Brazilian Ensemble*

PERFORMANCE (* = Premiere)

Solo/Chamber

Third DMA Solo Recital; East Lansing, MI (Spring 2017)

- **Crossroads* by Alexis Bacon
- *String Quartet No. 5* by Béla Bartók and arranged by Alice Pan
- **La Ventana de mi Imaginación* by Gabriel Rivera
- **The Building of Asgard* by Alex Smith

Arts Chorale of Greater Lansing; East Lansing, MI (Dec 2016)

- Percussionist for the Arts Chorale's Christmas concert.

Second DMA Solo Recital; East Lansing, MI (April 2016)

- *Hop(3)* by Paul Lansky
- *Prelude from Cello Suite No. 5 in C minor* by J. S. Bach
- *Torse III* by Akira Miyoshi
- *Duo Gringo* by Jon Weber
- **ugaeLnag* by Alex Smith
- *Quilyan* by John Luther Adams
- **One-Minute Speeches* by Alex Smith
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QTlbf34I3bo>

DMA Chamber Recital; East Lansing, MI (Dec 2015)

- *Fazendo som* arranged by Alex Smith of traditional maracatu music
- *Um quarto é mais* by Alex Smith
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5CQT5s0jWo8>

- *Traditional Candomblé Music* arranged by Alex Smith
 - *Six Marimbas* by Steve Reich
 - *Toccata Joropo* by Claudia Calderon and arranged by Dr. Jon Weber
- First DMA Solo Recital; East Lansing, MI* (Nov 2015)
- *Rebonds A and B* by Iannis Xenakis
 - *Ligare* by Alexandre Lunsqui
 - <https://vimeo.com/129388135>
 - **Cotton Gindustrial* by Alex Smith
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nG0aN1imzso>
 - *Polygon* by Philip Rice and Patrick Bonczyk
 - **Flowering* by Olin Clark
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nG0aN1imzso>
 - *Doxy* by Sonny Rollins
- McCormick Marimba Festival; Tampa, FL* (Feb 2015)
- *Performance with the MSU Percussion Ensemble of *Toccata Joropo* by Claudia Calderon, arr. Dr. Jon Weber.
- Los Bandidos; East Lansing, MI* (Jan 2013-Present)
- Founding member of the percussion sextet based out of MSU.
 - Performances at PASIC 2013, McCormick Marimba Festival, Port Huron Northern High School, and in Cheboygan, MI.
- Vanishing Borders; Lansing, MI* (Aug 2014)
- Recorded music for marimba, pandeiro, rebólo, and berimbau by Dr. Ricardo Lorenz used in a documentary about immigration in the USA by Alexandra Hidalgo.
 - <http://vanishingbordersfilm.com/>
- MSU Broad Art Museum; East Lansing, MI* (April 2014)
- **Polygon* by Philip Rice and Patrick Bonczyk
- Second Master's Recital; East Lansing, MI* (April 2014)
- *Cello Suite No. 4 in Eb major* by J. S. Bach
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eB8j9JcFohg>
 - *Rancho Jubilee* by Andrew Beall
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLb286ewaQ4>
 - **Renku for marimba* by Matthew Barbee
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbZw7fWXIYw>
 - **Oscillation* by Joe Basile
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8T7U2Yi46G8>
- Percussive Arts Society International Convention; Indianapolis, IN* (Nov 2013)
- Performer with the MSU Percussion Ensemble as winners of the PAS Percussion Ensemble Competition.
 - Program featured works by Claudia Calderon, Toru Takemitsu, Julia Wolfe, Roshanne Etezady, and Iannis Xenakis.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yIPs0eDyV0U&feature=youtu.be>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKRfCGpdbQ0&feature=youtu.be>
- X For Xenakis; East Lansing, MI* (Dec 2013)
- Performed *Peaux* by Xenakis at the MSU Broad Art Museum on an event coordinated by MSU student Zac Brunell.

First Master's Recital; East Lansing, MI (May 2013)

- *Violin Partita No. 1 in B minor* by J. S. Bach
- *Reflections on the Nature of Water* by Jacob Druckman
- *Regions* by Andy Francis
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DemHm_RyWXU
- **Speech of Day: a meditation on Psalm 19* by Nicole Piuanno
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qktqxhzKtUc>
- **Self Importance* by Alex Smith

Carolina Brass Quintet; NC (Sept 2009-Sept 2011)

- Substitute chamber and drumset percussionist for the world-renowned quintet.
- Programs consisted of classical and contemporary works, Medieval and Renaissance music, and tunes from Jazz, Dixieland, and Broadway.

