The Evolution of PASIC

By Gary Cook

In this our 50th anniversary year celebration of the Percussive Arts Society, articles appearing in the previous three issues of *Percussive Notes* have chronicled the history of the Society up to 1990. These articles have included the birth of the Society and its publications, advent of PAS chapters, inception of the museum and headquarters, and have mentioned briefly what has become perhaps the most integral part of PAS—our conventions. Many members may recall the publication *Celebrating 30 Years of PASIC*, which was unveiled at PASIC 2005 in Columbus and contained short year-by-year reminiscences by convention hosts and PAS Past Presidents about highlights of each PASIC along with many fascinating photos.

This article will focus in depth on the two early PAS Days of Percussion, three conferences, and the first few PASICs, as well as review the 34 PASICs and their highlights. I especially want to thank Michael Kenyon and PAS Intern Heath Towson for providing copies of convention programs and other materials from the PAS archives and files for this research. Be sure to check out the PAS 50th Anniversary exhibit at the Rhythm! Discovery Center this coming November 9–12 at PASIC 2011 for many additional photos, programs, and highlights of PASICs through the years.

**FORMATIVE YEARS**

First chronicled by PAS historian Frederick Fairchild in 1985, quoted in the aforementioned *Celebrating 30 Years of PASIC*, and recapped most recently in the January 2011 issue of *Percussive Notes*, the history of PAS and its conventions began in the 1960s. As Fairchild writes in his article “A Brief History of the Founding of the Percussive Arts Society”: “During the late 1950s, it became the custom of a small group of percussionists and interested school music directors in attendance at the annual Midwest Band Clinic at Chicago’s Hotel Sherman to gather informally in order to discuss common problems and needs.”

Fairchild’s article “History of PASIC,” which appeared in the Spring 1987 *Percussive Notes* (Vol. 25, No. 6) and as cited in *Celebrating 30 Years of PASIC* chronicles the beginning of PAS “conventions.”

Beginning with the unofficial formative meeting of PAS in December of 1960, a tradition was established of holding annual business meetings in conjunction with the Midwest Band Clinic at the Sherman House in Chicago. (The Sherman was chosen because of its central location and the fact that many of the founders annually came to the Clinic.) [Author’s comment: This 1960 dinner meeting resulted in the legendary photo of many of the founding fourteen members of PAS.] On December 20, 1963, the first general meeting of the PAS membership took place in the Louis XVI Room of the hotel. The practice of holding separate Board of Directors and membership meetings, followed on the next day by breakfast, was begun [in 1967].

The PAS publication *Percussionist*, which originated in May 1963, often carried a section titled *Time and Place* that was “devoted to lists of times and places of clinics, recitals, and lectures given by members and other percussionists.” In the September 1965 *Percussionist* (Vol. 1, No. 2), the following announcement was made by Executive Secretary and Editor Donald Canedy:

Plans are being formulated for the members and guests of the Percussive Arts Society to have a general meeting at the Midwest Band Clinic in Chicago, December 20, 1965 in the Louis XVI room at 9:45 p.m. after the evening concert. The details of this meeting have not yet been firmed-up, but plans are coming along nicely. Keep this date clear on your calendar and plan to attend. Be sure to check your next issue of the *Percussionist* for details.

The December 1963 *Percussionist* Vol. 1, No. 3 contained the following announcement:

**Time and Place**

This section of the bulletin is devoted to lists of times and places of clinics, recitals, and lectures given by members and other percussionists. We hope readers will continue to supply us with dates and places of these events.

It seems that the “Time and Place” for this issue should include some thoughts for the meeting to be held in Chicago, December 20, 1965. This Friday night session in the Louis XVI Room of the Sherman House will be our first attempt to get our membership together. There will be a general discussion at the beginning of the meeting, which will be started by the Executive Secretary and summary of P.A.S. activities in the last ten months. With the status of PAS clearly in our minds the discussion will be centered around several basic topics. These will be those most often mentioned in correspondences, discussions, and business sessions throughout these last months and should therefore be of vital interest to the entire membership.

The local hosts will be our members from the Chicago area with Gordon Peters of our Editorial Staff as Chairman. A panel will be selected, the members of which will act as resource people, for a more meaningful discussion and it should be our main concern that from this first meeting will come discussions of importance to the percussion world.

If you cannot make the meeting for reasons of distance and/or expense, please send your comments to our Executive Secretary before December 15, 1963. This means you will have a voice in our discussions and decisions will be more adequately made. Be sure to bring your friends and any guests you feel are interested in percussion. We will be prepared to accept membership at the door to those who wish to join. The discussion part of our meeting will be open for anyone (not just members). After the general session there will be a formal business meeting for members only. We certainly hope that everyone will make an effort to attend. SEE YOU DECEMBER 20, 1963, HOTEL SHERMAN, LOUIS XVI ROOM, 9:30, P.M.

In true PAS spirit, the first meeting of the PAS general membership in 1965 included a panel discussion with the opportunity for “meaningful…discussions of importance to the percussion world.” And, true to this group of dedicated musicians, it lasted well into the late-night hours (as will be seen repeatedly in subsequent years).

