

Your Guide to the WORLD PERCUSSION NETWORK: Part One Connecting for the First Time, Bulletins, Electronic Mail by Norm Weinberg

The World Percussion Network is just one of the ways the Percussive Arts Society helps you stay connected with the rest of the percussion community. With well over 100 PAS members online, communication with a worldwide family of people who share your interests is just a phone call away. Here is what you need to "get online": any computer system, a modem, and communication software. It's that easy! And, with the prices of modems falling daily, gaining access to the WPN is not very expensive. Most modems come bundled with software, but if you don't have communication software, you can usually find a shareware or freeware package that will serve your needs. Check with your local computer dealer or user's group.

Connecting with the WPN for the first time.....

Once you've connected a modem to your computer, it's a simple task to connect with the World Percussion Network. First, instruct your modem software to dial this number:

813-688-1353

After a moment or two, the computer at WPN headquarters will answer the phone, and you'll see this message on your computer screen:

Searchlight BBS System Version 2.15B-M, July 1991 Registration # 1151

Select Graphics Mode: [Cjolor, [M]onochrome, or [N]one?

The letters "C" and "M" refer to the type of monitors that are used with IBM-style computers (color or monochrome). If you're calling the WPN on an IBM-style computer, select the proper graphics mode by typing the first letter of the command. In fact, to perform almost any action on the WPN, simply type the first letter of the command. At this point, type "C" to indicate an IBM color monitor, or "M" for monochrome. All other computer brands (including Macintosh, Atari, Commodore, etc.) should type an "N" to select "None".

After you've selected the proper graphics mode, you'll see several messages about the structure and mission of the World Percussion Network. Follow the prompts on your screen to get more information about the WPN. After a few screens of information, you'll see this message:

Enter your name, or type NEW

Since this is your first time on the WPN system, you'll need to type "NEW" at the prompt to move to the New User Menu. Once you type "New" and press the "Return" key, you'll see this:

World Percussion Network New User Menu Please Enter one of the Following:

[R] Register as a New User [G] Enter System as a Guest [C] Call the Sysop to Chat [E] Re-Enter your Name [D] Disconnect (Hang Up)

Type the letter "R" and press the "Return" key to register as a new user. The host computer will ask you to answer a few simple questions. That's all there is to it. Congratulations! You're now connected to the WPN!

The next time you call the WPN, you won't type "NEW", instead, you should type your name and the password that you selected during the registration process.

Bulletins.....

After registering as a new user, you'll be moved to the "Bulletin" area of the WPN. Bulletins are important announcements that are addressed to everyone connecting with the World Percussion Network. When you arrive at the Bulletin area, your screen will look something like this:

World Percussion Network Bulletins:

14. 9-23-92 Latest SUBBOARD news!!

13. 9-08-92 WIN! from WPN's Latest Contest!

12. 5-14-92 NEW!! HIGH SPEED Connection!!

11. 3-07-92 CALL FOR PAPERS.

Read Bulletin [1-14] (Enter to Quit):

10. 1-09-92 Revised USER'S MANUAL Available.

9. 5-21-91 Tips to Help Save on Phone Charges

At this point type the number of the bulletin w

At this point, type the number of the bulletin you wish to read. Or, type "Enter" or "Return" if you don't want to read bulletins.

Working with the Electronic Mail System.....

When you leave the Bulletin area, the WPN takes you to your private mailbox. If you have any new mail messages waiting for you, this will appear on your screen:

Checking Your Mailbox... You have 3 message(s); 3 are NEW Read new mail now? (Y/N)

Type "Y" for Yes if you want to read the mail messages, type "N" for No.
Here's an example of a typical mail message:

Msg # 3 From: DAVID DRUMS Subject: Mahler Music Read Now? (Y/N/O) Date: Fri 10-16-92, 18:30 Read: 0 times

Type "Y" for Yes, type "N" for No, or type "Q" to leave the mail area. If you type "Y", you'll see the mail message on your computer's screen.

Bobby,
Got your message, thank you. Did you receive the
music for the Mahler?
All the best,
David

A)gain, R)eply, F)orward, P)rev, N)ext, O)ther, Q)uit (?=Help):

After you read the mail message, the command line offers you the following choices:

A=Read this message again
R=Reply to this message
F=Forward this message to another person
P=Read the previous message
N=Read the next message
O=Move to the other set of menu choices
Q=Quit reading messages

If we wanted to read the next message, we would type "N". Since we're going to reply to this message, we type the letter "R" and press "Return". Your computer screen would then show you this message:

Send Private Message

To: DAVID DRUMS

Type another name here if you want a carbon copy of the message to go to another member of the WPN. Otherwise, just press "return".

Subject:

457

Type a short description of your message, then press "return".

Enter text; type a period (.) when done. Max 400 lines.

001 Got the Mahler parts in the mail this Saturday. 002 Thanks a lot!

003 Bobby

004.

Notice that the last line of the mail message is a period (.) all by itself. This tells the host computer that the mail message is complete. When your message is finished, the host computer will display the following:

Cont Edit Ins Del List Abort Save-?

Just type the first letter of the command to perform the following actions:

C=Continue writing more on this message E=Edit this message I=Insert a line into this message D=Delete a line from this message L=List this message on the screen A=Abort this message S=Save this message

When you're ready to send the message, type "S" to "save". This will automatically place the message in the proper mailbox.

OK, next we'll send a new mail message to another percussionist on the WPN. Here are the steps:

1. Type "M" to bring up the Mail Commands

2. Type "S" to Send mail

3. At the prompt "To:", type the WPNer's name

4. At the prompt "Subject", type a short description

5. Type your message

6. End your message with a period (.) and a "return"

7. Type "S" to save your message

Next time, we'll take a look at reading the messages in subboards (special interest groups on a variety of topics concerning percussion), and downloading computer files. But why wait? Connect with the WPN today and catch a glimpse of the future!

Here is a list of the current subboards on the WPN:

GENERAL COMEDY DRUMSET **EDITORS ENSEMBLE** FOR_SALE GP GROVER **IOBS** MARIMBA **METHODS** MIDI PAN PASIC **PROJECTS** SPEAKERS TIMPANI

Public Message Base WPN Comedy Club Drumset Information Perc. Notes Editors Percussion Ensemble News Classified Ads GP Percussion Info. & Support Grover Pro Percussion Products Job Announcements Marimba Topics Info. Exchange for Methods Teachers MIDI Information and Support Steel Drum Topics Info and Discussion on PASIC '92 Professional Projects Info. "Speakers Corner" Record Reviews Timpani Forum