JAW; Raleigh, NC (March 2011-Sep 2011)

- Composer of a multi-movement work for trio (electronic musician, guitar, and drumset) using Ableton Live entitled *The False Reality of Self Importance*.
- Organized rehearsal space, performances, and led rehearsals.

Second Undergraduate Solo Recital (Dec 2010)

- *Etudes for Marimba, Book 1* by Gordon Stout
- *Dr. Gradus ad Parnassum* from *Children's Corner* by Claude Debussy and arranged by L. H. Stevens
- *Side by Side* by Michio Kitazume
- *Double of Corrente* from *Violin Partita No. 1 in B minor*
- *Time for Marimba* by Minoru Miki
- *Rhapsody No. 2 for Solo Timpani* by Alex Orfaly
- *Footprints* by Wayne Shorter and arranged by Alex Smith
- *52nd Street* by Thelonious Monk and arranged by Alex Smith
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IkJShLhSPY>

ECU Premieres Concert; Greenville, NC (March 2010)

- *If I Told Him: a complete portrait of Picasso* by Matthew Barbee for multi percussion and spoken word.
 - <https://vimeo.com/23445332>

First Undergraduate Solo Recital; Greenville, NC (Dec 2009)

- *Etudes No. 1, 2, and 3* by Paul Smadbeck
- *Moto Perpetuo, Recitative, Canaries, and March* from *Eight Pieces for Four Timpani* by Elliott Carter
- *Sebes* from *Contrasts* by Béla Bartók and arranged by Alex Smith
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JnV9IwV6cR8>
- *To the Earth* by Frederic Rzewski
- *Monk's Dream* by Thelonious Monk and arranged by Alex Smith
- *Santa Morena* by Jacob do Bandolim and arranged by Alex Smith
- *Baque de Axé* arranged by Alex Smith of traditional maracatu music

ECU Concerto Competition; Greenville, NC (Dec 2007)

- Finalist in the competition performing Paul Creston's *Concertino for Marimba*.

Large Ensemble

The Lansing Symphony Orchestra; Lansing, MI (March 2014-Present)

- Percussionist sub for the Lansing Symphony Orchestra.
- Often serve as principle player.
- Gave world music master class as part of the LSO's "Family Outreach Series."

The Brass Band of Battle Creek; Battle Creek, MI (May 2015)

- Percussionist sub performing alongside John Beck senior and junior.

The Michigan State University Wind Symphony; New York, NY (Feb 2014)

- Performed the tenth anniversary of John Corigliano's *Circus Maximus* in Carnegie Hall.

Capital City Brass Band; Lansing, MI (2014)

- Invited volunteer percussionist for the Capital City Brass Band's performance at the North American Brass Band Festival in Grand Rapids, MI.

The Jackson Symphony Orchestra; Jackson, MI (Nov 2013)

- Percussionist sub for the Jackson Symphony Orchestra.

MSU Ensembles; East Lansing, MI (Aug 2012-Present)

- MSU Wind Symphony: Performances at Midwest Clinic 2013, Carnegie Hall 2014, and CBDNA 2017.
- MSU Symphony Orchestra.
- Musique 21: MSU's contemporary music ensemble.

The Tar River Symphony Orchestra and Wind Ensemble; Tar River, NC (2008-2010)

- Percussionist sub for the Tar River Ensembles.

The Greenville Pops Orchestra; Greenville, NC (2007-2010)

- Percussionist sub for the Greenville Pops Orchestra.

The Farmville Opera House; Farmville, NC (2008)

- Percussionist and drumset for the theater's production of *Scrooge*.

The Triangle Brass Band; Raleigh, NC (2006-2010)

- Invited volunteer percussionist for the Triangle Brass Band.

ECU Ensembles; Greenville, NC (July 2006-Dec 2010)

- *Western classical*: The ECU Wind Ensemble, the ECU Symphony Orchestra, the ECU Opera, the ECU Percussion Ensemble, and the ECU Marching Pirates.
- *Drumset*: ECU Jazz Band, ECU Jazz Combos, and the ECU Pep Band.

World Music

Speak Easy; Lansing, MI (August 2016-Present)

- Percussionist for the Lansing-based reggae band.

MSU Salsa Band Salsa Verde; East Lansing, MI (Jan 2013-Present)

- Percussionist, drumset player, arranger, and event organizer.