By 1967 there had been four annual meetings of the PAS general membership and Board of Directors held in conjunction with the Midwest Clinic. Gordon Peters was the first elected PAS President and served from 1964–1967. In the December 1967 *Percussionist* Vol. 5, No. 2 the following was announced in *Time and Place*:

Percussive Arts Society Meetings, Friday and Saturday, December 15 & 16, 1967
The 1970 meeting of the Percussive Arts Society will be held during the Midwest Band Clinic at the Sherman House in Chicago, Illinois. The Board of Directors meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18 and the regular meeting immediately following, will begin a 6:45 p.m. We wish to encourage all members to attend the annual membership meeting. An excellent program is planned consisting of a panel discussion based on the interests and needs of those in attendance.

The panel members will include: Frank Arsanault, Mervin Britton, Vic Firth, Al Payson, Ed Shaughnessy, and two additional members will be confirmed at a later date. Neal Fliegel, PAS Executive Secretary will serve as moderator.

Al Payson joined the Program Committee in 1970. Under Feldstein’s leadership and with the perseverance of these dedicated individuals PAS moved forward with the idea for a “PAS convention” and held two Days of Percussion in conjunction with the Midwest Band Clinic in Chicago in 1971 and 1972. However, they moved from the Sherman House to DePaul University in 1971.

DAYS OF PERCUSSION
First Day Of Percussion, 1971

Fairchild writes: “The first Day of Percussion, subtitled Chicago ’71,’ was held on December 18, 1971 at DePaul University hosted by Bob Tilles, the business meetings having occurred the day before at the Sherman House. The program, featuring university ensembles, lectures, and clinics became a prototype for succeeding conventions.”

Chicago ’71” was announced in the Fall 1971 Percussionist (Vol. 9, No.1) as "a significant event of national importance in the continued growth in the scope of activities of your Percussive Arts Society." It was a day-long event beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the DePaul School of Music and concluding with the Illinois PAS chapter meeting at 5:30 p.m. The program was a one-page mimeographed sheet of paper. University percussion ensembles performing at Chicago ’71 included the American Conservatory, James Dutton, director; University of Illinois, Thomas Siwe, director; Northwestern University Marimba Ensemble, Terry Applebaum, director; Northern Illinois University, G. Alan O’Connor director; and members of the Cavaliers Drum & Bugle Corps, Larry McCormick, director. Guest speaker was composer Ralph Shapey.

The minutes of the PAS Board of Directors meeting held December 17, 1971 at the Sherman report this action: ‘Jim Moore seconded a motion by Merv Britton that a percussion ‘Hall of Fame’ presentation be investigated. Motion passed.’ It took only one year to implement the PAS Hall of Fame.

Second Day Of Percussion, 1972

According to Fairchild: “The 1972 Day of Percussion is remembered especially for the presentation of the first PAS Hall of Fame awards—to William F. Ludwig, Sr., Roy Knapp, Haskell Harr, Saul Goodman, and John Noonan. Held at the Sherman House and College Inn hosted by PAS and the Illinois PAS Chapter, the program featured professional and school percussion ensembles and a solo recital by Gary Burton.”

This second Day of Percussion was held on December 15–16, 1972 back at the Sherman House in conjunction with the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic. The general membership and Board of Directors meetings were on Friday, December 15 in the late afternoon and early evening. On Saturday, December 16 the percussion performances and clinics began at 2:30 p.m. with a dinner break at 5:30. Gary Burton’s recital started at 7:30 followed by the Indiana State Percussion Ensemble and the first PAS Hall of Fame awards. The Day of Percussion concluded with the Black Earth Percussion Group concert beginning at 10:00 p.m. Again, the program was a one-page mimeographed sheet of paper. Featured groups were the Crane University Percussion Ensemble, Jim Peterscak, director with Roy Burns as soloist; Maine West High School Percussion Ensemble, Jake Jerger, director; Sonic Boom, the percussion section of the Indianapolis Symphony, Thomas Akins, leader; the Indiana State Percussion Ensemble, Neal Fliegel, director with Jim Ganduglia guest soloist; and the “Black Earth Professional Percussion Ensemble.”

[I vividly remember the 1972 Day of Percussion. I was in my first year teaching percussion at Louisiana Tech University and we drove a car full of students and colleagues overnight from Ruston, Louisiana to the Midwest Clinic. Nothing quite like driv-
ing on icy roads after midnight with native Southerners! Years before, as a student at the University of Michigan, I often drove from Ann Arbor to Chicago to visit Franks Drum Shop and attend the Midwest Clinic. Gary Burton had recorded his album *Alone at Last* at the Montreaux Jazz Festival the year before in 1971, and at 29 he had already toured with George Shearing, Stan Getz, and his own Quartet. I’ll never forget his recital and his performance of “The Sunset Bell.” It initially made me want to burn my vibe mallets—but fortunately I didn’t. And needless to say, Black Earth was absolutely life changing!]

For a variety of reasons, there was no PAS Day of Percussion or Hall of Fame awards in 1973. The PAS business meetings, breakfast with “commercial members,” and general membership meetings were held throughout the day at Midwest on Friday, December 21, 1973 at the Conrad Hilton in Chicago. A PAS State Chairmen Meeting was held for the first time. This was a transitional year of planning to move the Day of Percussion away from coinciding with the Midwest Clinic in Chicago to other parts of the country so more PAS members could attend. Gary Olmstead was elected the new PAS President (1973–77) when Sandy Feldstein resigned. Under Olmstead’s leadership and diligent work by the Board and many dedicated individuals, these early Days of Percussion evolved into three conferences and eventually PASIC.

