

Traveling With Audio

By Dr. Lynn Vartan

It is such an honor to share this session for PASIC 2024! Most people know me as a keyboard artist, and in the past several years I have been championing pieces that use all kinds of electronics, working with composers on new pieces that try to bring fun, groove, and positive vibes to the percussion keyboard repertoire. My session developed because I have been traveling with electronics for years, and every time I perform, people come up to me after the concert asking about “my rig.” I love sharing my setup with people and all the tips and tricks I have learned that make traveling with electronics easy everywhere and anywhere!

I have been fortunate to be invited internationally to perform and teach in Vietnam, Cambodia, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Mexico, Columbia, England, Romania, Estonia, Sweden, Norway, Ireland, and Denmark among others, and I am currently a U.S. Fulbright Specialist. In all of my travels I have used my rig and had great success seamlessly integrating electronics into the program without any of the typical electronics glitches you tend to witness or hear about.

In building this rig I consulted with some great audio engineers and producers, and I came up with something totally solid that works all around the world! A few of the things I learned were surprising and really have made a difference.

For example, the power of the DI box in stabilizing everything is key, and not only helps with the actual electronics but also in communicating with venue staff; they feel so comfortable when you come with this ready and just need two inputs from your DI box to their P.A. Also, the impact of size and weight of things when traveling — including why a hard road case is not the best way to go for an individual artist!

My session will be split into two parts: “The Rig” and the “The Music.” In the first section, “The Rig,” I will show the car-

ry-on suitcase that everything fits into, and the basic flow of elements from computer to audio interface (and respective headphones and mics) to DI box to venue. Next, I will show the exact connections for each part of the flow. I will share my exact brands and makes of the equipment I use so that anyone can build their own version! Lastly, I will cover other things in the rig that are essential, including cable types, power managing (national and international), and my super small magic mic stands!

In the second part, “The Music,” I will perform excerpts from pieces and show the exact settings and software I use to perform them, including photos of the software screens and settings. The technological components for the pieces range from using a basic no-click backing track in Reaper, using digital delay processing for the marimba, using the Supercollider program for timed audio clips, and using Ableton for click and live looping with a BopPad.

Finally, I will premiere a new piece for marimba and electronics written for me by Ivan Trevino. Ivan and I share ideas of positivity, energy, and community in our world view, and these kinds of vibes inspired our collaboration!

In this session I hope to provide a full overview of my workflow when performing with live electronics, empowering you to do so fluidly and easily using many kinds of software and hardware.



DR. LYNN VARTAN

Even if you are just getting started with electronics, you can build this setup and make it work! Such performances are inevitably unique, so this session will be both wide-reaching for all to get a glimpse, while simultaneously specific for you to jump right in with the exact specifications you need for your performances. I hope it will benefit confident, experienced performers with new tips and tricks that I have found, as well as those who have felt timid using live electronics in the past but want to try. You can do it, and I am excited to share with you how!

Dr. Lynn Vartan is an internationally known music performer and educator, known for her collaborative performances and her dynamic warmth and energy on stage. She has been Grammy nominated multiple times and was a performer on an album that was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for Music. As a concerto soloist Lynn has performed with various orchestras including the Hubei Opera and Dance Company of Wuhan, China, the Sierra Wind Symphony, The Helena Symphony, The Cheyenne Symphony, The Orchestra of Southern Utah, Southwest Chamber Music, and has premiered new concertos by American and Chinese composers. She has participated in cultural exchange projects such as the World Percussion Group, the Ascending Dragon project in Vietnam, The Dream of Helen project, and the East Meets West project designed around her as a soloist in Wuhan, China. Her current chamber music projects include Darkwood Duo (clarinet and percussion), Duo Vís (violin and percussion), and Duo LinLynn (percussion duo). Lynn is Professor of Percussion Interarts at Texas A&M University, where she builds programs and projects that bring together the worlds of music with dance, film, design, theatre, and all the visual and performing arts. [PN](#)

ELECTRONIC/TECHNOLOGY

FABIAN ZIEGLER, MUSIC BY JOHN PSATHAS WITH SPECIAL GUESTS THE JOHN PSATHAS PERCUSSION PROJECT (Omar Carmenates, Emma Gierszal, Justin Lamb, Diana Loomer) Electronic/Technology Daytime Showcase Concert Innovation of New Works and Technology in Percussion Repertoire

This concert by Fabian Ziegler will feature new and recent works by composer John Psathas. The works include cinematic-scale audio soundtracks and original video content. The program includes "RealBadNow," "Koolish Zein," and more. The composer will be present, introducing each work. Fabian Ziegler has been a consistent champion of Psathas's percussion works, commissioning and premiering multiple new pieces that are now entering into the standard percussion repertoire.

Fabian Ziegler is passionate about bringing innovative pieces by such renowned composers as John Psathas, Avner Dorman, Serj Tankian, Arash Safaian, and Daniel Schnyder to life. Born in Switzerland, he studied with Prof. Klaus Schwärzler, Prof. Raphael Christen, Prof. Benjamin Forster, Prof. Rainer Seegers, and Martin Grubinger at the Zurich University of the Arts. Together with the company Infinity Percussion, which specializes in mallets, Fabian Ziegler develops new products and is responsible for his own vibraphone series.

pax duo Electronic/Technology Clinic/Performance Projection Mapping and Live Performance Software in Percussion Chamber Music

This session will explore the fundamentals of using QLab, MadMapper, and MainStage to elevate live percussion performances. The pax duo will model their unique approach to creating a cohesive and compelling show incorporating projection mapping, live music, and sound/video/lighting performance control software typically seen in theater productions. The session will demonstrate the power of these technologies first-hand as the duo performs selections from their electro/acoustic show, "Bloom." They will describe the process of creating an automated light show to enhance live concert performances and share their experience with learning the software, creating the physical setup for the digital designs, and touring the show.

pax duo is a percussion project created by Micah Detweiler and Tristan Swihart. pax duo aims to expand the possibilities of con-

temporary 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. They have toured extensively, playing at independent venues, universities, and schools. They have collaborated with video production artists on videos of their arrangements and commissions.

MARIA FINKELMEIER Electronic/Technology Clinic/Performance Multi-sensory Performance

Maria Finkelmeier is a percussionist, composer, new media artist, and professor. Whether it's scoring conceptual art films or serving as director, composer, and performer in multi-sensory performances and public art installations, her work continually transcends both genre and medium. Merging meticulous performance practice and production knowledge with intentions that are narrative driven and socially responsive, Maria has been commissioned by national organizations, municipalities, and festivals including the National Parks Service, Esplanade Association, Harvard Ed Portal, IGNITE Broward, TEDx Cambridge, BLINK Cincinnati, London's i = u festival, ILLUMINUS, and the Boston Center for the Arts. Maria has founded and directed numerous ventures, including her active experimental studio MF Dynamics, along with Kadence Arts, Make Music Boston, Quartet Kalos, Masary Studios, and Ensemble Evolution. She is an Associate Professor at Berklee College of Music specializing in Creative Entrepreneurship. Maria received a Bachelor of Music degree from The Ohio State University and a Master of Music degree from Eastman School of Music.