

PASSAGE

Passage is an ensemble piece that aims to meet a challenge in percussion literature that has existed for some time – the need to bring lucidity to a percussion ensemble program without turning an otherwise powerful concert too passive or esoteric. By combining the texture of oboe, mallet instruments, and multiple-percussion, one can easily establish that peaceful texture, but still maintain a healthy backbone. Combining that with even high-school level musicians is sure to complement any chamber percussion performance with one consistent response –excellence.

Written in the spring of 2002, the first performance of this piece featured some graduating seniors from the group, “The Industrial Percussion Lounge” – a high school percussion ensemble from Marshalltown, Iowa, in the spirit of STOMP. The students of the Industrial Percussion Lounge single-handedly raised over a thousand dollars and performed a memorable, sold-out concert to a community that was recently titled “The Drug Capitol of the Midwest”.

As a teacher, I have come to love every one of my students in so many ways. Seeing them grow into adults is one of the most rewarding experiences a person can hope for in life. The title, “Passage”, reflects not only my feelings in watching these students grow, but also a biblical passage that I hope to be able to instill in them by my example – Philippians 4:8; “Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things”.

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