**PAS CONFERENCES**

**First National Conference**

The first PAS convention to be held outside of Chicago was on March 26–27, 1974 in Anaheim (Tuesday 26th) at the A&B Royal Inn and at California State University in Northridge (Wednesday 27th) following the national MENC (Music Educators National Conference) convention. It was called the First National Conference of the Percussive Arts Society (NCPAS). The conference was hosted by PAS and the California PAS Chapter with Lloyd McCausland as the conference chairman and Joel Leach, coordinator at Northridge. Tuesday’s clinicians included Fred Sanford and the Santa Clara Vanguards, William Kraft and the Los Angeles Percussion Ensemble, and Ron George and his percussion console. A composers’ forum included Martin Mailman, Vaclav Nelhybel, Joel Leach, and H. Owen Reed, with the evening concert featuring Gary Burton and Roy Burns. Wednesday’s clinicians included Emil Richards, Danlee Mitchell with the music of Harry Partch, and the Third Western States Percussion Festival. The evening concert was Gary Burton and Alan Dawson.

**Second National Conference**

The Percussive Arts Society Second National Conference was held in Chicago following the 28th Annual Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic on December 21, 1974 at the Conrad Hilton with clinics from 2:00 in the afternoon until late at night. The day was organized by the 1974 Midwest PASNC Committee with Ron Keezer, chairman. The business meetings and annual membership meeting were held December 20 throughout the day. At the Board of Directors meeting that evening Executive Secretary Neal Fluegel reported that “the 2nd Annual Conference had cost $525. Gary Beckner added that there were additional costs of over $600 which were absorbed by several manufacturers.” Thus was the beginning of the ever growing support of PAS conventions by manufacturers. Maurie Lishon, owner of Franks Drum Shop in Chicago, was Master of Ceremonies from 2:00 until 7:00 p.m. when John Mulvey took over.

The afternoon and evening were chock-full with clinicians and performers including the duo of Terry Applebaum and Ed Poremba, Trinity College Percussion Ensemble, Today’s Percussion Quartet from New York City, New Trier East High School Jazz Band, Linda Pimentel, Siegfried Fink, Michael Rosen and students, and the Ohio State Marimba Ensemble. Elementary percussion education was discussed by Fred Hoey and William Schinstine, and a “Women in Percussion” panel discussion included Karen Ervin, Jackie Meyer, and Linda Pimentel. Hall of Fame recipients were Morris Goldenberg, Gene Krupa, Harry Partch, and James D. Salmon.

In August of 1975 PAS held its first and only PAS National Percussion Symposium at Northern Illinois University in conjunction with the National Stage Band Camp’s Combo Sessions. This was not a convention and was limited to 150 participants.

**Third National Conference**

On December 20, 1975 a third PAS conference, the Percussive Arts Society National Conference 1975 (PASNC) was held in Chicago and hosted by PAS and the Illinois PAS chapter (Bill Crowden, President) at the Chicago Musical College of Roosevelt University with Thomas Siwe serving as conference chairman. The winners of the PAS Competition Contest (created in 1974) were announced, and the Mock Symphony Auditions were held for the first time. A special series of films was shown throughout the day showcasing the works of Harry Partch and African and Asian percussion. Guest speaker at the national meeting was Don Canedy. Clinicians included Karen Ervin, David Friedman and David Samuels,
Mark Petty, Jim Sewrey, Chick Evans, and Mary O’Neill. Concerts were presented by the York Township High School Percussion Ensemble (Chick Evans, director) and the Goodrich Jazz Band with Samuels and Friedman as guest soloists. Exhibits included new, original instrument designs by Rich O’Donnell and Mike Udow and a “wrap-in” session on how to recover and re-wrap mallets by Kevin Harlan. Hall of Fame recipients were Frank Arsenault, James Blades, Clair Omar Musser, and Paul Price. The prestigious Hall of Fame and other PAS awards have continued to be bestowed annually at every PAS convention.

As cited in Celebrating 30 Years of PASIC: “In 1975, the use of facilities at Roosevelt University in Chicago permitted the scheduling of simultaneous events for the first time, giving those in attendance a broader choice of activities. Since then, simultaneous sessions have been adopted at all successive conventions.”

The always forward-looking leadership of PAS was expressed in the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of December 19, 1975 at the PASNC by this statement: “The Executive Committee announced its desire to plan the ’76 PAS Convention for sometime in the Fall at the Eastman School of Music. A March Board meeting will be planned for the MENC to further plan for such an event.”

THE FIRST PASICS

PASIC ’76

By 1976, these early Days of Percussion and three conferences evolved into what has become the hallmark of PAS and our profession: PASIC, the Percussive Arts Society International Convention. The first PASIC was hosted by John H. Beck and the New York PAS Chapter at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester October 15–17, 1976. Although the first advertisements in the Spring 1976 Percussionist (Vol.13, No.3) announce the event as the 1976 Percussive Arts Society National Convention, within a few months National had changed to International and PASIC was born.

