

REPORT ON NATHAN DEUTSCH FACULTY DEVELOPMENT FUNDED ACTIVITIES 2015

Craig Collison

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I attended the Centrum Jazz Workshop in Port Townsend, Washington, on July 19-26, 2015. I rehearsed in a jazz combo on drum set throughout the week and performed with the combo Saturday, July 26. The combo consisted of an alto saxophone, trombone, trumpet, drums, piano, guitar and bass. Alvester Garnett coached the group. Mr. Garnett is a professional jazz musician who has performed with jazz singer Betty Carter and jazz instrumentalists Wynton Marsalis, James Carter and Cyrus Chestnut. Mr. Garnett worked with me on such topics as effectively “comping” (accompanying) soloists, sustaining the energy during the performance of jazz compositions, new concepts in working with a bass player in a jazz combo, and the proper performance of various jazz styles. The ideas that Mr. Garnett taught me were performed in the final concert of the jazz combo.

I also had the opportunity to attend workshops on Brazilian jazz drumming and various Brazilian musical styles. I was able to attend workshops on jazz drumming taught by world famous performers such as Jeff Hamilton, Matt Wilson, and Joe Labarbera.

In addition I had the opportunity to perform an original composition of mine on the final concert. This was a terrific opportunity that gave me insight on improving my compositional techniques. It was a great joy to hear my composition performed live by our combo in concert. I will take this composition and arrange it for the ASU Percussion Ensemble. I would also like to include Brazilian percussion instrumentation and the styles I studied with Duduka Donfaseco at the Centrum Jazz Workshop in my teaching and in this arrangement.

The ideas and concepts that I gained from participating in this jazz workshop will be incorporated in my teaching the percussion students at Arkansas State University in individual private lessons and in the percussion ensemble.

I would like to thank the Office of Research & Technology Transfer for making this educational experience possible.

Sincerely,

Craig Collison

Associate Professor of Percussion, Arkansas State University

