



2022

CHRISTIAN BENNING PERCUSSION GROUP

# BEETHOVEN



» **Christian Benning Percussion Group [...] is transforming the undiscovered: Bringing classics of modern percussion literature in line with works by the greatest composers of the past centuries has been simply spectacular – especially in these Holy Halls of Bayreuth.** «

Festival Bayreuth

## TRADITION. TRANSFORMATION. FUTURE.

The artistic principle of the Christian Benning Percussion Group could hardly be better described.

Christian Benning, together with his congenial partners and colleagues Patrick Stapleton, Marcel Morikawa, Felix Kolb and Godwin Schmid has made it his business, to take up works by great composers from the past centuries such as Bach, Ravel or Beethoven in addition to classics of modern percussion literature to literally transform in a purely percussive chamber music line-up.

The latter one has been in the focus of the now internationally up-and-coming quintet at least since 2020, when the music world celebrated his 250th anniversary. But 250 years ago, percussion instruments did not even exist in their present form. How would Beethoven or Bach have composed if a marimba, a vibraphone or a drum set had already existed in their current form during their lifetime? It is precisely this question that the ensemble wants to get to the bottom of in their new BEAThoven program and they are answering it in their own way through their arrangements,

exemplarily of Beethoven's famous "Moonlight Sonata". Through completely new timbres due to the various percussion instruments, through a groove that this unusual line-up simply carries within itself, as well as through the combination of different musical styles, the artists succeed in a unique way, making the timelessness of this wonderful music audible and embodying its everlastingness - a real departure into the future from tradition!

The five musicians all got to know each other during their studies at the Munich University of Music and Performing Arts. There they studied with Peter Sadlo, Alexej Gerassimez, Adel Shalaby, Raymond Curfs, Arnold Riedhammer and Wolfram Winkel, all of whom are mentors and supporters of the ensemble.

The first joint international concerts of the percussionists took place in 2012, among others, in Egypt and Oman. This pure percussion formation was officially founded by Christian Benning in 2015 under the name Christian Benning & Percussion No. 1. Since then, concerts have taken place in the Center for Arts & Media in Karlsruhe, in the Hamburg Laeisz-halle, at the European Weeks in Passau and in the Munich Philharmonic Hall.

The ensemble recently made its debut as Christian Benning Percussion Group (since 2020) at Glocke Bremen, at Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, at the Festival of Young Artists in Bayreuth or at the Hercules Hall of Munich.

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» A Phenomenon «  
- Süddeutsche Zeitung

» Rhythmic Geniuses «  
- Die ZEIT

» Full of elegant Perfection «  
- Münchner Merkur

**105**  
INSTRUMENTS

**14**  
COUNTRIES

**5**  
MUSICIANS

**1**  
PASSION

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**LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)**

arr. Peter J. Lawrence

Scherzo from 3rd Mov. of 9th Symphony | Quintet

**MAURICE RAVEL (1875-1937)**

arr. Safri Duo &amp; Tchiki Duo

Alborada del Gracioso | Duo

**NEBOJŠA JOVAN ZIVKOVIĆ (\*1962)**

Trio Per Uno | Trio

**LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)**

arr. Peter J. Lawrence

Moonlight Sonata op. 27 no. 2 | Quintet

I. Adagio Sostenuto

II. Allegretto

III. Presto Agitato

**THIERRY DE MEY (\*1958)**

arr. Peter Sadlo &amp; Christian Benning Percussion Group

Musique de Table | Quintet

**JOHN CAGE (1912-1992)**

Third Construction | Quartet

**CHICK COREA (1941-2021)**

arr. Christian Benning Percussion Group

Spain | Quintet

**ENCORE****JOACHIM HORSLEY (\*1971)**

arr. Patrick Stapleton

Beethoven In Havana | Quintet

**JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1675-1750)**

arr. Peter J. Lawrence

Prelude in c-minor | Quintet

The concert program can take place with or without an intermission and with additional solo or ensemble works (8 on 3 & 9 on 2 - Robert Marino, Bad Touch - Casey Cangelosi, Look Out Little Ruth - Kurt Engel, Blues For Gilbert - Mark Glentworth a.o.).

# CHRISTIAN BENNING

Multi percussionist Christian Benning (\*1995) is meanwhile perceived internationally as a formative personality of a young and progressive generation of percussionists.