As Fairchild writes: “It was a great success... besides continuing the practice of scheduling simultaneous events, an entire hall was given over to manufacturers’ and publishers’ exhibits, a popular feature of this and later PASICs.” The first PASIC was truly a memorable two-day convention. Attendance was recorded at 425 with 190 attending the first annual PASIC banquet (banquet tickets were $8.50). Gordon Peters, first PAS President (1964–67), was the banquet guest speaker. Friday evening was the PAS Board of Directors meeting and reception for VIPs. John Beck premiered Phillip Lambro’s “Two Pictures for Solo Percussionist and Orchestra” with the Rochester Philharmonic on the Saturday evening full orchestra concert. Clinics were given by Fred Hinger, Alan Dawson, Jan Williams, Donald Knaack, Fred Sanford, and others. A composers’ forum discussion included Michael Colgrass, Ted Frazeur, and Sydney Hodkinson with Warren Benson as moderator. The Mock Symphony Auditions were again held and the Eastman Marimba Band performed ragtime selections by Green, Breuer, and Norvo along with the Eastman Percussion Ensemble and Eastman Musica Nova. The Marimba Band had just recorded these selections on July 24, 1976 for their famous Nola album. A young Gordon Stout and 25-year-old Leigh Howard Stevens made history sharing a clinic in which Stevens unveiled his one-handed roll in the Penn and Helble “Preludes” and Stout premiered his “Two Mexican Dances.” Their clinic ended with Stevens accompanying Stout, with Leigh’s four-mallet marimba version of the piano accompaniment, on “Tam-bourin Chinois.” [I personally will never forget having an epiphany connecting Hinger’s forearm technique with the rotary-stroke motion of Leigh’s one-handed roll. Ah, the memories of PASICs!]

Host John H. Beck writes in Celebrating 30 Years of PASIC: “It is difficult to put into words the excitement of the first PASIC: a small budget, a small crowd, but a big milestone for PAS. I feel honored to have been the host for the PAS event that set a standard for the future.”

The significance of the PAS conventions is perhaps best summarized by then PAS President Gary Olmstead writing in Celebrating 30 Years of PASIC when he stated: “I think I am most struck by the way the conventions have provided a forum for the world percussion community to meet, perform, discuss, and share our incredibly diverse fields with each other. This was truly the greatest pur-

Fred Hinger, PASIC ’76

PASIC ’76 Exhibit Hall
pose of establishing the event in the beginning.”

And indeed it was. My personal experiences meeting and making new friends at PASICs, who became life-long colleagues, and always leaving a PASIC super-charged and inspired with new learnings, music, and ideas can never be duplicated anywhere else.

PASIC ‘77

PASIC ‘77 was held at The University of Tennessee in Knoxville October 28–30, 1977 and hosted by F. Michael Combs. Combs had experience organizing the Southland Percussion Conference and assembled a historic event with Nexus’ and Keiko Abe’s first appearances.

Fairchild writes: “[PASIC ‘77] firmly established both the multiple-day format and the practice of naming the annual event by combining the initials PAS with the last two numbers of the year in which it was held, hence PASIC ‘77.”

Saul Goodman and Arnie Lang performed the Bartok “Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion” complete with stories about the first U.S. performance with Bartok and his wife. Keiko Abe’s artistry and compositions, including a virtuosic “Mirage,” left an indelible impression on everyone. Improvisation was taken to new heights with the Nexus sextet giving their first of many Southland performances, and the French group Spiral performing an unforgettable concert on the Baschet brothers’ Sound Sculptures.

The PASIC program was the first 8 1/2 X 11-inch copy with four glossy pages and covers. A “three-track program” was tried, with each track focusing on either College and Professional level, Students through the 12th Grade, or Music Educators. Several college percussion ensembles and the NIU steel band performed from Friday night through Sunday afternoon along with guest speaker Richard Hochrainer, numerous clinicians, and business meetings. Paul Price was the guest speaker at the banquet.

PASIC ‘78

Arizona State University in Tempe was the site of PASIC ‘78 October 27–29 with founding PAS member Merv Britton hosting the event. A variety of world-class clinicians covered every area from symphonic to marching and Orff to world percussion: Vic Firth, Charlie Owen, Harrison Powell, James Blades, Bill Molenhof, Bob Schirotma, John Bergamo, John Galm. Ed Shaughnessy, and others. Although the “three-track program” was not employed, many clinics were repeated to enable attendees to hear as many artists as possible. The evening concerts featured various ensembles as well as Leigh Stevens’ PASIC solo recital debut and Ed Shaughnessy with his Energy Force Band. The banquet speaker was James Blades. Jim Petercsak, PAS President from 1977–81, reflected in Celebrating 30 Years of PASIC: “PASICs could never have been successful without the dedication and commitment of Neal Fluegel and Jackie Meyer, Jim Moore, and the professional organization and business skills of Tom Siwe. The industry helped to make it all happen with Jim Coffin, Lennie DiMuzio, Lloyd McCausland, and others as big supporters.”

PASIC ‘79

The convention moved to the East Coast in 1979 with Arnie Lang hosting PASIC ‘79 at the Taft Hotel and at other locations in downtown New York City from October 26–28. Fairchild, writing on this four-day event, stated, “Many East Coast perform-
November 13–16, 1980 brought another four-day convention back to the West coast with Tony Cirone hosting PASIC ’80 at the San Jose Convention Center. Cirone stated in Celebrating 30 Years of PASIC: “In those days, the host had a large part in deciding who performed at the convention. The idea was to have local artists involved as much as possible. One of the new ideas presented then included the ‘Ask the Experts Panel Discussion.’”

