

Thomas Kozumplik

Thomas Kozumplik is a vanguard figure in American music, having co-founded Loop 2.4.3, Music Starts From Silence, Clogs, and the Yale Percussion Group. He was a long time member of the Robert Hohner Percussion Ensemble (classical, jazz, and world music), the Ron Parmentier Trio (modern and free jazz), and Uncle Jimmy's Dirty Basement (theatrical/multi-media rock and roll). His performances have been called "dazzling throughout" (Mojo, UK), "sublime" (Pitchfork, USA), "smart and engaging" (New York Times, USA), and "the hit for me" (composer Terry Riley via the New York Times).

In addition to his main projects, Thomas has performed/recorded with artists ranging from Grammy-winner Dave Samuels to MacArthur Fellow John Jesurun, to indie-rock sensation The National. He has appeared on over 20 internationally released albums, in a variety of genres, on the Albany, Asthmatic Kitty, Beggars Banquet, Brassland, Digital Music Products (DMP), and Music Starts From Silence record labels.

Currently based in Brooklyn, NY, Thomas has toured throughout North America, Europe, Scandinavia, South Korea, and Australia, and has performed for radio, film, theater, and television, including footage for The Learning Channel. He has given concerts, conducted master classes, and held residencies at Cornell University, Oklahoma City University, Ithaca College, Pacific College, Michigan State University and others. He has also performed at many key festivals and venues including The London Jazz Festival, Merkin Hall, The Kitchen, The Sydney Festival, Tonic, Bang on a Can Marathon, Carnegie Hall, The Andy Warhol Museum, and the Harry Partch Institute. Thomas has collaborated with a variety of prominent contemporary artists in a variety of media including The Books, Erik Friedlander, Alan Good, Dean Drummond, Joe Morello, Jon Catler, Shara Worden, and Sufjan Stevens. He has received awards and support from the National Endowment for the Arts, The Connecticut Council on the Arts, Chamber Music America, ASCAP, Analog Arts, the UK Arts Council, Yale University, and the International Association of Jazz Educators.

Lorne Watson

Lorne Watson is a multi-faceted percussionist and composer currently living in Brooklyn, NY. Originally from Michigan, Lorne met Thom playing in the Robert Hohner Percussion Ensemble which rehearsed extensively in room 243. Lorne's composition has been praised for its "remarkable rhythmic breadth and tonal depth," (New Haven Advocate) in a way that "positively shakes with life." (New-Noise.net) He spent several years teaching and performing on the the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Reservation. Highly regarded for his work with the Tribe, Lorne was invited to join the High Spirit Drum group and was honored to sit with elders and receive training on the Native American flute. In addition to Robert Hohner, Lorne has studied with percussion legends Jim Chapin, Joe Morello, and Alex Acuna. He currently studies and performs Cuban folkloric music with master drummer John Amira.

Lorne has performed with Clogs, The Brooklyn Philharmonic, The Javier Arau Big Band, The True North Orchestra, The Legacy Percussion Ensemble. He is the drummer for the band Willie McBlind, led by micro-tonal guitarist Jon Catler (La Monte Young, Forever Blues Band), and performs with singer Nina Vidal. He has played at the Blue Note, Brooklyn Academy of Music and Carnegie Hall. He is on the teaching roster for the New York Jazz Academy, The Lyric Chamber Music Society of New York, The Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, and The Brooklyn Arts Council. Lorne has been a featured clinician at Michigan State University, Ithaca College, Cornell University, Alma College, St. Clouds University, University at Buffalo. He has published a drum method book titled, Three Dimensions: Hands, Reading, Drumset.