

BIOGRAPHIES

Tristan Swihart is a percussionist based in Madison, WI. Being equal parts performer, educator, and arts administrator, Tristan keeps himself busy as a freelance artist. When not on the road performing or teaching private lessons, Tristan enjoys reading, kayaking, and riding his bike. He is also actively involved in the process of creating new works for percussion, having been a part of multiple commissions and world premieres with several composers such as Austin Keck, Elizabeth Gartman, and Victor LaBozzetta.

Tristan received a Bachelor of Music degree and Arts Leadership certificate from the Eastman School of Music, where he studied with Professor Michael Burritt as well as adjunct professors Brian Kushmaul, Chip Ross, Jim Ross, and Rich Thompson. Tristan previously studied with Micah Detweiler.

In addition to his contemporary and classical music background from Eastman, Tristan also studies Brazilian percussion with master drummer Jorge Alabê in both Brazil and the US. He has performed with Grupo Samba Rio based in Oakland, California, and is an active member of the Madison, WI based Handphibians and Saideira Pagode.



**BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY**

College of Fine Arts
School of Music

Guest Artist Recital

Wednesday, October 22, 2025 | 7:30 pm
Sursa Performance Hall

pax duo, *percussion*

Pax duo is a percussion project based in Goshen, Indiana and Madison, Wisconsin. Their repertoire moves percussion music beyond the concert hall, incorporating lighting and electronics, and blending genres like indie, hip-hop, and funk into a contemporary classical context.

This performance involves the use of flashing lights

Untitled*

**Micah Detweiler
Reuel Williams**

Reversion*

Austin Keck

Emigre and Exile*

I. Mother Harp
II. Tongues

Matt Ulery
arr. Tristan Swihart

Faded Lines

Andrea Venet

Solo to Anthony Cirone

Lou Harrison
adapt. pax duo

Bloom Suite

Elliot Cole
adapt. pax duo

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* denotes piece was written for pax duo
Lighting and set design by Micah Detweiler
Sound design and transitions by Austin Keck

PROGRAM NOTES

Untitled:

We both wish we were better drum set players. This piece is our attempt at sounding like some of our favorite drummers. Our friend Reuel Williams created a track for us to play along with. Thanks to J.D., Larnell, and Benny for the inspiration.

Reversion:

Written for pax duo, *Reversion* originated as a challenge for composer Austin Keck to create a small set-up revolving around the vibraphone and using electronics, both played live and on pre-recorded track. The piece is an exploration of extended techniques and sounds for percussion, with many challenging moments of multi-tasking.

Emigre and Exile:

I. Subtitled "*Mother Harp*," this movement sets the tone for a long journey that musically attempts to trace the memory of the berimbau Afro-Brazilian musical bow back to its African roots.

II. Subtitled "*Tongues*," this movement spins through a series of rhythmic twists and turns and finally lands in a 21/8 ("big 7") meter that rocks all the way to the dramatic end of the first section of this major piece.

Faded Lines:

Composer Andrea Venet wrote *Faded Lines* after an odd encounter at a post office in rural Arkansas. The piece draws on several different styles of rudimental snare drumming; with elements of traditional and contemporary American styles, as well as influences from French rudimental playing. In this style of percussion players have to be absolutely in sync as they pass rhythmic ideas back and forth and move in and out of unison passages.

Solo to Anthony Cirone:

Lou Harrison wrote this piece for fellow San Francisco resident and long-time percussionist for the San Francisco Symphony, Anthony Cirone. The music is largely based on the set of tuned pipes it is composed for, which use "just intonation," a tuning style based on whole number ratios (i.e. 3:2 or 4:3). As a result of this tuning system the piece sounds neither wholly major or minor, but lives somewhere in the space between. These specific pipes were built and generously donated to us by Brian Stotz of Repaircussions.

Bloom Suite:

While *Bloom suite* was originally written for solo guitar, the piece is commonly performed as a marimba solo. After releasing the pieces as a guitar solo, Cole converted *Bloom Suite* to a chamber piece by adding clarinet and cello to accompany the guitar. Cole continued to create more versions of this piece, going as far as arranging it for full orchestra. Tonight's version is a pax duo arrangement of the chamber version.

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pax duo is a dynamic percussion project created by Micah Detweiler and Tristan Swihart. Based in Elkhart, IN and Madison, WI, pax duo aims to expand the possibilities of contemporary percussion through collaboration and new creation. To that end they are active in commissioning, composing, and arranging new works for percussion duo. Their style blends genres like hip-hop, indie, and funk with contemporary classical to create music that is widely appealing and musically interesting.

Tristan and Micah first met in the fall of 2012 when Micah began working with the Northridge Marching Band in Middlebury, IN where Tristan was a student. The marching band show that year was entitled *Et in Terra Pax*, and is where pax duo gets its name. Since then they have gone from student and teacher to close friends and colleagues.

As a duo they have toured extensively, playing at independent venues, universities, and schools along the way. They have collaborated with video production artists on videos of their arrangements and commissions. pax duo also hosts the Midwest Chamber Percussion Camp at Goshen College, an annual camp for high school students that has featured Excelsis Percussion Quartet, Escape Ten, and Frozen Earth Duo as faculty.

Micah and Tristan are both Malletech and Black Swamp Percussion artist endorsers and are proud to use their products.

Micah Detweiler is an in-demand teacher and performer based in Northern Indiana. He has taught at Northridge High School and Middle School, The University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Goshen College.

As a performer Micah has shared the stage with Third Coast Percussion, appeared on "A Prairie Home Companion", and played a solo concerto with the Goshen College Orchestra. Garrison Keillor described his playing as, "An astonishing beautiful musical event. Everything. All of it. Mesmerizing and Elegant." He has performed in masterclasses with Leigh Howard Stevens, Svet Stoyanov, and composer Elliot Cole.

Micah is a graduate of Goshen College and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His principal teachers were Dr. Anthony DiSanza, and Dr. Christopher Fashun, with additional world percussion study with Thomas Ross and Todd Hammes. Micah has also spent four summers studying and instructing with Leigh Howard Stevens at the Indiana LHS Marimba Seminar.