



Celebrating the Art of Percussion Performance
Friday, May 1 and Saturday, May 2, 2015.

As soon as the very first Percussion Rochester Festival on May 3 to 5, 2012 came to a successful conclusion at the Eastman School of Music, the producers began planning for another weekend of music celebrating the art of Percussion performance.

May 1 and 2 are the dates for the second Percussion Rochester Festival in 2015. Music featuring percussion instruments will once again be highlighted at performances in the City of Rochester, NY and in neighboring communities. ADMISSION IS FREE TO ALL EVENTS.

Friday, May 1, 2015 - Percussion Rochester at The Eastman School of Music

On Friday May 1 there will be an 8:00 PM concert in Kilbourn Hall at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester. The concert is titled "*Environmental Sustainability - A Musical Perspective*," in recognition and support of Rochester's *GREENTOPIA Festival*. During the performance, the *2015 John Beck Composition Prize* will be awarded to Minnesota-based composer, *Libby Larsen*, for her new composition, "DDT", which will then receive its premiere performance by the internationally-acclaimed Canadian percussion quartet *NEXUS*. Also on the program will be world premieres of three new works:

- "This World" by *Bill Cahn* - *NEXUS* with mezzo-soprano Katherine Ciesinski
- "Home" by *Michael Burrirt* - featuring the composer as soloist with *NEXUS*,
- "The Recycler" by Boston composer, *William Thomas McKinley* performed by the *Eastman Percussion Ensemble*, conducted by *Michael Burrirt*.

Saturday, May 2, 2015 "Drummers' Heritage Day - Honoring Local Drummer Boys and Veterans of the American Revolution in Memory of Frederick Fennell in the 100th year of His Birth."

Frederick Fennell (1914 - 2004) attended the Eastman School of Music (bio on page 2) and created the renowned Eastman Wind Ensemble in 1951. He became arguably the most recognized band master in the world since John Philip Sousa. Fennell was dedicated to traditional American fife and drum music, and his book, *The Drummer's Heritage*, published in 1956, had a major influence on generations of drummers in the United States.

May 2 has been Proclaimed "Drummers' Heritage Day" by Mayor Lovely A. Warren of Rochester, and by the Towns of East Bloomfield and West Bloomfield. Events will include the following performances:

- 10:00 AM - 40-minute ceremony at the East Bloomfield (NY) Cemetery honoring the local veterans of the American Revolution who are interred there. (Rain or Shine)
- 12:30 PM - 40-minute ceremony at the Pioneer Cemetery in West Bloomfield, NY honoring the local veterans of the American Revolution who are interred there. (Rain or Shine)
- 3:30 PM - 40-minute ceremony at the grave site of George Washington's drummer boy, Alexander Millener (bio on page 3), at the Mt. Hope Cemetery in Rochester, NY honoring the local veterans of the American Revolution who are interred there. The event will feature a performance by the renowned *United States Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps*. (This event may be canceled by rain)
- 6:00 PM - 2-hour muster at the historic High Falls Terrace in Rochester, featuring music from the American Revolution performed by local fifers and drummers along with the *U.S. Army's Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps*. (This event may be canceled by rain)

Each performance will contain a brief remembrance honoring the late Frederick Fennell and local Revolutionary War veterans, followed by music from the American Revolution presented with a narration describing the camp life of drummer boys and fifers during the Revolutionary War.

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