

## College Music Society Conference 2014

**Proposal title:** Distance education in Brazil: percussion studies

**Area of specialty:** Music technology / Music education

### Abstract

The goal of this presentation is to report the accumulated experience during seven years of teaching percussion in an undergraduate course, as part of a national program of distance education. This effort has been organized by the University of Sao Carlos, Brazil in conjunction with 11 regional centers, where face-to-face activities were developed, having an online environment as a central hub. Results show that the exchange of pre-recorded videos is a feasible method for teaching, given the specific scenario: formation of music teachers demanding basic percussion skills to have as a tool in the classroom. Brazilian rhythms for the pandeiro are part of the described syllabus, as well as an introduction to stick technique and simple patterns for the drum kit. Besides the playing exercises, YouTube videos are used as starting points for discussion on different percussion styles and techniques, and on possible applications for the studied content in pedagogical activities. Also, the complexities of synchronous interactions will be pointed out, whether in face-to-face moments or through the use of videoconferencing technologies. The main challenges related specifically to percussion come from the large number of students, ranging from 15 to 70 in each group, and from the fixed system for the preparation of contents. Moreover, the diverse nature of percussion instruments offers a vast palette of possibilities that must be condensed to fit the distance education model, limiting the options that the teacher usually has in the university classroom.

### Biography

Daniel Gohn is a faculty member at the Department of Communication and Arts of the University of Sao Carlos, Brazil. He holds Master's and Doctor's degrees from the University of São Paulo and a Bachelor's degree from the State University of Campinas. His main interests in research include the use of technology for music education and processes for teaching and learning of percussion instruments. He is the vice-coordinator for the music education course in the Brazilian Open University project, a joint effort between the University of Sao Carlos and the Brazilian Ministry of Education. He is the author of "Music Education and Distance Learning: Approaches and Experiences" (2011), "Digital Technologies for Music Education" (2010), and "Music learning: Technological Alternatives" (2003), all published in Portuguese only. Daniel has been active in the academic field in Brazil, giving workshops and lecturing regularly in the Brazilian Association of Music Education meetings. Currently he also works as a percussion clinician for Yamaha in Brazil and performing with the groups Casa de Marimbondo and Tribores.