

MARK D'AMBROSIO

COMPOSER · EDUCATOR · *percussionist*

NOT TO BE EDITED WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION

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Condensed Biography (155 Words):

Mark D'Ambrosio is a percussionist, composer, educator, and rounded musician from Colorado's Front Range. Mark specializes as a player of the handpan, a new and unique percussion instrument. He has performed as a soloist and taught throughout Colorado, the greater United States, Europe, and China. When not performing Mark is an avid composer, arranger, and music producer; his music has received critical acclaim and has been featured in numerous creative projects. As an author Mark is the creator of the "Hal Leonard Handpan Method" the first ever handpan method book published in the United States and his writings have been featured in such publications as the Percussive Arts Society's "Rhythm! Scene Magazine." Additionally, he serves as an educator for various area institutions in the Northern Colorado region and is a founder and the current president of the Steel Mountain Handpan Gathering, Colorado's largest Handpan event. Mark holds a BA in Percussion from Colorado Mesa University.

Full Biography (318 Words):

Mark D'Ambrosio is an American percussionist, composer, educator, and musical artist recognized for his bold and daring performances, expressive compositions, and innovative approaches in education. As a soloist and educator Mark has performed and taught throughout 12 countries in the Americas, Europe, and Asia. He has made appearances at some of the worlds most prestigious institutions including the Sibelius Academy, Norwegian Academy of Music, and the Royal Danish Academy of Music. He is widely regarded as one of today's foremost innovators of the handpan instrument through both educational methodology and pushing the boundaries of the instrument's sonic possibilities. As a performer Mark has collaborated extensively across genres with the likes of rappers Andy Bowen and Antonio Venomous, handpan artist Dan Mulqueen, percussionist Adam Maalouf, and pianist Lara Downes. As a composer Mark specializes in radical approaches in contemporary mediums and has written solo, duo, and chamber music with critical acclaim. Most notably he is one of the first and only composers to bring the modern handpan instrument into established musical settings. As a writer Mark is the author of the "Hal Leonard Handpan Method" the first ever handpan method book published in the United States and the creator of the first formalized system of handpan tablature notation. Devoted to the growth and development of the handpan artform Mark helped found the "Steel Mountain Handpan Gathering" in 2017 and today leads the organization as the President of Colorado Handpan Productions, LLC. Steel Mountain Handpan Gathering, CHP's annual event, attracts hundreds of handpan enthusiasts each year from across the world and has brought such artists as Jeremy Nattagh, Peter Levitov, Mumi, Phillippe Gagne, and David Charrier to the Colorado stage. Mark has studied with some of the worlds leading percussionists and musicians including Darin Kamstra, Lynn Vartan, and Tim Palmer and Jason Huxtable of Maraca 2. Mark holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in percussion performance from Colorado Mesa University.

