

Selected Reviews

Percussion Reviews

submitted by

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Percussion Ensemble

Modern Times

Howard J. Buss
1996

Brixton Publications
4311 Braemar Avenue
Lakeland, Florida 33813
\$38.50 score and parts

Lakeland Florida composer Howard Buss wrote both the verse and music for this outstanding 30 minute chamber work composed for 4 percussionists, flute and narrator. The composition is written in 8 movements and certain movements could be left out if a shorter work is needed on a program. Modern Times should be classified as medium-difficult for a university level group and equipment requirements are fairly standard. The work is well-paced, colorful and accessible to audiences not familiar with complex percussion literature. This is truly one of the finest works in our idiom and could easily become a percussion ensemble standard. Brixton Publications has kept the price at a very reasonable \$38.50 including score and parts.

Video

A Work in Progress

Neil Peart

1996

Warner Bros. Publications, Inc.
15800 N.W. 48th Avenue
Miami, Florida 33014
\$59.95

This two volume set runs a total time of 3 hours and 40 minutes. The work is an outstanding documentation of Neil Peart's drumming philosophy and "work in progress" while recording Rush's album, Test for Echo. Neil discusses his recent study with Fred Gruber, approach to setting up his drums, and provides an in-depth analysis of his performance in relation to each song on Test for Echo. The photography, pacing and editing of this highly instructive video is excellent. Highly recommended for public and school libraries, as well as individuals. **A Work in Progress** is reasonably priced at \$59.95.

Drum Set Books

The Drum Set Crash Course

Russ Miller

1996

Warner Bros. Publications, Inc.
15800 N. W. 48th Avenue
Miami, Florida 33014
\$24.95 book and CD

Russ Miller has come up with a practical guide demonstrating many of the styles of playing needed to

perform the typical drum set casual. This excellent text with a first rate performance compact disc includes basic grooves and instruction for: rock, funk, jazz, blues and hip-hop, country, island music, Afro-Cuban, Afro-Brazilian etc. The book is well-organized and among the best that I have seen in this style. The 91-page book and CD sell for \$24.95

Directions in Percussion

Billy Cobham

1996

Warner/Chappell Music Ltd
International Music Publications,
Limited
Southend Road, Woodford Green
Essex IG8 8HN, England

Billy Cobham provides us with a book of scores representing the best of his past recordings that we can read and play along with. Each song includes a rhythm chart, detailed drum transcriptions, score and lead sheets for C, B-flat, and E-flat instruments. Mr. Cobham also gives instruction comments on each piece. Compositions include: Stratus, Red Baron, Crosswinds, Red and Yellow Cabriolet, Mushu Creole Blues, etc. This text and CD should provide many productive hours of practice and study.

Did you know?

Now you can help your chapter by sending a tax deductible contribution directly to it. If you are interested in doing this please send your checks to treasurer Alex Jimenez at 1884 Indian Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406. You will get a receipt sent to you with the PAS tax exempt number for your records.