Concerts as a soloist as well as with his ensemble Christian Benning Percussion Group have taken him to the Hercules Hall of Munich, to Glocke in Bremen, to Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, to the Beethoven House in Bonn, to the Musikverein of Graz, to the Duomo di Milano, to the Egyptian State Opera, to the Royal Opera House of Oman or to the Abbey of San Diego.

Competitive successes and concert tours through Asia, Africa, Europe and North America with renowned orchestras underpin his artistic versatility as well as concert projects at the Rheingau Music Festival, the Heidelberg Spring, La Folle Journée or productions on behalf of Deutschlandfunk, Bavarian and Südwest-Rundfunk, when he also premiered and recorded some of his own compositions.

In addition to his work as solo timpanist at the Mauritian Opera of Port Louis and as teacher at the National Conservatory of Mauritius, he is currently developing a new hybrid percussion

instrument, called CreativeBeats.

As scholarship holder of the German Scholarship Foundation and as culture award winner of the Süddeutsche Zeitung and the city of Pasing, he works interdisciplinary in cooperation with Holger Geschwindner on innovative training methods through an effective combination of music and sport, for which he invented an own notation system.

Since 2009 he has already been studying as pre-college student at the Munich University of Music and Performing Arts with Prof. Adel Shalaby, where he then completed his Bachelor and Master studies with Prof. Dr. Peter Sadlo, Prof. Arnold F. Riedhammer and Prof. Alexej Gerassimez. He gained further study experience in the USA with Prof. Robert van Sice at the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University and at the Yale School of Music. In 2021 he has been selected to be promoted in the very first grade of the new postgraduate excellence program in Munich called Excellence in Performance.

Master classes and joint concerts with Evelyn Glennie, Martin Grubinger, Marin Alsop, Leon Fleisher, Lang Lang or Kent Nagano complete his huge range of artistic experiences.



» **The exceptional musical talent Christian Benning ignites a firework of rhythms and sounds on stage together with his ensemble.** «

SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG

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# CHRISTIAN BENNING PERCUSSION GROUP

## PATRICK STAPLETON

Patrick Stapleton (\*1993) is a graduate from the University of Music and Performing Arts in Munich where he initially studied with Prof. Adel Shalaby, Prof. Dr. Peter Sadlo and Prof. Alexej Gerassimez.

Apart from performing as a soloist, he particularly contributes to countless chamber music projects, during which he has worked together with world-famous artists such as Steve Reich and has already appeared on two recordings released by the renowned label Genuin Classics. He is a founding member of the Christian Benning Percussion Group, plays at The Lion King in Hamburg and frequently is a part of successful crossover projects like MEUTE or the VKKO.

Amongst others, he has played at such famous concert halls as the Philharmonic Hall of Munich, the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, the Royal Opera House of Muscat, the Cairo Opera House and the Moulin Rouge in Paris.

Stapleton is a multiple laureate at international musical competitions. Most recently he was awarded the Music Sponsorship Prize 2020 of the Konzertverein Ingolstadt as well as the 1st prize of the Kulturkreis Gasteig Music Competition 2020 in Munich.

## FELIX KOLB

Felix Kolb was born in Nuremberg in 1994, studied Percussion in Munich at the University for Music and Performing Arts and part of the Academy program of the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra. As freelance percussionist he concentrates on the symphonic repertoire and has already played concert projects all over Europe, but also in Egypt and in the United States of America. He has worked with many famous musicians and conductors such as Herbert Blomstedt, Zubin Mehta, Mariss Jansons, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Kirill Petrenko, Daniel Harding and Sir Simon Rattle.

Since 2016 he is member of the Christian Benning Percussion Group.

## MARCEL MORIKAWA

Marcel Kentaro Morikawa (\*1992 in Cologne) took his first percussion lessons in 2006 with Robert Schäfer (Gürzenich Orchestra). He began his Bachelor's degree in 2009 with Prof. Carlos Tarcha at the University of Music and Dance in Cologne, while he spent one year as Erasmus student at the University of Music in Bucharest in the percussion studio of Prof. Alexandru Matei. In 2014 he started a pedagogical degree and an artistic Master's degree at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Munich with Prof. Dr. Peter Sadlo, after whose sudden death he continued his studies with Claudio Estay (Bavarian State Opera). In 2017/18 he was an intern at the Hof Symphony Orchestra, where he is still substituting on a regular basis ever since, as well as at the Munich Chamber Opera, in the Gärtnerplatz theatre and in the Bavarian State Orchestra. In 2018 he won the 2nd prize at the international percussion competition ItalyPAS.

