

On Drumset/Studio Percussion

.....

THE WORLD PERCUSSION NETWORK: ON-LINE AT PASIC '91

Editor's Note: *This article represents a unique milestone for Percussive Notes. It was actually written "on-line" by members of the Electronic Percussion Committee as a collaborative effort. By using the features of the World Percussion Network, members living in Florida, California, Texas, and Ontario were able to read, edit, add, and delete portions of the article and mold it into its final form. The entire process—from start to finish—was completed in nine days.*

*By the Electronic Percussion Committee
of
the Percussive Arts Society*

Percussive Arts Society. And, this archive will be accessible from anywhere.

The Electronic Percussion Committee was officially sanctioned in April, 1991 by Second Vice-President, Randy Eyles. Since that time, the Committee has been working furiously to bring its first project, the World Percussion Network, to life.

One of the most important stepping stones of this project has been the creation of a working prototype of the WPN by Barry Zimmerman of Lakeland, Florida. For several months now, committee members have been using Barry's system for the exchange of electronic mail, computer programs, MIDI files, samples, and text files covering a wide variety of educational, research, and percussion performance topics.

Barry's "Orpheus" bulletin board system has served as a proving ground for many of the features the committee plans to demonstrate at PASIC. Barry thinks that "we are gaining valuable experience by operating a working system. With input from you, the potential users of the WPN, we are sure that a system to meet your needs can be put into operation soon. Your participation is vital, so come by and let us know how the WPN can serve you."

"It's been incredible!" says committee member D'Arcy Gray. "In the short time I have been on-line with the WPN, I have gained access to a vast amount of information, exchanged ideas, and communicated warmly with both friends and strangers. I have also explored another facet of my computer and its ability to assist me in doing the things I like to do with greater ease and efficiency.

"It has also enabled me to dream about future possibilities of this network. Within a few short years, we just might be able to send and/or receive some form of 'videotaped' performances of re-

citals, new compositions, clinics/workshops, round-table discussions, and other forms of 'show and tell' such as fix it-build it, classified 'video' advertisements and the like. Our very own enhanced version of MTV or 'PTV' if you like. It may only be a dream, but it's been a very happy one. And that's what this network is really all about."

Norm Weinberg, the chair of the Electronic Percussion Committee, says that "one of the most important features of the Network will be its accessibility to those members without computers. By filling out a simple form, and mailing it to the WPN site, information can be printed out in hard copy and mailed back to the member with the shortest possible turn-around time. We'll be able to demonstrate this feature of the Network at Anaheim. Our hope is that PAS members who don't use a computer will see how easy it will be to access information stored in the WPN's computer".

Blair Helsing of Pacifica, California is the Project Manager for the WPN. "Our committee is relying very heavily on the stated preferences of PAS members as to how they want the Network to operate, and what services it should provide. It isn't important whether you use a computer or not. What's important is that you share your ideas about what services you need. The job of the committee is to then see whether we can meet those needs with the Network.

"At the same time, if you are a computer user, familiar with services such as CompuServe or PAN, we're interested in knowing what features you find useful. Please stop by and see us at PASIC!"

In addition to providing the ongoing demonstration of the World Percussion Network, the Electronic Percussion Committee will have an open meeting during the PASIC convention on Friday, November 22, from 8:00 am to 9:00 am (check your PASIC program for location). Please come by and give us your thoughts. After all, this is your network.

PASIC CONVENTIONS ARE ALWAYS events of great exhilaration, excitement, and significance. This year's PASIC convention in Anaheim, California will host the unveiling of the *World Percussion Network*, the first computer network devoted exclusively to percussionists. Stop by the demonstration booth at PASIC '91 and you'll be able to:

- Read the latest job openings, in both the performance and educational fields.
- Post an electronic mail message to others attending the convention.
- Search back-issues of *Percussive Notes* for information of interest.
- Post a classified advertisement for gear you may want to buy or sell.
- Visit the Network's "Comedy Club" and leave your favorite viola joke.
- Post and read information on study opportunities or your school's program.
- Request help with study/performance projects or share your knowledge with others.
- And much, much more!

The stated mission of the Percussive Arts Society is to "facilitate communication among all areas of the percussive arts". The World Percussion Network is another avenue that PAS is working on to keep members current with the latest developments in percussion performance, research, education, and literature. In short, the World Percussion Network will serve as an archive of the