

Instructor Biographies

Mr. Jeremy Lawi

Jeremy Lawi earned a Bachelor of Music Degree in Percussion Performance at the University of British Columbia in 2012 and is currently at the University of Hawai'i pursuing a Post Baccalaureate Certificate in Music Education. Jeremy has been playing percussion since the age of twelve and studied jazz drum set with Eien Hunter-Ishikawa. In 2007, he went to Canada and held principal roles in the UBC Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Symphony Orchestra, and Jazz Band. After successfully auditioning to be a performance major, he won several scholarships and the UBC Concerto Competition in 2012. Jeremy also founded and currently directs the 'Iolani School Percussion Ensemble.

Mr. Zachary Morita

Zachary Morita received his Bachelor of Education in Secondary Music from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Zachary began his teaching career at Niu Valley Middle School in 2008. Through the years, Zachary has built a prominent percussion program at Niu Valley. In the Spring of 2012, the Niu Valley Middle School Percussion Ensemble travelled to Dayton, Ohio to compete in the Winter Guard International Percussion World Championships. As of today, they are the only middle school percussion ensemble from Hawaii to qualify and enter. That same year, Zachary and his students were invited to meet Governor Neil Abercrombie, Senator Sam Slom and Representative Mark Hashem at the Hawaii State Capitol. In 2013, Zachary organized the Inaugural Niu Valley Middle School Percussion Festival. The festival also included a partnership with Mr. Gerald Noble and the percussion students of Wright State University. Zachary proudly endorses Vic Firth Sticks and Mallets, Pearl/Adams Percussion, and GroverPro Percussion.

Mr. Jordan Schifino

A native of Rochester, NY, Jordan Schifino studied both percussion and piano at the Eastman School of Music with Ruth Cahn and Alla Kuznetsov respectively. Mr. Schifino attended the Cleveland Institute of Music studying with principal timpanist Paul Yancich and retired principal percussionist Richard Weiner of the Cleveland Orchestra, where he received his BM and MM in Percussion Performance. After moving to the islands in 2009 to perform with the Honolulu Symphony, he returned to play with the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra in 2012 and is now serving as acting principal percussionist. Mr. Schifino has performed with the Cleveland Orchestra, New World Symphony, Toledo Symphony, West Virginia Symphony, South Florida Symphony CityMusic Cleveland, AIMS Festival Orchestra in Graz, Austria, Canton Symphony, Hawaii Opera Theatre and Maui Pops Orchestra, among others. In addition to performing, Mr. Schifino works as a Percussion and Eurhythmics teaching artist with Hawaii's el Sistema program, Kalikolehua. Starting this fall, he will be serving as Lecturer of Percussion at the University of Hawaii, Manoa.



Jordan Schifino Jeremy Lawi Zachary Morita

Authorization and Media Release Forms

All new participants must fill out and submit the following two forms: 1) Student/Parent Authorization & Release Form – Hawaii Youth Percussion Ensemble 2) Media Release Form – Hawaii Youth Percussion Ensemble

Contact/Miscellaneous Information

*Please direct all questions and concerns to Zachary Morita at hawaiiyouthpercussionensemble@gmail.com or 808-230-0476.

*Mailing Address: Hawaii Youth Percussion Ensemble Attn: Zachary Morita, 2279 Liliha Street, Honolulu, HI 96817

*All checks are made payable to: Hawaii Youth Percussion Ensemble (memo line: student's name)

*The following forms must be turned in with the appropriate payment: 1) Registration Form (ALL) 2) Student/Parent Authorization & Release Form (new students only) 3) Media Release Form (new students only)

*All payments are non-refundable. There will be a \$15 late payment fee for all session registrations received after September 1, 2017.

*If there is an interest to participate but there is a financial need, please contact us.

All forms and payment are due on or before Friday, September 1, 2017.