

7/2/20 CI Music Hour Recap

Dear all,

Hope you had a nice 4th of July holiday. Last Thursday, our guest percussionist Jordan Morrison joined from Tennessee and led an awesome workshop which was both interactive and participatory. He discussed the acoustics and the different techniques of playing a drum set generally consisting of high hat, cymbals, tom tom, snare drum, bass drum, kick drum, etc.

Jordan performed a fun improvisational drum session, in which he responded in real time to our group's various requests in the Zoom chat box regarding instrument, speed, mood, volume, dynamic, and even specific artist's styles. And, in another highlight of the hour, he led what we could claim as the world's first Zoom drum-circle. Our group picked a couple of household items, listening to the resonant or non-resonant sounds they produce, tried different ways to make sound and finally learned to play basic rhythms with them. He emphasized the joy we can take listening to interesting qualities of sound of mundane objects and have fun playing beats, turning them into musical instruments.

We are grateful for his time with us and his experimental effort in providing a fun and participatory music workshop in the face of the challenges and limits of the online Zoom-meeting.

Our next guest for this week is Austin Hammonds, a composer, classical Saxophonist and a recent MFA graduate from the Screening Scoring Program at USC's Thornton School of Music. Austin will play a few tunes on the Alto Saxophone, discuss the differences between Jazz and Classical saxophones and lead a listening exercise. Austin's bio and picture are included at the bottom. I will follow up with a survey later today.

All the best,
Juri

Austin Hammonds



Bio of Austin

<https://www.austinhammonds.com/>

Austin Hammonds is a film and media composer from Ashland Kentucky. Now based in Los Angeles California, he continues to have an active career in the film, television, and video game industries. Hammonds believes strongly in the expressive power of orchestral scores, bringing evocative and energetic themes and colors to each of his scores. In 2017, Hammonds graduated from Morehead State University in Morehead, Kentucky where he studied music under Dr. Matthew Taylor and began composing music, building his concert music repertoire. His works were written for various ensembles including the MSU trombone choir, the MSU "MoreSax" saxophone choir, and the MSU concert band. He premiered his piece *Dawn Fanfare* with the Cave Run Symphony Orchestra of Morehead, Kentucky in 2017. Hammonds then further continued his education in film scoring at the University of Southern California where he was recently graduated from the Thornton School of Music's world-renowned Screen Scoring program's class of 2020. He also graduated with honors, receiving both the Harnell Outstanding Graduate Award as well as the Betty Rose Collaboration Award.