



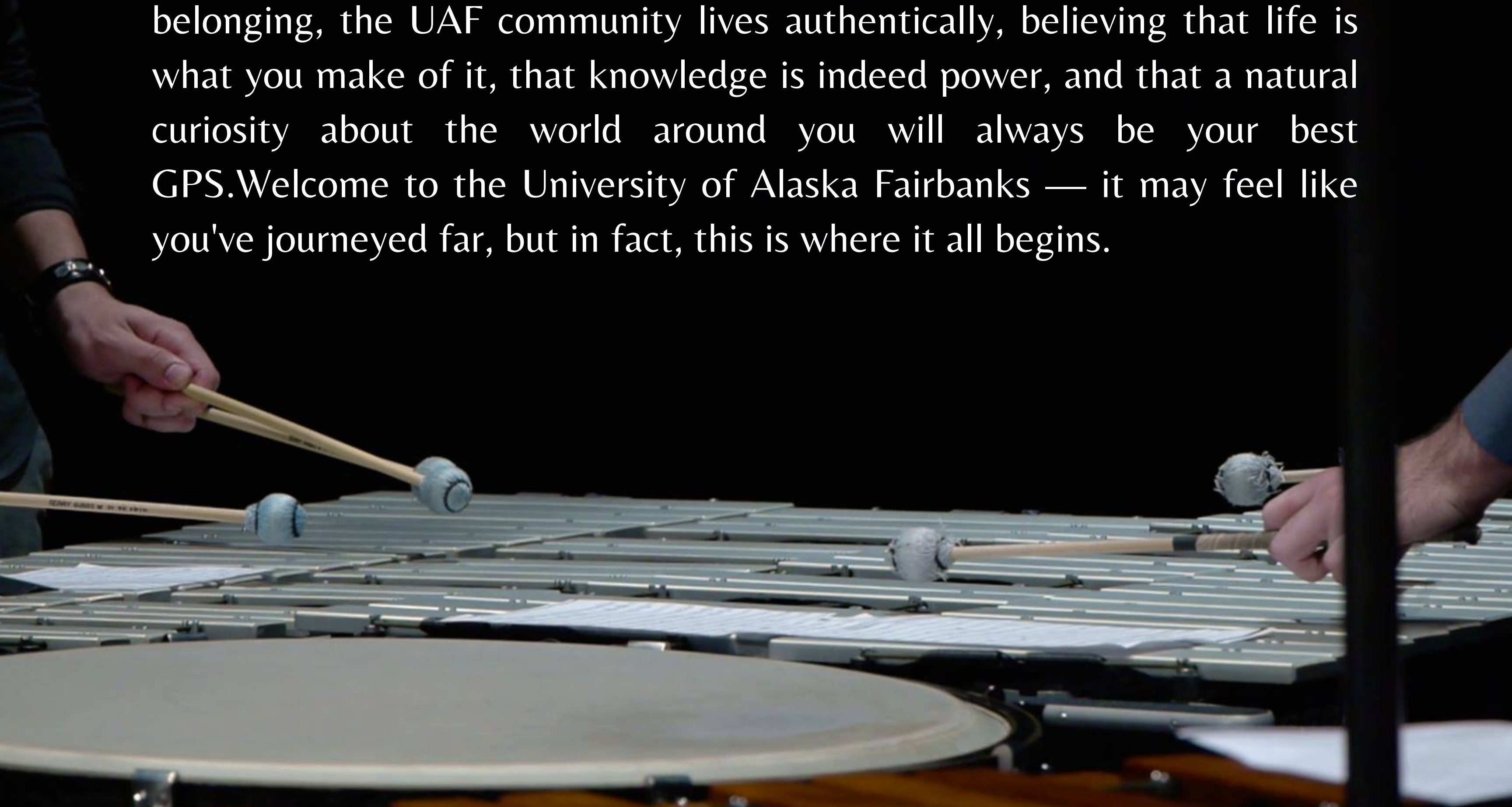


STUDY MUSIC IN THE NORTH

University of Alaska Fairbanks

Inspiring discovery. Inspiring greatness. Inspiring, naturally.

There are places in this world where you are destined to discover who you truly are. Here at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, as wisdom passes from one generation to the next, revolutionary ideas are thriving and a new academic culture is taking shape. Smarter questions. Better answers. With undergraduates making up 89 percent of the total student body, UAF is a hotbed of diversity and fresh thinking. Whether you're returning to school to start a new phase of your life or coming in as a recent high school graduate, you'll quickly make new friends with a similar drive to achieve. And, because our backyard is the vast environmental laboratory of Alaska, UAF attracts exceptional individuals — academic superstars and adventure-seekers alike. With seven campuses across the state, we are home to more than 8,500 students from all over the world — each in pursuit of something extraordinary. Whether you're looking for a greater sense of purpose or a true sense of belonging, the UAF community lives authentically, believing that life is what you make of it, that knowledge is indeed power, and that a natural curiosity about the world around you will always be your best GPS. Welcome to the University of Alaska Fairbanks — it may feel like you've journeyed far, but in fact, this is where it all begins.



UAF Music Department

The UAF Department of Music prepares its students for 21st century musical careers by providing a rigorous coursework curriculum and opportunities for a variety of musical experiences and numerous community partnerships. A thoughtful and competitive balance between academic training and community engagement prepares each student to appropriately and effectively develop their creative, musical, and artistic pursuits.

The Department of Music has three distinct degree programs: the Bachelor of Arts in music, Bachelor of Music in performance, and Bachelor of Music in education, each with its own specialized focus.

