



**So Percussion Summer Institute
Press Release – November 12th, 2010**

The 2009 So Percussion Summer Institute was a great success. The four members of So Percussion and 23 students - ranging in age from 19 to 30 and representing 16 schools in 11 states from around the country – took over the beautiful campus of Princeton University for two weeks. There they performed six concerts and participated in classes and coachings with composers Steve Mackey, Paul Lansky, Dan Trueman, Barbara White, Dennis DeSantis, Oscar Bettison, Suzanne Farrin, and Mark Dancigers plus Martin Schmidt from the electronic duo Matmos and director/actor/playwright Rinde Eckert. In the summer of 2010, the Summer Institute will continue for a second year in residence on the campus of Princeton.

Taking place from July 19th to August 2nd, the program will again include the participation of many composers, especially those from the Princeton music department, and will focus in-depth on the compositional process and the relationship between performers and composers. This year, the Institute will also accept applications from pre-formed multi-instrumental ensembles that include percussion. There will be multiple performance opportunities for students at the Institute: formal concerts, opportunities to perform with members of So Percussion, and various community outreach activities including concerts in coffee shops, libraries, and outdoor settings. Students will be challenged to perform at the highest level, experiencing the life of a member of So Percussion for two weeks.

In addition, this year will include the possibility of several excursions to see concerts of important twentieth century works. Among these are a trip to Lincoln Center to see performances of the complete works of Edgard Varese by the New York Philharmonic and So performing with The International Contemporary Ensemble under the direction of Steve Schick, and a complete performance of Steve Reich's masterwork "Drumming" with the ensemble Nexus and Reich himself. Please check back with the website for updates about these and other additional programs at this year's Summer Institute.

The town of Princeton and Princeton University provide an amazing backdrop in which to experience the Summer Institute. Students will enjoy the shops and restaurants of Princeton's convenient main street, while having access to some of the best music facilities of any school. The entire music department of Princeton is converted into a massive percussion studio for two weeks, and students will perform in McAplin Hall and Taplin Auditorium.

The four of us in So Percussion believe firmly in giving back to the next generation of young artists. We are fortunate enough to be able to play the music we love for a living, and are inspired to pass on practical advice and guidance to future generations of artists. We see this as one of the most important aspects of our work as an ensemble, and it is also a key area of growth for us in the coming years. This desire to mentor young artists goes hand in hand with our future success as an organization, and the Summer Institute is a timely opportunity to help us achieve both goals simultaneously.