PASIC ’80, indeed, had local artist involvement. Besides percussionists from the various San Francisco area symphonic and opera companies—Cirone, Joe Sinai, Elayne Jones, Peggy Lucchesi, and others—several area colleges and conservatory ensembles performed. Composers Lou Harrison, Andrew Thomas, and Marta Ptaszynska presented performances and premieres. The first full drum corps performance was given with the Blue Devils in exhibition. Other artists included Louis Bellson in a clinic and with his Big Band Explosion, Paul Humphrey, Steve Smith, Roy Burns, Alan Dawson, Gordon Stout, Ted Piltzecker, Al Payson, Morris Lang, Neil Deponte, Rob Carson, Ron George, Farrell Morris, Linda Pimental, Pierre Beluse, John Bergamo, Mary Ellen Donald, Kwaku Dadey, and others. One of the most memorable and unique sessions was Gamelan in America with Lou Harrison, K.R.T. Was todipuro, and Jody Diamond. Lou Harrison was the guest speaker at the banquet.

Fairchild noted: “Besides offering the great variety of events and meetings that had become the norm for PAS conventions, noontime courtyard marimba concerts [by the National Conservatory of Guatemala and the Memorial Ragtime Marimba Band] and outdoor drum corps activities were well received.”

PAS Historian Fred Fairchild concludes his article “History of PASIC” with this perspective: “It can be seen that the International Conventions have become a major part of the Percussive Arts Society’s informational and organizational activities, providing an important forum for exchanging percussion ideas. They have been from the beginning places where the professional, the educator, and the student could mingle and listen to music, learn new things, talk to old and new friends, plot the future course of the Society, see new percussion products and music, impart knowledge, and engage in countless other percussion-related activities.”

Indeed, since their formative years in the early 1960s, PAS conventions have continued to be the meeting place for new knowledge, inspiration, and friendship in the percussion world. Each convention has continued to grow in size and quality with remarks often being made like, “How will we ever top this PASIC next year?” Yet, with the dedicated PAS leadership and commitment of staff and members working toward the common goal of presenting the best PASIC possible, each year’s convention has steadily improved.

By 1980 the PASIC model was well established. Convention planning committees and the hosts effectively carried out the enormous task of planning and executing a convention along with the PAS staff, Executive Committee, and Board of Directors. In 2005, the convention had grown to such a level of complexity and specificity that the planning committee and host were discontinued. Jeff Hartsough became the PAS Director of Event Production and Marketing. The administration of PASIC was handed over to Hartsough working with the PAS staff and many of the 17 PAS committees, Board members, and other experts in the profession providing recommendations in their areas of expertise to Jeff and the Executive Committee. The current PASIC Selection Process was adopted in 2006 and can be viewed at www.pas.org/PASIC/pasicselection.aspx.

The manufacturers’ exhibits grew into what is now called the International Drum and Percussion Expo with over 100 exhibitors showcasing the latest instruments, music, technology, sticks, mallets, publications, educational materials, and more.

When PAS moved its headquarters and museum to Indianapolis in 2007, one of the main reasons for the move was to be able to hold PASIC in a city where the PAS museum and offices were located. With the opening of the Rhythm! Discovery Center in 2009 the museum became an integral component of PASIC. PASICs were scheduled for Indianapolis for 2009–11 with PASIC 2012 back in Austin. PASIC 2013 and 2014 will be held back in Indianapolis with 2015 in a city yet to be determined.

In 2008 the last banquet was held at PASIC and replaced in 2009 by a Hall of Fame Awards Celebration. The intention of the change was to expose all PAS award recipients to a broader audience at concerts and at the HoF Celebration. The new activity has been well received for the two years it has been held.

Rich Holly, PAS President from 2005–06, offered these remarks in Celebrating 30 Years of PASIC. They remain appropriate still today.

Producing any PASIC is ultimately the work of many, many people – mostly volunteers – with a passion for percussion and a passion for people. And producing 30 PASICs has only been possible with the dedication and hard work of many supporters and friends along the way. On behalf of all who have served on the Board of Directors of the Percussive Arts Society, I want to say a sincere “thank you” to the many who have helped us bring you these incredible conventions—in particular the exhibitors, the artists, the hosts and their planning committees, and the logistics teams.

Bill Wiggins, host for PASIC ’89 and PASIC ’96, perhaps best expresses the raison d’être for PASICs when he reflects in Celebrating 30 Years of PASIC:

It was a great satisfaction to see the throngs of students madly hustling from one clinic or performance to the next, talking excitedly about what they had just seen and heard, or in anticipation of the next great event. From time to time, I would speak to someone passing in the hall or on an escalator and ask if they were having fun. Invariably the answer was an enthusiastic YES!
This article will conclude with an overview of PASICs from 1981 to 2010. Complete programs are available in pdf format (and video clips for some years) for PASIC 2000 to 2010 at www.pas.org/pasic/pasicarchives.aspx. Major artists and new developments will be briefly highlighted below with the hopes that the reader can further appreciate the evolution of the hallmark of PAS—our conventions.