Bridges to Choro; East Lansing, MI (Dec 2012-2014)

- A founding member and Pandeirista for the Lansing-based Brazilian choro ensemble.
 - <http://jasmithmusic.weebly.com/bridges-to-choro.html>

Starlight Trio; Greenville, NC (Aug 2010–April 2011)

- Founding member, arranger, and pandeirista for the Brazilian Jazz trio that performed across Eastern NC and at the East Carolina University African Pageant.
 - <https://vimeo.com/23774437>

The Arthur Lipner Jazz Ensemble; Stamford, CT (July 2009)

- Invited by the famed vibraphonist to perform with his band as a world percussionist.

World Percussionist; Recife, Brazil (Feb 2008–July 2009)

- Performed with folkloric musicians and ensembles over the course of a year including Quarteto de Olinda, Côco de Umbigada, Corpos Percussivos, Cantro Cantos, and Fernando Rangel.

The ECU Brazilian Ensemble; Greenville, NC (2008-2009)

- Founder, director, and arranger.

COMPOSITION, ARRANGEMENTS, MARCHING PERCUSSION WRITING

Composition

One-Minute Speeches for interactive electronics, guitar, bass, and drumset (2016).

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QTlbf34I3bo>

Cotton Gindustrial for multiple percussion, interactive electronics, and voice (2015).

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nG0aN1imzso>

Um quarto é mais for hand crafted quartertone glass marimbas and percussion (2014).

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5CQT5s0jWo8>

Arrangements

Vivir mi Vida by Marc Anthony for Salsa Band (2013).

- Contact for recording.

Arrangements for The Starlight Trio (2010-2011).

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IkJShlLhSPY>

Chega de Saudade for The Brazilian Jazz Trio (2010)

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eK20Acy__qk

Traditional maracatu music (2010-Present)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4TDvDMQDwE>

Traditional Candomblé music (2010-Present)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n0U7s0v-pDk>

Sebes from *Contrasts* by Béla Bartók for marimba, vibraphone, and piano (2009).

- <https://vimeo.com/23774307>

Marching Percussion Writing and Design

MSU Spartan Marching Band Drumline; East Lansing, MI

- 2016
 - *There Can Be Only One*
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SuyWwDdWMSw> (9:10)
 - *Jurassic Jaws*
 - *Backstreet Boys Medley*
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VGjNv37vShE&t=278s> (2:10)
- 2015
 - *Phone Call/Pop Medley*
- 2014
 - *Ice, Ice, Baby*
 - *Pirates of the Caribbean*
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_ubFxy9V-8 (1:58)
- 2013
 - *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious*
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p9aWrq2i3ho> (5:08)

- *My Hero*
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LvhE6rYUI-E&t=430s> (5:30)

Okemos High School; Okemos, MI

- 2016 show entitled *Remember the 80s*
 - *Bad medicine and I Love Rock 'n Roll*
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wgkSERe5emc> (0:55) and (7:50)
- 2015 show entitled *The Planets*
 - *We are the Champions and Jupiter*
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMMn58sJoa4> (4:09)

Olivet High School; Olivet, MI

- 2016 show entitled *The Long and Winding Road*
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKnzyqSEQiw&feature=youtu.be>
- 2015 show entitled *A Night at the Movies*
- 2014 show entitled *Pirates*
- 2013 show entitled *Nightmare at Band Camp*
- 2012 show entitled *Crime Fighters*

MSU Performing Arts Camp; East Lansing, MI

- 2015: *Water PAC'n*
- 2014: *PACeni*
- 2016: *The Eagle Has Landed*

Green Hope High School; Cary, NC

- 2011 WGI show entitled *Isolation*
 - Arrangement of Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time*
 - <https://vimeo.com/groups/77700/videos/20530352>
- 2010 WGI show entitled *Brazil*

FELLOWSHIPS

Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship (June 2016-July 2016)

- Fellowship awarded by MSU's Center for Advanced Study of International Development to study the Ghanaian language Akan Twi.
- Participated in the African Foreign Languages Initiative at the University of Florida.

Rasmussen Fellowship Award (March 2015)

- Selected as a result of academic achievement at MSU.

Preparing Future Faculty for the Assessment of Student Learning Fellowship (April 2013–2014)

- Refined syllabi, assignments, and assessments for two percussion methods classes.
- Attended periodic conferences and sessions.

ACADEMIC AWARDS

Excellence in Diversity Award Program (December 2016)

- Received an honorable mention for my piece entitled *Cotton Gindustrial*.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nG0aN1imzso>

Michigan Heritage Award (January 2016)

- Awarded through the MSU Museum.
- Nominator of the marimba craftsman and luthier Matt Kazmierski for his outstanding embodiment of Michigan artistry, heritage, and tradition.

