



2016 GUEST ARTISTS



CAIXA TRIO

The Caixa Trio, Julie Hill, Julie Davila, and Amy Smith, was formed in 2000 and is a professional percussion ensemble based in Tennessee. The ensemble derives its name from the caixa, or snare drum, used in escolas de samba in Brazil. The Caixa Trio performs an eclectic repertoire including classical, contemporary, world, and rudimental percussion.

The Caixa Trio has performed internationally at festivals in Mexico, Brazil, South Korea, France, and Puerto Rico as well as the Percussive Arts Society International Conventions. The Trio has also performed and presented master classes at universities and public schools throughout the United States including numerous state Day of Percussion events. The Caixa Trio emphasizes the importance of musicianship and demonstrates the versatility needed in the role of the total percussionist. The Caixa Trio is dedicated to expanding the literature available for percussion trio by composing and commissioning new works. The Trio released its CD, "[Commissioned Works](#)" in 2008.



Julie Davila

Julie Davila is a member of the chamber percussion ensemble the CAIXA TRIO, winner of a 2011 “Drummie” award by Drum Magazine. In addition to her membership in the CAIXA TRIO, she currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Percussive Arts Society and served as the chair of the Marching Percussion Committee of the Percussive Arts Society from 1998-2007. She is currently the arranger and instructor for the Middle Tennessee State University Band of Blue Drumline, and additionally is an adjunct professor of percussion at MTSU. Prior to her work at MTSU, she was the percussion specialist at several high schools in Nashville, Tennessee. Many of her groups have medaled in all divisions of the WGI activity and in 1996 the John Overton high school Indoor drum line, under her direction won a National Championship. Julie is a member of the WGI nationally recognized adjudication team and serves on the steering committee for WGI Percussion.

As a member of the Caixa Trio and as an active clinician specializing in contemporary and marching percussion, she has performed in Seoul, South Korea, Paris, France, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Brazil and extensively throughout the United States. Julie received her degree from the University of North Texas. She has published numerous marching and concert percussion features through Rowloff Productions and Drop6 Media. She is the author of the “Modern MultiTenor Techniques and Solos” and “Impressions on Wood” published by Rowloff, and is a coauthor of “Aptitude” an innovative solo snare book published by Drop 6 media. Julie is an endorser and clinician for the Pearl Corporation, Innovative Percussion, the Avedis Zildjian Company, Grover Pro Percussion and Evans Drum Heads.



Amy Smith

Amy Smith is a nationally recognized performer and educator. As a member of the percussion group, The Caixa Trio (www.caixatrio.com) she has performed in France, Puerto Rico, Korea, Mexico, Brazil. In addition, Amy has performed with many orchestras including the Nashville Symphony, the Evansville Philharmonic, the Boulder Philharmonic, and the Sewanee Festival Orchestra. She is a sought after clinician and has presented workshops and master classes throughout the United States. A former resident of Tennessee, Amy was a band director for the Murfreesboro City Schools and the director of Steel de Boro, an elementary steel drum band. Under Smith's direction, Steel de Boro performed at prestigious events including the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, the National Staff Development Council, and the Housing and Urban Development Conference. Amy was the national winner of the 1996 MTNA Collegiate Percussion Competition. She was a marimba soloist with the Boulder Bach Festival in Colorado and was also a member of the 1994 Crossmen Drum and Bugle Corps. In 2001, Smith studied African Music and Dance abroad in Ghana, West Africa.

Amy holds a Bachelor of Music Education and a Performer's Certificate from Pennsylvania State University. She received her Master of Music in Percussion Performance from the University of Colorado, Boulder, where she was awarded a Chancellor's Fellowship. Her former teachers include Frank Giguere, Dan Armstrong, Cort McClaren, Doug Walter, and Paschal Younge. Amy is an endorser of Innovative Percussion, Pearl/Adams Musical Instruments, Evans Drum Heads, and Grover Pro Percussion. Currently Amy is the band, choir, and drama director at Brown County Junior High in Nashville, Indiana. She lives in Bloomington, Indiana with her husband, percussionist Andy Smith, and their two children.



Dr. Julie Hill

Dr. Julie Hill, Director of Percussion Studies at the University of Tennessee-Martin and President of the PercussiveArts Society, has received worldwide recognition as a performer and scholar. Hill has presented workshops, concerts, and lectures extensively throughout the United States on Brazilian Music and the topic of music and social transformation for black women and at-risk children in Northeastern Brazil. As a member of the acclaimed Caixa Percussion Trio, Julie has performed in Mexico, Brazil, France, Puerto Rico, South Korea, across the United States, and the Percussive Arts Society International Conventions (PASIC). Julie is a winner of the prestigious University of Tennessee at Martin's Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award and a recipient of the Hardy Graham Distinguished Professorship Award. Hill is the coauthor of a collection of solos/duets entitled *Music for Multi Percussion: A World View* (Alfred Publications) and has numerous publications with Innovative Percussion and RowLoff Productions, and her scholarly research has been published in *Percussive Notes* and the *Garland World Music Encyclopedias*.

She holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Kentucky, a Master of Music degree in Percussion Performance from Arizona State University, and a Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin. Julie Hill is an Artist and Educator for [Zildjian Cymbals](#) , and a Performing Artist for [Yamaha Corporation](#) of America. She is an artist and endorsee for [Innovative Percussion](#), [Evans Drum Heads](#) , and [Grover Pro Percussion](#). For more information, visit Julie Hill's website at <http://www.utm.edu/jhill> or <http://www.utm.edu/percussion> .



“Ndugu” Chancler

Ndugu Chancler is a Drummer, Percussionist, Producer, Composer, Clinician, and Educator.

As a studio musician, Ndugu has recorded with such greats as Frank Sinatra , Herbie Hancock, Weather Report, John Lee Hooker, Kenny Rogers, and Michael Jackson. Working on "Thriller" and "Bad", Ndugu was the drummer on the hit single "Billie Jean". Ndugu has also played on a number of Movie Soundtracks including , "An Officer and a Gentleman", "Indecent Proposal", and "The Color Purple"

As a songwriter Ndugu co- wrote hits for Santana including "Dance Sister Dance", "Reach For It" for George Duke, and "Let It Whip" for the Dazz Band. His production credits include Flora Purim, Bill Summers, Toki, along with his own solo recordings; Ndugu and the Chocolate Jam Co., and Ndugu Chancler. Ndugu has co-produced recordings for Santana, George Duke, The Crusaders, Joe Sample, Wilton Felder, Tina Turner, and a group he co-leads with Patrice Rushen, and Ernie Watts, The Meeting. These associations have brought many Gold and Platinum albums and Grammy Awards.

As an educator, Ndugu works with the Jazz Mentorship Program , the Thelonious Monk Institute, and is Faculty Advisor to the U.S.C. Jazz Reach, in Los Angeles. Ndugu is also on the Faculty of the Young Musicians Program at Cal Berkeley , Stanford Jazz Workshop, Diaz Music Institute, and Music For All. Ndugu does clinics all over the world for Yamaha, Paiste, Remo, Toca, Vic Firth, and Shure Bros. Ndugu Chancler is an Adjunct Professor of Jazz and Popular Music Studies at The University of Southern California, Flora L. Thornton School of Music.