Since 2015 he has been permanent member of the Christian Benning Percussion Group, with which he has already performed in halls such as the Philharmonie am Gasteig or the Elbphilharmonie. He is currently studying with Prof. Raymond Curfs (Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra)

## GODWIN SCHMID

Godwin Schmid was born in Landsberg am Lech in 1996. In 2014 he was awarded with Landsberg's Cultural Scholarship. In 2013/14 he attended the Vocational School of Music in Krumbach where he was taught by Stefan Blum. In October 2014 he began his studies at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Munich with Franz Bach. From 2016 to 2018 he was an intern in the Philharmonic Orchestra of Würzburg. He was also able to gain valuable experience in orchestras such as the Nuremberg Symphony Orchestra, Munich Symphony Orchestra, Bochum Symphony Orchestra, Hof Symphony Orchestra, the Augsburg State Theater and the Munich State Opera. In 2019 he completed his Bachelor's degree with Claudio Estay and then began his Master's degree with Prof. Raymond Curfs.

Since 2020 he is member of the Christian Benning Percussion Group.

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# MULTI PERCUSSIONS

» **A breathtaking version of Beethoven's legendary Moonlight Sonata arranged for two Marimbas, Vibraphone, Mallet-KAT and Drumset by Peter Lawrence unleashes a frenetic audience.** «

Hamburger Magazin

#### Mallets

2x Marimba (5 Octaves), Vibraphone, Xylophone, MalletKAT (incl. Stand & Amp)

#### Drumset

Bass Drum 18", Snare Drum 14" & 10", Toms 15" & 14" & 10", 9x Cymbals, Woodblock, 2x Cowbell, (incl. Hardware & Carpet)

#### Percussion

Triangle, Chimes, Shakers, Thimble, Washboard, Mini Siren

#### de Mey

5x height-adjustable Chair, 5x Table, 5x Wooden Pad, 5x Piezo Pickup

#### Marino

Bass Drum, 8x Toms, Bongos, 2x Timbales (incl. Hardware)

#### Zivkovic

Bass Drum, 3x Bongos, 6x Gong, 3x Tray/Table (incl. Hardware)

#### Marino

Bass Drum, 8x Toms, Bongos, 2x Timbales (incl. Hardware)

#### Cage

20x Tin Cans, Bongos, 3x Congas, 6x Toms, Bass Drum Roar, Lions Roar, 3x Claves, 3x Maracas, Ratchet, Corn Shell, Jaw Bone / Vibraslap, 2x Cricket Caller, 2x Caxixi, 2x Water Fall, 2x Cowbell, Log Drum, China Cymbal, Tambourine, Rattle Can (incl. Hardware), Convoluted Foam, 20x Tray/Table