Graduate Office Funding Recipient (March 2015)

- The result of the project, entitled *Crafting Visual Aesthetic Value in Musical Instruments*, involved the making of a five-octave marimba with a frame comprised of fallen barn wood and rocking chair spindles. Bars were retuned from a 1970s Kori instrument.

Somers Teaching Award (April 2015)

- Awarded through the Center of Integrative Studies in the Arts and Humanities for my work in IAH 241A: Music of Africa and the Diaspora.
- Selected based on student evaluations and the review of a committee.

Michigan Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Award (Feb 2015)

- Awarded through the MSU Museum to work with marimba craftsman Matt Kazmierski on refurbishing a marimba for Divine Child High School in Dearborn, MI.

Running Start Competition (May 2014)

- Awarded through the MSU Federal Credit Union to start a sustainable marimba craft business. My company, JN Instrument Works, LLC, was officially launched in August 2016 and continues to serve individuals and organizations throughout the country.

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro Sustainability Shorts Competition (April 2014)

- Winner of the competition and the “Peoples Choice Award” for my short documentary “The Michigandered Marimba.”
 - <https://vimeo.com/83010297>

Graduate Office Funding Recipient (March 2014)

- Project Title: *Reconnecting the Musical Experience: Toward Sustainable Co-Production of Percussion Instruments*.
 - Worked with the MSU percussion sextet *Los Bandidos* to craft instruments to be used on our production for the MSU Percussion Ensemble Concert.
 - Constructed two glass marimbas separated by a quartertone, a cajon, and two auxiliary mallet instruments from mostly recycled materials.
 - Composed a piece written specifically for the instruments entitled *Um Quarto é Mais*: <https://vimeo.com/151743067>

Michigan Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Award (Feb 2014)

- Awarded by the MSU Museum to research resonator materials and designs with marimba craftsperson Matt Kazmierski: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOkOvMiePfM>

Graduate Office Funding Recipient (April 2013)

- Project Title: *The Michigandered Marimba: Sustainable Production of a Musical Instrument*.
 - Crafted a marimba from local, sustainable, and recycled Michigan woods and resources.
 - The instrument was donated to Olivet Public Schools.
 - Completed video documentary entitled “The Michigandered Marimba”: <https://vimeo.com/80535177>

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FUNDING

William B. Stutler Marching Band Endowed Scholarship (August 2016)

- Awarded scholarship for my work as a graduate assistant for the MSU Spartan Marching Band Drumline as an instructor, composer, and arranger.

The Hatching (August 2015)

- Winner of business pitch competition to obtain business start-up funds.

- Owner of JN Instrument Works, LLC.
 - <http://jasmithmusic.weebly.com/craftsmanship.html>

Fully Funded Teaching Assistantship (August 2015-Present)

- In the area of percussion.
- Instructor of MUS 173: Class Percussion I and MUS 174: Class Percussion II.
- Coach of percussion ensembles.
- Instructor of non-major lessons.
- Organized 2015 tour through Michigan.
- Serve as principal player in large ensembles.

Fully Funded Teaching Assistantship (August 2014-May 2015)

- In the department of musicology/ethnomusicology.
- TA for IAH 241A: Music of Africa and the Diaspora and IAH 208: Global Pop.

Walter Adams Memorial Endowed Scholarship in Marching Band

- Awarded scholarship for my work as a graduate assistant for the MSU Spartan Marching Band Drumline as an instructor, composer, and arranger.

Fully Funded Teaching Assistantship (August 2012-May 2014)

- In the area of percussion.
- Instructor of MUS 173: Class Percussion I and MUS 174: Class Percussion II.
- Coach of percussion ensembles.
- Instructor of non-major lessons.

Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (Nov 2008)

- Awarded scholarship at East Carolina University to complete a study abroad program at the Universidade Federal de Pernambuco in Recife, Pernambuco; Brazil.

Friends of the School of Music Scholarship (Aug 2006-Dec 2010)

- Awarded by the East Carolina University School of Music for the merit of my audition.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Articles, Book Reviews, and Other Scholarly Works

“Crafting New Musical Possibilities: A New Educational Area for Academic Music?”

Perspectives of New Music 54 (Forthcoming).

“Reconnecting the Actors of the Music-Making Experience: Supporting Small-Scale Local Craftsmanship in the Academic Percussion Community.” *Ecomusicology Review* 4.