PASIC ’81
Indianapolis Convention Center, Nov. 12–15, Paul Berns host.
• Students from Butler University served as what is now the Logistics Team.
• First PASIC appearance for Airto Moreia, Phantom Regiment, Cloyd Duff, Dong Wook Park (Korea), Carmine Appice, Mike Mainieri, Butch Miles, Harvey Mason, Equilibrium: Mike and Nancy Udow, David Woodbull, Percussion Group/Cincinnati, Répercussion (Canada), and others.
• Evening concerts: Airto and Cheveré, Keiko Abe, Nexus, Indiana universities percussion ensembles.

PASIC ’82
Dallas Lowes Anatole Hotel, Nov. 18–21, Bob Schieteroma host.
• First year of the PASIC Marching Festival.
• First PASIC appearance for Steve Reich, Alex Acuna, Simon Phillips, Steve Gadd, Phil Ehart, Ed Saindon, Paul Smadbeck, Andy Narell, Sam Denov, Alan Abel, David Charles, Kalman Cherry, Jerry Tachoir, Glen Velez, Rosewood Duo, Valerie Naranjo and Barbara Amen Harper (Orff music), Abraham Adzinyah, Theodore Dennis Brown, Dennis DeLuca and the Bridgemen, and others.

PASIC ’83
Knoxville Convention Center, Nov. 3–6, F. Michael Combs host.
• Repeat performances by Friedman and Samuels, Emil Richards, Gordon Stout, Bob Becker, William Schinstein, Fred Hoey, Donald Knaack, Max Roach, John H. Beck, Dong Wook Park (Korean folk music), Dave Garibaldi, Roy Buras, and others.
• Evening concerts: Steve Reich and Musicians, M’Boom Re: Percussion with Max Roach, Leigh Stevens, Nexus, Steve Gadd with the NTSU Lab Band.

PASIC ’84
Ann Arbor, University of Michigan, Nov. 1–4, Michael Udow host.
• Last PASIC hosted on a university campus.
• First PASIC appearance for Kroumata, Vinnie Colaiuta, John Robinson, Rod Morgenstein, Les DeMerle, Vida Chenoweth, Salvatore Rabbio, Robert Pangborn, Jim Campbell and the Phantom Regiment, Ralph Hardimon, Doug Walter, Judith Becker, Michael Rosen, and others.
• Repeat performances by Nexus, Keiko Abe, Harvey Mason, Alan Dawson, Vic Firth, John Bergamo, Norbert Goldberg, Glen Velez, Charles Owen, Morris Lang, Alan Abel, and others.
• Evening concerts: Nexus, David Friedman and David Samuels, Percussion Group/Cincinnati, Gordon Stout.

PASIC ’85
Universal City, Sheraton Universal Hotel, Nov. 14–17, Jay Wanamaker host.
• First PASIC appearance for Stewart Copeland, Jim Chapin, Billy Cobham, Steve Smith, Joe Franco, Chester Thompson, Evelyn Glennie, Julie Spencer, Steve Schick, Ronnie Powell, Luis Conte, Walfredo Reyes, Jr., Jeff Narell, Frank Epstein, Jim Keltner, Mark Stevens, Ken Watson, Tom Float, Bob Dubinski, Repercussion Unit, and others.
• Repeat performances by Tony Williams,
Emil Richards, Gary Burton, Andy Narell, Alex Acuna, Bob Becker, Rob Carson, and others.


**PASIC ’86**

Washington, D.C. Convention Center and Kennedy Center, Nov. 3–8, Randall Eyles host.

• Six-day PASIC in honor of the 25th Anniversary of PAS.

• Monday all-day “Excellence in Performance” workshop with Michael Colgrass.

• Tuesday all-day seminars on music and interpretation with international presenters.

• First Showcase Concerts featuring winners of the Percussion Ensemble “Call for Tapes” Contest.


• Evening concerts: Percussion Group/Cincinnati, Steve Schick, U.S. Air Force Band with Steve Gadd, University of South Carolina Orchestra and Sanul-Nori (Korean drummers/dancers) with Keiko Abe and Louis Bellson, Music for Solo Marimba (Consortium commissions), Nexus.

**PASIC ’87**

St. Louis Adam’s Mark Hotel, Oct. 28–Nov. 1, Norm Goldberg/Thomas Siwe hosts.

• Pre-convention conference Wednesday on “Percussion and Timbre Elaborations,” precursor of the current Focus Day.

• First PASIC appearance for Sonny Emory, George Marsh, Gregg Bissonette, Alan White, Ralph Humphrey, Brad Stirtz, Panorama ’87 USA, Boogisie Sharpe, Cliff Alexis, St. Louis Symphony percussion section, Christopher Lamb, Neil Grover, Robert Snider, Cavalier Drum & Bugle Corps drumline, and others.

• Repeat performances by Efrain Toro, Terry Bozio, Sonny Emory, Steve Smith, Ron George, Equilibrium, Bobby Christian, Bill Molenhof, David Friedman, Steve Houghton and Emil Richards, Evelyn Glennie, Gordon Stout, Bob Becker, Sam Denov, Tony Williams, PASIC ’83

Equilibrium, PASIC ’87

Gary Burton and Makoto Ozone, PASIC ’88
Jonathan Haas, William Moersch, Mervin Britton, James Campbell, and others.
• Evening concerts: Nashville Symphony Orchestra with Harvey Warner, Equilibrium, Katherine Dunham Dance Co., Boogsie Sharpe Experience.

