

CHRISTOPHER SWIST

Was born into a musical family in Buffalo, New York and began playing the drum set at a very early age. He stayed in his hometown for a B.M. in Music Performance from SUNY-Buffalo. While at U.B. he won the 1996 Baird Concerto Competition and had his early marimba compositions published. Christopher moved to New England in 1997 where he received his M.M. in Music Performance from The Hartt School. He followed this with a second M.M. in Composition from Hartt. His primary percussion teachers were Jan Williams, Anthony Miranda, and Benjamin Toth. He had specialized study with Alexander Lepak (timpani), Luiz D'Anuniação (Brazilian), Glen Velez (hand drums), and Johnny Almendra (Afro-Cuban). His composition instructors include Robert Carl, Ingram Marshall, Stephen Gryc, Kenneth Steen, and Jeffrey Stadelman. Mr. Swist is the principal percussionist of the New Britain Symphony and performs in the percussion sections of the Ridgefield and Waterbury Symphonies. He has also played with: New Haven Symphony, Eastern Connecticut Symphony, Norwalk Symphony, Bridgeport Symphony, Opera Theater of Connecticut, New Britain Opera and numerous other groups throughout New England. He has performed with Joshua Bell, Midori, The Empire Brass and several other premier soloists on the symphonic circuit. His solo CD "Whitewater" was released in 2001 and was funded through a grant from the Yvar Mikhashoff Trust for New Music. Mr. Swist has taught percussion, composition, music theory, aural skills and music technology at Keene State College in New Hampshire since 2003. He also is on faculty at Holyoke Community College in Massachusetts and the Hartt School of Music in Connecticut. He was the percussion instructor at Bennington College from 1998-2002. Christopher lives in Connecticut with his wife, the violinist Marcia Lehninger.