<http://www.ecomusicology.info/reconnecting-the-music-making-experience-supporting-small-scale-local-craftsmanship-in-the-academic-percussion-community/>.

“New Musical Contexts for More Sustainably Made Marimbas.” *Percussive Notes Online Research Edition* 1.

<http://www.pas.org/resources/research/PercussiveNotesOnlineResearchEdition/percussive-notes-online-research-interactive>.

Review of George Dor’s *West African Drumming and Dance in North American Universities: an Ethnomusicological Perspective*. *The Journal of Musical Arts in Africa* 13, no. 1-2, 95-98.

“Reconnecting the Music-Making Experience: Avenues for Sustainability and Musical Artistry in Academic Percussion.” Master’s thesis, Michigan State University, 2015.

“More Than a Marimba Bar.” UCLA Echo Blog (April 27, 2015).

<http://www.echo.ucla.edu/more-than-a-marimba-bar/>.

“The Michigandered Marimba.” Directed by Alex Smith. Michigan State University, 2013. Documentary. <https://vimeo.com/80535177>.

Compositions, Performances, and Recordings

Smith, Alex. *Cotton Gindustrial*. (Portland, OR: Tapspace Publications, (Forthcoming)).

Bryant, Steven. *In This Broad Earth*. MSU Wind Symphony. Blue Griffin Recording, Inc: BGR397 (2016). CD.

Smith, Alex. *Cotton Gindustrial*. Performed by Alex Smith. Troubadour Recording Studio (2016); video by Alex Smith. Composition and video performance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nG0aN1imzso>.

Smith, Alex. *One-Minute Speeches*. Performed by Kevin Keith, Louie Leager, Alex Smith and Ari Teitel. Troubadour Recording Studio (2016); video by Alex Smith. Composition and video performance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QTlbf34I3bo>.

Smith, Alex. *Um quarto é mais*. Performed by Los Bandidos. Recorded by Dr. Jon Weber; video by Alex Smith (2015). Composition and video performance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5CQT5s0jWo8>.

Lorenz, Ricardo. Music for the documentary entitled *Vanishing Borders* by Alexandra Hidalgo. Partially performed by Alex Smith (2014). Blue Griffin Recording, Inc. Documentary. <http://vanishingbordersfilm.com/>.

Basile, Joe. *Oscillation*. Performed by Alex Smith. Recorded by Alex Smith and Joe Basile; video by Alex Smith (2014). Collaboration and video performance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8T7U2Yi46G8>.

Various artists. *Drumset Styles*. Arranged, recorded, and performed by Alex Smith (2011). Video performance. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jD36HSyj64g>.

Jobim, Antônio Carlos. *Chega de Saudade*. Arranged by Brett Comeaux and Alex Smith; performed by Fabíola Carvalho, Brett Comeaux, and Alex Smith. Recorded by Matt Barbee and Zack Marshall (2010). Arrangement and video performance: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eK20Acy_qk.

Trad. Candomblé Music. Arranged by Alex Smith; performed by The East Carolina University Brazilian Ensemble. Recorded by Matt Barbee and Zack Marshall (2010). Arrangement and video performance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n0U7s0v-pDk>.

Trad. Maracatu Music. Arranged by Alex Smith; performed by The East Carolina University Brazilian Ensemble. Recorded by Matt Barbee and Zack Marshall (2010). Arrangement and video performance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4TDvDMQDwE>.

Bartók, Béla. *Sebes* from *Contrasts*. Arranged by Alex Smith; performed by Alex Smith, Grayson Woodcock, and Tomoko Taki. Recorded by Rafael Valle (2009). Arrangement and recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JnV9IwV6cR8>.

Smith, Alex. Online video performance portfolios. Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/johnasmith>; and YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/nerudasprotest1759>.

Works in Progress

“Reconnecting the Music-Making Experience Through Musician Efforts in Instrument Craft.” (Under review: *International Journal of Music Education*).

“Saving the Songwood: Global Consumption, Sustainability, and Value of Ghanaian Gyil.” (Ethnographic research in progress).

Self-Importance. (Debut CD in preparation).

Mackey, John. MSU Wind Symphony. (CD in preparation).
“The Self-Sufficiency, Artistic Voice, and Tradition-Making of Matt Kazmierski and Planet Marimba.” (In progress for submission to the *Great Lakes Review*).

CONFERENCE PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS, AND PERFORMANCES

Peer Reviewed Papers, Presentations, and Performances

College Band Directors National Association; Kansas City, MO (March 2017)

- Performance by the MSU Wind Symphony of works by Mackey, Biedenbender, and Bach.