PASIC ’88
San Antonio, Texas Convention Center, Nov. 16–19, Genaro Gonzalez host.
• Repeat performances by Alex Acuna, Jim Chapin, Peter Erskine, David Garibaldi, Chester Thompson, Vinnie Colaiuta, Joe Franco, Ed Thigpen, Luis Conte, Dean Witten, Ted Piltzecker, Alan Abel, Larry Kaptain, John Bergamo, Glen Velez, Emil Richards, Norm Weinberg, Marty Hurley and Phantom Regiment, and others.
• Evening concerts: Kroumata with Keiko Abe, Gary Burton and Makoto Ozone, Ted Piltzecker and Doug Walter, San Antonio Symphony with Steve Houghton.

PASIC ’89
Nashville Convention Center & Stouffer Hotel, Nov. 8–11, Bill Wiggins host
• Wednesday first official “New Music/Research Day.”
• First PASIC appearance for Dennis Chambers, Omar Hakim, Gary Chaffee, Bob Mater, Dale Armstrong, Paul Yancich, Warren Johnson, Marilyn Rife, Sarah Tenney, Jay Collins, George Gaber, Abdul Satar Tari, Mike Black and the Spirit of Atlanta drumline, and others.
• Repeat performances by Vinnie Colaiuta, Farrell Morris, Jack DeJohnette, Larrie Londin, Alan Dawson, Louis Bellson and Jacob Armen, Gordon Stout, Bob Becker, William Moersch, and others.
• Evening concerts: Evelyn Glennie with the Nashville Symphony, Percussion Ensemble Stuttgart, Dave Samuels with the Manhattan Marimba Quartet.

PASIC ’90
Philadelphia Adams Hotel, November 7–10, Dean Witten host.
• First PASIC appearance for Bobby Rock, Carl Allen, Clayton Cameron, Casey Scheuerrl, Will Kennedy, Jonathan Moffett, Alfons Grieder, Atmos Quartet, Ju Percussion Group (Taiwan), Hornel Horvath/ Viktória Herencsár, Robert Van Sice, Arthur Lipner, Crossmen Drum Corps, and others.
• Repeat performances by many!

PASIC ‘91
Anaheim Disneyland Hotel, Nov. 20–23, Dave Black host.
• First of five years of programs printed as 4 X 9-inch booklets.
• First PASIC appearance for Elvin Jones, Chad Wackerman, Tom Breichten, Joey Heredia, Greg D’Angelo, Mike Fisher, Steve Foreman, Bobby Hutcherson, Charlie Shoemaker, David Searcy, Barry Jekowski, Jack Van Geem, Stanislaw Skoczynski, Joseph Gramley, Giovanni Hidaglo, Velvet Knights Drumline, and others.
• Evening concerts: Lou Harrison’s Gamelan Orchestra, Percussion Art Quartet of Germany, Safir Duo, Pancho Sanchez and his Latin Band, Louis Bellson and his Big Band featuring the PAS International Drumset Contest Winner.

PASIC ‘92
New Orleans Hyatt Regency Hotel, Nov. 11–14, Jim Atwood host.
• First PASIC appearance for Trilok Gurtu, Tony Verderosa, Dave Weckl, Adam Nussbaum, Marvin “Smitty” Smith, Rayford Griffin, Will Calhoun, Joseph “Zigaboo” Modelistie, John Vidacovich, Earl Palmer, and others.

PASIC ‘93
Columbus, Ohio Greater Columbus Convention Center, November 10–13, Robert Breithaupt host.

PASIC ‘94
Atlanta, Georgia Peachtree Plaza Hotel, Nov. 16–19, Tony McCutchen host.
• First PASIC appearance for Cindy Blackman, Terri Lyne Carrington, Fred Gru-
PASIC 2000
Dallas, Hyatt Regency & Convention Center, Nov. 15–18, Michael Varner host.

- First PASIC appearance for Zoro.
- Dave DiCenso, Gordy Knudtson, Marco Minnemann, Robin Horn, Mike Portnoy, Eduardo Leandro, Frédéric Macarez, Arnaud Vacca, Steven Raybione, Jerry Steinholz, Liam Teague/Robert Chappell Duo, Nanae Mimura, She-e Wu, Takayoshi Yoshioka, Paul Rennick, and others.

PASIC 2001
Louisville Kentucky International Convention Center, Nov. 19–22, Rick Mattingly host.

- First PASIC appearance for Tommy Igoe, Peter Retzlafl, Gilad Ramadhan, Jimmy Chamberlin, Bun E. Carlos, Bruce Klauber, Mike Wengren, Steve Davis, Troy Luccketta, Peter Ostlund, Brian Kushmaul, Tom Teasley, David Hall, Naoko Takada, Dick Sisto, David Fishlock, Nicholas Ormond, Timothy Genis, Ted Atkatz, Brian Del Signore, Ray Yslas, Eric Millstein, Jeff

Queen, Bill Bachman, So Percussion Group, Caixa Trio, and others.
• Evening concerts: Kroumata, Amsterdam Percussion Group, Mike Mainieri with American Diary.