#### Cangelos

UV Lamp, Light Switch, Playback Tape, White Gloves

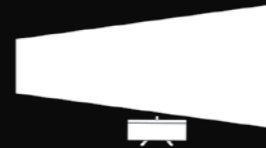
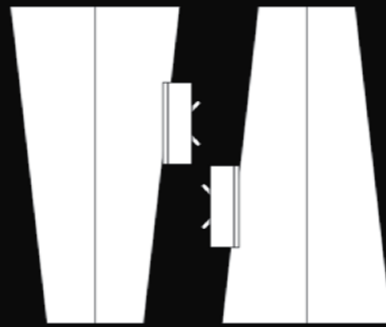
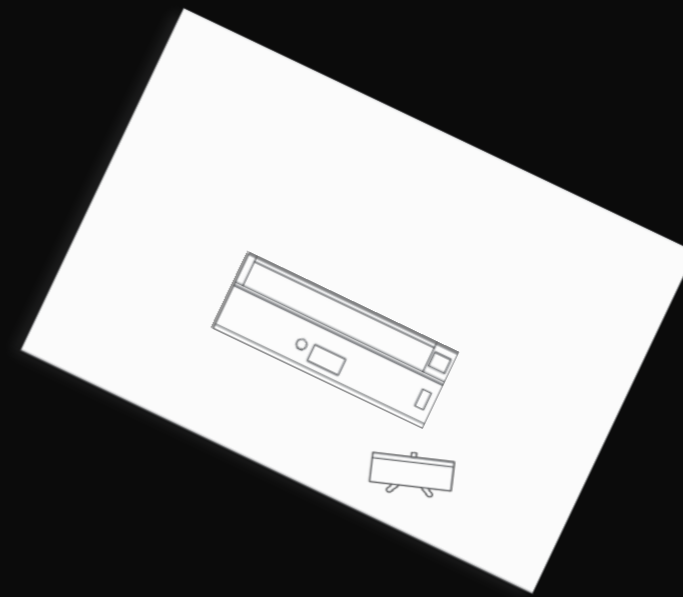
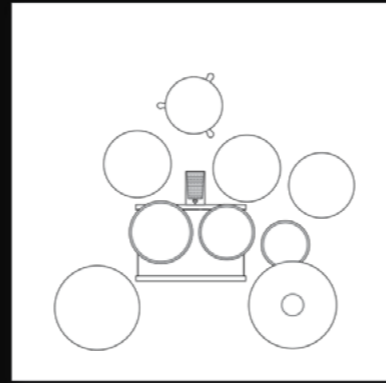
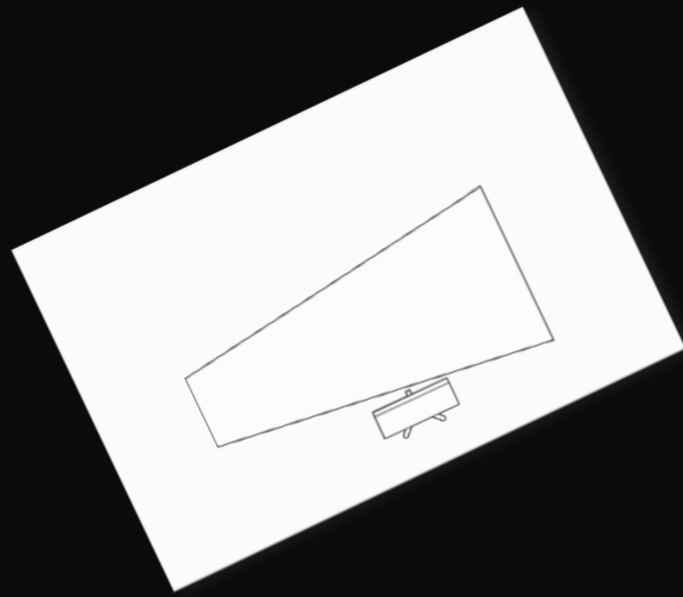
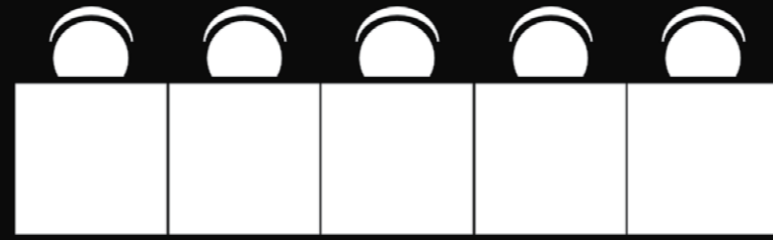
# EQUIPMENT



Music Stands:	10
Electrical Connections on Stage:	2
Drum Raiser / Podiums:	8 (1 meter x 2 meter)
Radio Microphone:	1 (incl. Stand)
Microphone Cables:	5 (XLR or LargeJack)
Sound System:	For Audience
Light Technician:	During Soundcheck and during the Show
Sound Technician:	During Soundcheck and during the Show
In case of Live Video Projection:	Canvas, Beamer, 3-5 Cameras Projection with lowest possible delay In Coordination with CBPG
In case of Live Video Streaming:	20-30 (Overhead) Microphones, Drumset Microphones 3-5 Cameras In Coordination with CBPG



STAGE



STAGE PLAN

AUDIENCE



[www.christianbenning.de](http://www.christianbenning.de)



CHRISTIAN BENNING PERCUSSION GROUP  
for exclusive creative concert events