



# How to Write for Percussion: A Comprehensive Guide to Percussion Composition

By Samuel Z. Solomon

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While composers and percussionists are working more closely than ever with one another, there are few resources that address this collaborative relationship in depth. However, Samuel Z. Solomon, himself a percussionist and teacher, offers a comprehensive examination of the issues that percussionists and composers encounter in *How to Write for Percussion*. The first edition, self-published in 2004, provided musicians and music programs the world over with practical and indispensable information about issues of notation, concert production, and much more. This new edition goes even further as Solomon offers more insights derived from his personal experience as a percussionist and teacher and from his collaborations with other musicians.

The second edition of *How to Write for Percussion* expands the survey of behind-the-scenes processes—from instrument choice and notation to logistics, execution, and concert production—to uncover all the tools a composer needs to comfortably create innovative and skilled percussion composition. Solomon also includes more excerpts and performances as well as interviews with famous percussionists and composers that capture the intricacies of percussion composition. Moreover, the second edition features an expanded text with more instruments and more analysis, plus an extensive Online Video Companion containing over nine hours of videos with demonstrations, performances, interviews, and analysis to flesh out and clarify the material in the book. This updated edition of *How to Write for Percussion* will appeal to a wide swath of musicians including composers, arrangers, and percussionists. Those who have already utilized the first edition will welcome the upgrade, and those who have yet to benefit from Solomon's perspective will likewise find his insights illuminating.

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## How to Write for Percussion: A Comprehensive Guide to Percussion Composition By Samuel Z. Solomon Bibliography

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#### Review

"This is simply the best book on composing for percussion music out there. Solomon anticipates every question that a composer might have concerning the practical, physical and expressive ramifications of making sound by hitting things. The previous version was a fixture on my desk and this new edition with its media upgrades will be my manual for teaching."--Steven Mackey, Professor of Music, Princeton University, Grammy Award-winning composer

"Percussion isn't a particular thing; it is a lifetime of learning that can never be completely known. Mr. Solomon's deeply thoughtful work is essential to my work, an invaluable guide, an extraordinary accomplishment."--Matthew Duvall, multi-Grammy-winning percussionist with eighth blackbird

"Here is a volume which is truly practical, for Sam Solomon is a very fine performer and writes from a practitioner's point of view, giving advice which is invaluable to all of us...This is a "musician's book" and a true contribution to the literature of orchestration."--Samuel Adler, Professor Emeritus, Eastman School of Music, Excerpt from the Foreword to *How To Write For Percussion* (First Edition)

### About the Author

Samuel Z. Solomon teaches percussion at The Boston Conservatory, Boston University, and The BU Tanglewood Institute. He is author of the acclaimed book, *How To Write For Percussion*, as well as three books on percussion playing and was curator of two collections of percussion etudes and solos. Solomon is founding member of the Yesaroun' Duo and the Line C3 percussion group, and is principal timpanist of the Amici New York chamber orchestra. Please visit [www.szsolomon.com](http://www.szsolomon.com) for more.

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