Ecojustice and Activism; Ypsilanti, MI (March 2015)

- Plenary lecture and performance: “Reconnecting the Actors of the Music-Making Experience: Towards More Sustainable and Accessible Craftsmanship of Percussion Instruments.”

Ecomusicologies 2014; Asheville, NC (Oct 2014)

- Paper presentation: “Developing Social Capital in New Musical Contexts: For the Natural Resource Management of Musical Instruments.”

Ecomusicologies 2013; Brisbane, Australia (Nov 2013)

- Paper presentation: “From the Planet to the Marimba: the self-sufficiency and artistic voice of Matt Kazmierski.”

Percussive Arts Society International Convention; Indianapolis, IN (Nov 2013)

- Performer with the MSU Percussion Ensemble as winners of the PAS Percussion Ensemble Competition.
- Program featured works by Claudia Calderon, Toru Takemitsu, Julia Wolfe, Roshanne Etezady, and Iannis Xenakis.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yIjPS0eDyV0U&feature=youtu.be>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKRfCGpdbQ0&feature=youtu.be>

Midwest Regional Tuba and Euphonium Conference; Normal, IL (May 2013)

- World premiere: *Regions* by Andy Francis for multi percussion and tuba (Bill Waterman).
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DemHm_RyWXU

Invited Guest Lectures, Clinics, and Performances

Green Hope High School Guest Clinician; Cary, NC (May 2017)

- Invited to lecture and give master classes in the areas of composition, performance, carpentry, grant writing, entrepreneurship, and environmental science.

The Classroom of Dr. Sarah Long (Sept 2016 and Nov 2016)

- Guest performer of Shona mbira music.
- Guest performer of Ewe Agbekor music.
- For IAH 241A: Music of Africa and the Diaspora.

The Classroom of Dr. Juliet Hess (Oct 2015 and 2016)

- Guest clinician of basic hand drumming techniques.
- For MUS 469: Teaching Secondary Classroom Music.

MSU Day of Rudimental Percussion; Okemos, MI (2012-2016)

- Performances with the MSU Percussion Ensemble.
- Performances and clinics by the MSU Drumline.

- Performances and clinics by the MSU salsa band Salsa Verde.
- Performances by Olivet and Okemos High Schools.
- Coordinator of facilities at Okemos High School.

Great Lakes Folk Festival; East Lansing, MI (Aug 2015)

- A feature artist presenting my work of instrument craft with marimba craftsman and luthier Matt Kazmierski.

McCormick Marimba Festival; Tampa, FL (Feb 2015)

- Plenary lecture and performance: “Sustainability and the Marimba.”

Great Lakes Folk Festival; East Lansing, MI (Aug 2014)

- A feature artist presenting my work of instrument craftsmanship with marimba craftsman and luthier Matt Kazmierski.

The Classroom of Dr. Sarah Long; East Lansing, MI (Feb 2014)

- Guest lecture: “The Ghanaian Gyil: An Overview.”
- For IAH 241A: Music of Africa and the Diaspora.

New in Student Performance at the MSU Broad Museum; East Lansing, MI (Jan 2013)

- Screening, lecture, and performance: “The Michigandered Marimba.”
 - Assisted by Kelsey Tamayo and Victor Marquez Barrios.

Midwest Clinic; Chicago, IL (Dec 2013)

- Performer and clinician with the MSU Wind Symphony.

The Classroom of Dr. Joanna Bosse; East Lansing, MI (Oct 2013)

- Guest lecture: “Culture and Community Through Uniformity in DCI Drumlines.”
- For RCAH 380: Music, Power and Popular Culture in the US.

Screening of “The Michigandered Marimba;” East Lansing, MI (Dec 2013)

- Screening, lecture, and performance: “The Michigandered Marimba.”
 - Assisted by Kelsey Tamayo and Victor Marquez Barrios

Musicology Colloquium; East Lansing, MI (Oct 2013)

- Screening: “The Michigandered Marimba.”

North Carolina PAS Day of Percussion; Greenville, NC (March 2013)

- Paper presentation: “From the Planet to the Marimba: the Self-sustainability and Artistic Voice of Matt Kazmierski.”

Percussive Arts Society International Convention; Austin, TX (Nov 2008)

- Performance with the East Carolina Percussion ensemble of Arthur Lipner’s concerto entitled *Mallet Fantasia*.

