



Donnie Bell

Hometown musician continues to climb to top of percussion world

From Rome to Southern California and finally to Tacoma, Wash., hometown musician Donnie Bell has traveled from coast to coast as he continues to climb to the top of the percussion world.

While he still greatly enjoys tapping and pounding his drums, 26-year-old Bell, son of Donald Sr. and Rosemary Bell, would rather be first and foremost known as a composer.

Bell began playing drums at the young age of 10, and began performing with what would become a list of productions and performance groups. He is a 2004 graduate of Rome Free Academy.

For more than two years, Bell, worked out of Los Angeles where he attended the University of Southern California. He is now based out of Tacoma.

In 2010 Bell released *Chronicles*, a multi-movement programmatic piece scored for a percussion quintet. *Toucan's Revenge*, the fourth movement of *Chronicles*, has been performed by the Pierce College Percussion Ensemble and has received air time on Northwest Public Radio. As a follow-up to *Chronicles*, Bell veered in a rather different direction to write *Hold On, Let Go*, a solo work for piano.

In February 2011, Bell released what he considers his most elaborate work to date, *Tacoma, WA*. *Tacoma, WA* is a work written for a wind and brass ensemble and pays homage to one of his favorite places, his current hometown of the last four years.

As recently as August, Bell released *Snails To Slugs*, a duet written for two marimbas. The follow-up to *Snails To Slugs*, *Impaler*, was released at the end of last month. Similar to *Chronicles*, the work features all percussion instruments. However, Bell claims that *Impaler* is much "darker" than most of his previous works.

Currently scheduled for a late 2012 release, Bell is in the midst of completing the sequel to *Chronicles*.

Bell bases much of his work on the emotions of daily struggles, loneliness, longing and taking chances.

Here is more on Bell and his accomplishments:

Q: Who has been your greatest (musical) influence?

A: The Mars Volta, TOOL, Prince, Charlie Clouser, Akira Yamaoka.

Q: What are some of your more recent accomplishments?

- 2007-08 — Performed with the NFL's Seattle Seahawks Blue Thunder Drumline.
- 2009 — Featured in *The Pioneer*, Volume 42, Issue 9.
- 2009 — Featured as director for the Pierce College Percussion Ensemble on Pierce TV, Episode 3-6.
- 2009 — *Toucan's Revenge* receives world premiere.
- 2009 — *Summer Of Darkness* receives world premiere.
- 2009 — Award for "Most Outstanding Student in Arts & Humanities Division, Pierce College Music Department.
- 2009 — Graduated from Pierce College in Tacoma, Wash.
- 2010 — *Toucan's Revenge* aired on Northwest Public Radio.
- 2011 — *Toucan's Revenge* performed by the Onondaga Community College Percussion Ensemble.
- 2011 — Graduated from the University Of Southern California in Los Angeles, Calif.
- 2012 — Featured on *Music 'Til Death*.
- 2012 — Featured on the website *Mediocrity Is The New Genius (MITNG)*.

Q: Any future goals and/or performances and projects coming up?

A: The world premiere of a compositional work featuring all junk and re-purposed instruments in Seattle, Wash. in January 2013.

Q: What or who continues to influence your music?

A: The positives and negatives that come with life.