PASIC 2004
Nashville Convention Center & Renaissance Nashville Hotel, Nov. 10–13, George Barrett host.
• First PASIC appearance for Shawn Peldon, Morgan Rose, Ricky Sebastian, Steve Fidyk, Fred Dinkins, Russ Miller, Derico Watson, Nathaniel Townsley, Ralph Irizarry, Royal Hartigan, Jack Bell, Jean Geoffroy, Brian T. Jones, Ludwig Albert, Craig Hertick, Fernando Hashimoto, Michael Markus, Murray Gusseck, Scrap Arts Music, Percussion Claviers de Lyon, Ethos Percussion Group, and others.
• Evening concerts: Momoko Kamiya, Michael Burritt with the Northwestern University Chamber Orchestra, Nexus with Fritz Hauser, Manu Katché Tendances.

PASIC 2005
Columbus, Ohio, Greater Columbus Convention Center , Nov. 2–5
• First PASIC appearance for Susie Ibarra, Terry Silverlight, Rick Latham, Glenn Kotche, Jason Bittner, Sergio Betlotti, Ray Luzier, Billy Kilson, Larry Lelli, Gustavo Meli, Saulius Astrauskas, Adrian Stefanescu, Shawn Mativetsky, Michael Skinner, Michael Werner, Andrew Reamer, Tim Fairbanks, Mika Yoshida, Lalo, Greg Giannascoli, Michael Spiro, Bob Bloom, Shuichi Hidano, Rafael Pereira, Michael Bettine, Robert Ledbetter, Gert Mortensen, and others.
• Evening concerts: Stefon Harris and Blackout, a Tribute to Babatunde Olatunji, Steve Gadd with the Columbus Jazz Orchestra, Steve Smith and Buddy’s Buddies.

PASIC 2006
Austin, Texas, Austin Convention Center, Nov. 8–11
• First PASIC appearance for Benny Greb, Ralph Peterson, Jim Riley, Keith Carlock, Rodney Holmes, Kenwood Dennard, Chris Layton, Steve White, Ed Harrison, Rajna Swaminathan, Tiki Pasillas, Ron Holdman, Dave Holland, Kai Stensgaard, Brian Zator, Matthews Strauss, Joel Davel, Jim Kilpatrick, and others.
• Evening concerts: Keiko Abe and the UNT Wind Symphony and others, Double Image: Friedman and Samuels, Airto Moreira and Friends.

PASIC 2007
Columbus, Ohio, Greater Columbus Convention Center, Oct. 31–Nov. 3
• First PASIC appearance for Grant Col- lins, Omar Hakim, Joel Spencer, Brann Dailor, Dave Dicenso, Ronald Bruner, Jr., Nick Woud, Rob Ferguson, Geraldo de Oliveira, David Frego, Mike Quinn, Dean Borghesani, Nataraj Amrit, David Kuckhermann, Marta Klimasara, Mi Youne Kim, Kevin Bobo, and others.
• Evening concerts: Emmanuel Séjourné and Anne-Julie Caron, Chung Ang Percussion Group, Giovanni Hildago with Trio Manari, Andy Narell Group.

PASIC 2008
Austin, Texas, Austin Convention Center, Nov. 5–8.
• First PASIC appearance for Ari Hoenig, Ray Luzier, Steve Ferrone, Terence Higgins, John and Chad Wackermann, Dafnis Prieto, Stanley Randolph, Fausto Cuevas, Albe Bonacci, Will Hudgins, Bernard Woma, Makoto Nakura, Gary Curry, Mark Sunkett and Cosaan, Scott Feiner, Taku Hirano, Mike Snyder, Joel Lavolette II, Nick Angelis, Gordon Campbell, Katarzyna Mycka, Pedro Carneiro, Brian Harris, Gilson de Assis, Peter Kogan, Tony Edwards, Jeannine Remy and the Golden Hands UWI Percussion Ensemble and Steel Orchestra, and others.
• Evening concerts: Nexus with the Meadows Wind Ensemble featuring Drew Lang, Tribute to John Bergamo, Roy Haynes and the Fountain of Youth.

PASIC 2009
Indianapolis, Indiana Convention Center & Westin Hotel, Nov. 11–14
• Opening of the Rhythm! Discovery Center.
• First PASIC appearance for Virgil Donati, Tobias Ralph, Dean Butterworth, Joel Stevenett, Benny Greb, Sergio Bel- lotti, Fekix Pollard, Chris Penne, John Best, Christopher McLaurin, Jay Hoggard, Glenn Paulson, Marc Damoulakis, Henrik Larsen, Rajna Swaminathan, David Lindberg, Alana Radecki, Nathaniel Bartlett, George Brown, Patrick Schleker, Sandi Rennick and the Phantom Regiment Front Ensemble,
Danny Raymond, Pius Cheung, Victor Rendon, Lee Vinson, Patrick Graham, Cynthia Yeh, UNT Gamelan, Spectrum Trio, Maraca2 Percussion Duo, Fuji Trio, and others.

- Evening concerts: Ju Percussion Group, Amores Percussion Group, Tommy Igoe and the Birdland Big band featuring Rolando Morales-Matos.

PASIC 2010
Indianapolis, Indiana Convention Center & Westin Hotel, Nov. 10–13.

- Focus Day integrated into Thursday’s schedule for first time.

Ten Drum Art Percussion Group, PASIC 2010
Lewis, Swexican Trio, West Point Band Percussion Section, Lee Caron with American


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