COMMUNITY TEACHING AND OUTREACH

Adjudicator: *Groves Invitational Marching Band Exhibition; Beverly Hills, MI (Oct 2016)*

- Adjudicator and clinician for the exhibition. Provided comments on tape and then verbal feedback to high school percussion sections after their performances.

Organizer: *Capital Area Percussion Ensemble; Lansing, MI (April 2016; May 2015)*

- Formed the collective of middle school and high school ensembles with Cody Edgerton and Steve Wulff.
- Organized the first concert held at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center.
- Organized the second concert along side the MSU Percussion Ensemble held at Chippewa Middle School.

- Provided master class and led performance of Brazilian maracatu music for our combined selection.

Adjudicator: *Home School Association; Lansing, MI* (March 2016)

- Adjudicated performances in percussion for the solo and ensemble festival.

Donation: *Marimba Refurbishing for Divine Child High School; Dearborn, MI* (Aug 2015)

- Refurbished dysfunctional marimba with Matt Kazmierski.
 - <http://jasmithmusic.weebly.com/marimba-makeover.html>

Adjudicator: *Home School Association; Lansing, MI* (March 2015)

- Adjudicated performances in percussion for the solo and ensemble festival.

Instructor: *Okemos High School; Okemos, MI* (May 2013-Present)

- Director of Percussion at Okemos High School
 - Focuses include Western percussion, marching percussion, and world percussion.
 - Consistently appear at and host the MSU Rudimental Day of Percussion.
 - Consistently receive ratings of excellence at district and state solo and ensemble festivals.

Instructor: *Olivet Public Schools; Olivet, MI* (May 2012-Present)

- Director of Percussion at Olivet Middle and High Schools
 - Focuses include Western percussion, marching percussion, and world percussion.
 - Organized Olivet HS's first appearance at the MSU Rudimental Day of Percussion in 2014 and then again in 2015.
 - Consistently receive ratings of excellence at marching band competitions and district and state solo and ensemble festivals.

Donation: *Marimba for Olivet Public Schools; Olivet, MI* (Aug 2013)

- Crafted more-sustainable 4.3-octave marimba from reclaimed domestic wood bars and frame with Matt Kazmierski.
 - <http://jasmithmusic.weebly.com/the-michigandered-marimba.html>

Donation: *Drum Pad Tables for Olivet Public Schools; Olivet, MI* (June 2013)

- Coordinated the donation of resources by McCoy Ltd (Lansing, MI) and Johnson Lumber (Charlotte, MI) in order to craft drum pad tables that were donated to the Olivet Public Schools.

Instructor: *Immaculate Heart of Mary; Lansing, MI* (Nov 2011-December 2012)

- Assistant middle school band director and percussion instructor.

Clinician: *Western Percussion; MI* (Nov 2011-Present)

- Grand Rapids Public School System, Lanse Creuse MS, Holt Lutheran MS, and Lansing Magnet School.

Private Instructor: *ja Smith Percussion Studio; Lansing, MI* (Sept 2009-Present)

- Provide private instruction in the areas of Western percussion, world percussion, and drum set to a studio of ten students.
- Ages range from early middle school to senior citizens.
- Students consistently receive ratings of excellence at district and state solo and ensemble festivals and often hold leadership positions at their respective schools.
- Students earn positions in honor ensembles such as all-district, the Spartan Youth Wind Symphony, MSU's Performing Arts Camp, and world-class marching ensembles
 - <http://jasmithmusic.weebly.com/ja-smith-percussion-studio.html>

Performer: *Haiti Benefit Concert; Benson, NC* (June 2010)

- Performed *To the Earth* by Frederic Rzewski and *If I Told Him: a completed portrait of Picasso* by Matthew Barbee.

MARCHING PERCUSSION TEACHING EXPERIENCE

MSU Spartan Marching Band Drumline; East Lansing, MI (May 2013-Present)

- Graduate assistant, instructor, composer, and arranger for Dr. Jon Weber.
- Coordinated the purchase of Brazilian Alfaias for the maracatu production of our *Latin Is America* show (November 25, 2014 and January 1, 2015).
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NdoHMLCrPGg>

MSU Performing Arts Camp; East Lansing, MI (July 2013-Present)

- Instructor, composer, and arranger for Dr. Jon Weber.

East Side Fury; Harrison Township, MI (Oct 2011-April 2012)

- Instructor for the WGI Independent World ensemble

East Carolina University Marching Pirates Drumline; Greenville, NC (Aug 2010–Jan 2011)

- Instructor: Led sub-sectional and full ensemble rehearsals.
- Managed and repaired equipment.

