

Santa Clara Vanguard at PASIC50

By Sean Womack

The 50th anniversary edition of PASIC will see the Santa Clara Vanguard (SCV) percussion section take the stage in Indianapolis as the featured Drum Corps International (DCI) percussion ensemble at this year's convention. Known for their innovative artistry and a rich tradition of excellence spanning decades, SCV will present their 2025 percussion ensemble, led by renowned designers, arrangers, and caption heads Sandi and Paul Rennick. This milestone PASIC session will not only celebrate SCV's continued excellence and influence in the marching percussion community but also PASIC's long history of hosting the marching arts activity's top ensembles.

Santa Clara Vanguard boasts an impressive history, having won seven DCI World Championships, most recently in 2018. Additionally, the percussion section has earned multiple Fred Sanford High Percussion Awards, named after the legendary SCV Percussion Caption Head Fred Sanford. SCV most recently won drums in 2024, shortly after a impressive run of four straight high-percussion awards from 2016–19.

Their 2025 production, titled "The aVAnt-Guard," explores avant-garde musical themes, blending classical compositions by Bartók and Corigliano with mod-

ern influences. This bold artistic direction continues to reflect SCV's commitment to pushing the boundaries and helping to redefine the drum corps experience.

At PASIC50 we will go behind the scenes with the Santa Clara Vanguard Percussion Ensemble. Under the guidance and direction of Sandi and Paul Rennick, the percussion section has helped shape the current marching percussive landscape in DCI and beyond. Seeing behind the curtain of SCV, the convention attendees will be able to see the people,

concepts, and processes that have helped create one of the most successful percussion ensembles in recent history.

SCV's presence at PASIC50 underscores the synergy between the marching arts and broader percussion disciplines, offering attendees a rare glimpse into the elite world of one of DCI's top ensembles. As the Vanguard percussionists take the stage, they not only honor their own legacy but also inspire the next generation of artists moving forward. We hope to see you in Indianapolis in November.



Santa Clara Vanguard Percussion Section

Sean Womack is the Associate Director of Bands/Director of Percussion at North Forsyth High School in Cumming, Georgia. Womack received his Bachelor of Science in Music Education degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and a Master of Music in Percussion Performance degree from the University of Georgia. He is the co-founder and former partner of DoubleStop Percussion LLC, a percussion education company in Birmingham, Alabama. He is an active arranger and designer in the marching arts and is in demand as a clinician and adjudicator throughout the country. Womack also serves as chair of the PAS Marching/Rudimental Committee. His music is published through Tapspace. [PN](#)

SYMPHONIC

Leonardo Soto

Symphonic Clinic / Performance

Andy Akiho Timpani Concerto

Leonardo Soto will be performing a timpani concerto, accompanied by electronics, written by Andy Akiho, which will be premiered with the Houston Symphony in March 2026.

Leonardo R. Soto, Jr. is the Principal Timpanist of the Houston Symphony since 2018. He is also timpanist at the Grand Teton Music Festival and was an active member of Miami's Nu-Deco ensemble. Leo has performed with such orchestras as Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Seoul Philharmonic, and Orquesta Filarmonica de Santiago. Leo is a co-founder faculty at the International Timpani Intensive, a faculty member at Frost School of Music at the University of Miami and the Brevard Music Festival, and he has conducted masterclasses at such universities as Northwestern, DePaul, Rice, Denver, UGA, Chile, Colombia, Bolivia, Brazil, Puerto Rico, Seoul, and Carnegie Hall's NYO.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Quey Percussion Duo (Gene Koshinski and Tim Broschious)

Daytime Showcase Concert

Next New Thing

Our showcase concert will feature some of the newest projects we have been working on, including several world premieres. The cornerstone to the program will be the unveiling of the digital playback version of Gene Koshinski's massive double percussion concerto "soniChroma." This 25-minute work is dynamic, colorful, and fills the stage with over 80 percussion instruments! We couldn't think of a more perfect place than PASIC50 to showcase our "next new thing."

For over 20 years, Quey Percussion Duo (Gene Koshinski and Tim Broschious) has blended traditions of contemporary, cross-cultural, classical, and popular music to create colorful sound worlds that often place focus on interlocking counterpoint and musical multi-tasking. The duo has performed in 14 countries and four continents and has worked with music festivals, art galleries, chamber music series, professional orchestras, TV/film, and have engaged in more than 200 university residencies worldwide. Through their focus on creating high-level video content, their digital audience has climbed to over four million viewers and counting. They hold the only full-time residency by a percussion duo in the U.S. at the University of Delaware.

Morse Percussion

Daytime Showcase Concert

Singapore Sounds

The music culture of Singapore is a vibrant and dynamic blend of various influences, reflecting the country's multicultural society. Singapore has cultivated a rich and diverse music scene that spans classical, contemporary, traditional, and popular genres, with a population made up of a mix of ethnicities — Chinese, Malay, Indian, and others — each with their own musical traditions. This multiculturalism is reflected in Singapore's music, which combines elements from a wide array of traditions: Chinese music, Malay drumming, Indian konnakol, Southeast Asian musical roots, etc. Morse Percussion brings a plethora of contemporary percussion music featuring Singaporean roots and instruments found in Asian traditions, while incorporating the sensitivity and colors that you might expect from a percussion chamber group.

Morse Percussion is a contemporary classical percussion group formed in 2020 by Derek Koh and Joachim Lim. Morse Percussion aims to inspire and cultivate interest through exquisite modern practices and compelling productions with the goal to be Singapore's first professional percussion group characterized by musical diversity and excellence. An ardent supporter of commissioning Singaporean works, Morse Percussion has commissioned 12 Singaporean percussion works.

SYMPHONIC

Frank Epstein

Symphonic Cymbals Lab

Since 1968, Frank Epstein has been a percussionist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Retired from the orchestra after a 43-year tenure, Frank was a member of the Tanglewood Music Center faculty as well as the Chairman of the Percussion and Brass departments at the New England Conservatory. As one of the founders of the Collage New Music Ensemble, he served as their musical director for over 25 years, and authored the book *Cymbalisms*, a complete guide for the orchestral cymbal player.