

## **Matt Dudack**

*DrumSing* Instructor

Matt Dudack brings a unique perspective to the world of percussion, comfortable performing in a symphony orchestra, percussion ensemble, steel band, and other types of chamber music. His varied studies and collaborations have led him to international performances in Europe and Canada with Akros Percussion Collective, as well as Trinidad and Tobago as a steelpan performer. These experiences have helped him to become a better performer and teacher at all levels of instruction. Matt is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Akron, where he continues to raise the bar for collegiate percussionists. As Artistic Director of the acclaimed University of Akron Steel Drum Band, he has earned a Grammy Award nomination for the recording, "Live at EJ Thomas Hall," and has earned two Emmy Award nominations for his contributions to "Hammer on Steel," a documentary and concert that was featured on PBS. He has twice travelled to Trinidad and Tobago, the birthplace of the steelpan, and has performed with the legendary Invaders Steel Orchestra. Matt is the creator of Founds Sounds, a versatile percussion group that performs public concerts and private bookings, as well as countless educational concerts. Founds Sounds is on the roster of the Children's Concert Society of Summit County and performs all over Northeast Ohio. Matt is a founding member of Akros Percussion Collective, a percussion chamber ensemble that pushes the boundaries of new and experimental music. Akros recently premiered a percussion opera, "Lost in the Woods," by Christopher Shultis, with performances in New York City, Philadelphia, Akron, and Green Bay. Other notable performances include "Transplanted Roots Percussion Symposium" in Montreal, the "Blurred Edges" festival in Hamburg, Germany, and at So Percussion's "Night of Awesome(ness)" in New York City. The group has been guest artists at the University of Akron, the Hartt School, the University of Wisconsin Green Bay, the University of Maine, Kent State University, the University of Mount Union, and Malone University, and they have performed at multiple Percussive Arts Society International Conventions.

His method for steelpan, one of the first of its kind, is published at MauMauMusic, along with his compositions and arrangements for steel band. He has been a clinician/artist with steel bands of all levels, including the College of Southern Nevada, the Dover High School Steel Band (Ohio), the Summit Academy Steel Band (Ohio), the Hoban High School Steel Band (Ohio) and the Jackson High School Steel Band (Ohio). He recently presented at the Nation Society for Steel Band Educators conference as well as at the Ohio Music Educators Association's Professional Development Conference.

Matt is a Community Resource Specialist for the Akron Public Schools and the director of the Miller South Steel Band at the Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts and the Firestone High School Steel Band. He additionally teaches lessons for the Akron School of the Arts. He is also a music instructor at Canton Country Day School in Canton, Ohio, where he teaches various arts classes including band, drumming, steel band, and jazz band. Matt is a member of the Akron Symphony Orchestra and holds degrees from the Hartt School (BM Music Education) and the University of Akron (MM Percussion Performance). His primary teachers are Benjamin Toth, Dr. Larry Snider, and Dr. Rosemary Small. He is proud to be the Director of Summit Choral Society's *DrumSing* program!