Green Hope High School; Cary, NC (July 2007-April 2011)

- Percussion director, instructor, composer, arranger, and designer.
- Finals appearance at the 2011 WGI regional in Spartanburg, SC, and finished 4th place at the 2011 AIA “Scholastic A” Championships in Virginia Beach, VA.

Craven Indoor Percussion Ensemble; New Bern, NC (2010)

- Front ensemble instructor.
- Finished third place at the 2010 WGI “Independent A” Championships in Dayton, Ohio

Other Marching Percussion Teaching Experience; MI and NC (July 2007-Present)

- *MI Experience:* Olivet HS and Okemos HS.
- *NC Experience:* Cape Fear HS, Sanderson HS, Garner Magnet HS, Butler HS, and Cary HS.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Midwest Chapter of the Society of Ethnomusicology; East Lansing, MI (April 2016)

- Member of the Local Arrangements Committee.

Ecomusicologies 2014; Asheville, NC (Oct 2014)

- Member of conference committee.
- Rated abstract submissions.

MSU Rudimental Day of Percussion; Okemos, MI (Oct 2012-Present)

- Assist to organize the MSU Drumline, the MSU salsa band, high schools attending the event, and scheduled clinics.

INSTRUMENT CRAFT

Sustainable Marimba; East Jordan High School (Dec 2016)

- Commissioned by East Jordan High School to craft a 4.3-octave sustainable marimba.
- The instrument features Osage orange bars, a cherry and ash frame, homemade posts, and tool-less assembly.
 - <http://jasmithmusic.weebly.com/east-jordan.html>

Cajon: C (Jan 2016)

- Commissioned by Craig Scibal to craft a custom cajon.
- The instrument features a reclaimed walnut, maple, and Osage orange veneer frame, custom dimensions, a maple front, a backside amplification hole, and a snare on-off mechanism.
 - <http://jasmithmusic.weebly.com/c.html>

Invention: Xenakis Contraptions (Nov 2015)

- Committed by Emily Strachan and Kathryn Irwin to construct instruments to be played with Xenakis' *Rebonds B*.
- The instruments feature Osage orange or black locust double-decker, tuned slats, and a link-n-log style frame that fits into a carry-on suitcase and assembles in less than fifteen minutes.
 - <http://jasmithmusic.weebly.com/xenakis-contraption.html>

Invention: "Table Music" Tables (Sept 2015)

- Commissioned by Tala Rasa to construct matching custom tables to perform *Table Music* by Thierry de Mey.
- The instruments feature a cherry surface, maple frame, barn wood aesthetic, and a rear microphone and amplification hole.
 - <http://jasmithmusic.weebly.com/table-music.html>

Cajon: Nanako (Aug 2015)

- Commissioned by Nanako Tsurami to craft a custom cajon.
- The instrument features a cherry and maple veneer frame, custom dimensions, a maple front, a backside amplification hole, and a snare on-off mechanism.
 - <http://jasmithmusic.weebly.com/nanako.html>

Marimba: The L (June 2015)

- Funded by the MSU College of Music and Graduate School to construct a 5-octave marimba.
- The instrument features retuned and reclaimed rosewood marimba bars, a barn wood laminate main beam, and end pieces supported by recycled rocking chair spindles.
 - <http://jasmithmusic.weebly.com/the-l.html>

Marimba Makeover: Divine Child High School (Aug 2015)

- Funded by the Michigan Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program to refurbish a dysfunctional marimba from Divine Child High School with Matt Kazmierski.
 - <http://jasmithmusic.weebly.com/marimba-makeover.html>

Glass Marimbas: Michigan State University (Aug 2014)

- Funded by the MSU College of Music and Graduate School to construct two glass marimbas separated by a quartertone from mostly recycled materials.
- Composed a piece entitled *Um quarto é mais* written specifically for the instruments.
 - <http://jasmithmusic.weebly.com/glass-marimbas.html>

Sustainable Marimba: Olivet Public Schools (Aug 2013)

- Funded by the MSU College of Music and Graduate School to construct a marimba made from more sustainable materials with Matt Kazmierski.
- The instrument features sassafras bars and a locust frame all constructed from reclaimed wood, and cardboard tubing resonators.
 - <http://jasmithmusic.weebly.com/the-michigandered-marimba.html>

LANGUAGE SKILLS

English (native), Portuguese (near-native), Akan Twi (proficient), and Spanish (reading).

REFERENCES

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Additional references available upon request.