

James Strawther, Percussion



Q: What instrument(s) do you play?

A: Percussion

Q: When and how did you get started in music?

A: I started in school in the 6th grade. I thought the xylophone had a really cool sound, so I was told I needed to audition for percussion in order to play that instrument. Glad I did!

Q: When did you begin playing with the SOST?

A: January, 1998. Mr. Gary Parks, my college percussion teacher, asked me to sub on a concert. I auditioned for Diane Wittry at the end of that season, and later for Chris Zimmerman for a core position.

Q: Educational background?

A: Bachelors from Lamar University, Beaumont. Teaching Certificate from Lamar-Orange.

Q: Who has been your greatest influence in music?

A: I owe a lot of people some thank you's here. My mother, Barbara, is definitely my biggest influence. She encouraged me early on and always supported my dreams, and my father, Jim, was very supportive also. My mother was a former percussionist as well, so she really got me jump-started when I was younger. And, definitely my private teachers over the years have been inspirational: Jeff Carter, James Bourdier, and Gary Parks. And, I know there are others I am leaving out.

Q: What is your "day job?"

A: SOST Operation Director. I also manage the local theater technical crews for IATSE 183/Triangle Stagecraft.

Q: Hobbies or activities outside of SOST?

A: I'm an associate minister for Impact Church-Beaumont. Additionally, two rat terriers, reading, Tropical Disturbance steel drum band, piano, softball, family activities, and activities with my wife, Lara.

Q: Favorite music?

A: Romantic period, Chicago the band, steel drum music and /Caribbean-Latin jazz, "Texas" rock and country, contemporary Christian, Monte Montgomery, Classic Rock