The Department is home to the Charles W. Davis Concert Hall. Built in the mid 1970's as part of the university's expansion, the Concert Hall is the jewel of the Fine Arts Complex which included new facilities for the Art, Music, and Theatre Departments of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. It has a capacity of over 900 seats and is considered by many to be the best acoustical venue in the state of Alaska for non amplified concerts. Since its opening, it has been the resident home of the Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra and the Arctic Chamber Orchestra as well as the home venue for many concerts and recitals produced by the University of Alaska Music Department.



The Percussion Program at UAF

The percussion program at UAF cultivates versatile, creative musicians through focused experiences in solo, chamber, and large ensemble performances, as well as intensive individual study with the percussion faculty. The program curriculum mirrors national standards in instrumental and technical proficiency while simultaneously adapting to suit the interests and needs of each percussion major. UAF features a variety of performing ensembles, including two dedicated percussion ensembles (Ensemble 64.8 and World Beat) that cover a wide range of percussive genres, styles, and history, as well as large ensembles such as the Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra. Additionally, the percussion facilities are outfitted to meet all percussive needs, home to myriad professional-grade instruments and four dedicated percussion practice rooms. UAF percussionists also enjoy extra-curricular opportunities to perform in a variety of other professional organizations throughout Fairbanks.

If you're interested in pursuing any level of percussion studies at UAF, please don't hesitate to contact us at uaf-music@alaska.edu! Thank you for your interest in our program.

Ensemble 64.8

Ensemble 64.8 is directed by Sean Dowgray and is the resident percussion lab at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Dedicated to experimentation and exploration, the group performs chamber music that pursues diverse modalities of artistry and musical performance. Each ensemble concert consists of a unique program of percussive works that challenges each student's musicianship, technique, and intellect.

Ensemble 64.8 has performed in a variety of places and settings. Recent performances include the North-American premiere of Hania Kulenty's Arcus for percussion trio, a performance in New York City with Valerie Naranjo (in conjunction with noted composers Christopher Adler and Alaskan, Matthew Burtner), an Alaskan concert tour with renowned percussionist Bob Becker, and a performance in Indianapolis to premiere six new percussion quintets as part of the larger telematic opera, Auksalaq by Matthew Burtner. Ensemble 64.8 has also been featured at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention's Focus Day. Additionally, members of Ensemble 64.8 have performed at PASIC on numerous occasions. Ensemble 64.8 has performed internationally, including the Percussion Repertoire Festival in Lulea, Sweden, and the Kroumata Theatre, Stockholm. The group performed at the Alaska premiere of the Len Kamerling/John Luther Adams documentary film, "Strange and Sacred Noise," and was a guest ensemble with the Arctic Chamber Orchestra performing Shchedrin's "Carmen Suite."

Enrollment in Ensemble 64.8 is comprised of degree seeking students with a percussion major or minor and is reserved for Junior level or higher percussionists. An audition is required for entrance into the ensemble. For more details contact Sean Dowgray: sdowgray@alaska.edu.

World Beat Ensemble

The World Beat Ensemble is a hand drumming group that performs music of West Africa, Brazil, Cuba, as well as original compositions. The aim of the course is to build skills in hand drumming technique, rhythm, and familiarity with various stylistic traits of drumming from around the world. The ensemble rehearses once a week, and performs regularly in the Fairbanks area. Enrollment in the ensemble is open to advanced and beginning players, both degree and non-degree seeking.



UAF Percussion Faculty Biography

Sean Dowgray is a classical percussionist specializing in modern and contemporary music. He has performed in notable venues including Disney Hall in Los Angeles, Copley Symphony Hall in San Diego, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Learning at Harvard. Dowgray was a featured soloist at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PASIC), and made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2013. Dowgray specializes in chamber and solo music, having commissioned dozens of solo and chamber works for and with percussion. He has collaborated with artists including Michael Gordon, James Wood, Josh Levine, John Luther Adams, Christopher Adler, Jürg Frey, and others. Dowgray has received degrees from the Interlochen Arts Academy, the Oberlin Conservatory, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of California San Diego.



UAF Percussion Facilities & Resources

Directed by renowned percussionist Sean Dowgray, the University of Alaska Fairbanks percussion program is the premier place to study in Alaska. Percussionists are given extensive training in numerous percussion disciplines including mallet percussion, snare drumming, multiple-percussion, drum kit, orchestral, and hand-drumming. Percussion students perform each semester in Ensemble 64.8 (the latitude of Fairbanks and resident percussion lab). Percussionists can also perform in the Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra, the UAF Wind Symphony, the University Chorus, and the World Beat Ensemble.

UAF Percussion is home to the largest percussion collection in the state of Alaska which includes 4 marimbas (two 5-octave Yamaha, one 4-1/2 octave Yamaha, and one 4-1/3 Musser); 3 vibraphones (one extended-range Yamaha, one standard Yamaha, and one Musser); 2 Xylophones; 2 Sets of Chimes; 3 sets of concert timpani; 2 concert bass drums, an array of cymbals, gongs, tam-tams, various drums, a collection of hand percussion, and all standard auxiliary percussion instruments.

Percussionists have four dedicated practice studios for practice as well as access to the general practice facilities which all have pianos. Students have the opportunity to practice and rehearse in the Charles W. Davis Concert Hall during normal daytime hours.

UAF percussion sponsors guest artists to come up and meet with students most academic years. Past guests have included Anders Åstrand, Bob Becker, Kirk Gay, Jeffrey Moore, and Svet Stoyanov. The 2021-2022 guest is percussionist Ryan Nestor based in Southern California.



[Learn More](#)

www.uaf.edu/music/

[Contact UAF Music](#)

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