

# Benjamin C. Heppner

Performer/Educator/Composer

630-478-1460

[benheppner.org](http://benheppner.org)

## EDUCATION

**Northern Illinois University (NIU)** **2023**  
B. Mus. Percussion Performance (cum laude)

**Downers Grove North High School** **2018**

## MUSIC THEATER PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

Theater	Show	Music Director	Year	Role
Goodman Theater	A Christmas Carol	Greg Hirte	2025	Onstage Musician, Percussion, Guitar
Paramount Theater	Waitress	Celia Villacres	2025	Drumset (sub)
Metropolis Theater	Oliver!	Aaron Kaplan	2026	Percussion
	Grease	Kevin Reeks	2025	Drumset (sub)
	Mary Poppins	Aaron Kaplan	2025	Percussion
	9 to 5	Harper Caruso	2024	Drumset
Theo Ubique Cabaret Theater	Diana	Carolyn Jean Brady	2025	Drumset
	The Secret Garden	Carolyn Jean Brady	2025	Percussion
	Things We Don't Say	Brandon James Gwinn	2025	Drumset
	Assassins	Heidi Jootsen	2024	Drumset/Percussion
	Baked! the Musical	Arianna Miles	2024	Drumset (sub)
	Passing Strange	Dr. Michael McBride	2024	Drumset
	The Best Little Whorehouse In Texas	Isabella Isherwood	2023	Drumset
	Damn Yankees	Ryan Brewster	Upcoming	Drumset
The Beautiful City Project	Let It Snow	David Fiorello	2025	Drumset
	The Scarlet Pimpernel	David Fiorello	2025	Drumset
	Love's Recovery	David Fiorello	2025	Cajon
	Bright Lights Big City	David Fiorello	2024	Drumset
	A Not So Silent Night	David Fiorello	2023	Drumset
Pride Arts	A New Brain	Robert Ollis	2025	Drumset/Percussion
Pop Up Productions at The Goodman Theater	Chalo! A Soccer Musical	Kevin Reeks	2025	Drumset
Pop Up Productions at The Chicago Cultural Center	Chalo! A Soccer Musical	Kevin Reeks	2026	Drumset
Porchlight Theater	Porchlight Sings 30 years at the House of Blues	David Fiorello	2025	Drumset
	Chicago Sings Broadways British Invasion	David Fiorello	2026	Drumset
Writers Theater	Wordplay Gala		2025	Drumset
Thompson Street Opera Company	The Last Word		2025	Percussion

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Peninsula Players Theater	Million Dollar Quartet	Malcolm Ruhl	2024	Fluke/Drumset
Musical Theater Works	The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee	Dr. Michael McBride	2024	Drumset/Percussion
Drury Lane Theater	Grease	Dr. Michael McBride	2023	Drumset (sub)
Uptown Theater Company	Addams Family	Isabella Isherwood	2023	Percussion
Timber Lake Playhouse	Legally Blonde	Dr. Michael McBride	2022	Drumset
	Annie	Blake Moran	2022	Drumset
	Escape to Margaritaville	Dr. Michael McBride	2022	Drumset
	Ain't Misbehavin'	Dr. Michael McBride	2021	Drumset
	The Robber Bridegroom	Dr. Michael McBride	2021	Guitar
	Dear Edwina	Blake Moran	2021	Cajon
	Jesus Christ Superstar	Dr. Michael McBride	2021	Drumset
	The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee	Dr. Michael McBride	2021	Drumset/Percussion
	Pippin	Dr. Michael McBride	2021	Drumset/Percussion
	Man Of Lamancha	Dr. Michael McBride	2019	Drumset
Stagecoach Theatre	Little Shop Of Horrors		2019	Drumset (sub)
Roosevelt University	Carrie	Nick Sula	2025	Drumset
Columbia College	Rent	David Fiorello	2025	Drumset
	Fun Home	Colte Julian	2026	Drumset/Percussion
Children's Theater of Winnetka	High School Musical On Stage	Molly Vanderlon	2026	Drumset
	Newsies		2025	Drumset
	Music Man	Isabella Isherwood	2024	Drumset
	Mary Poppins	Isabella Isherwood	2024	Drumset
	Singin' in The Rain	Isabella Isherwood	2023	Drumset
Loyola Academy	The Lightning Thief	Charlotte Rivard-Hoster	2026	Drumset
Fenwick High School	Lucky Stiff		2026	Drumset
	Legally Blonde		2025	Drumset
Acting Training Center	Tuck Everlasting	Kevin Reeks	2025	Drumset
Constellation Chicago	Common Romance	Michael Oldam	2025	Drumset
Westmont High School	High School Musical On Stage	Allison Biederman	2026	Drumset
Westmont High School	You're a Good Man Charlie Brown	Allison Biederman	2025	Drumset
Westmont High School	Freaky Friday	Allison Biederman	2024	Drumset
Westmont High School	Little Shop Of Horrors	Allison Biederman	2023	Drumset
Nazareth Academy	Freaky Friday	Justin Kono	2024	Drumset

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## PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

- Riverun**, Chicago, IL **2025-Present**  
Solo folk musician project. Vocals, guitar and production provided
- Lucy Jene**, Chicago, IL **2025-Present**  
Folk musician that I occasionally play Guitar and percussion with
- Skylight**, Chicago, IL **2022—2023**  
Professional new music ensemble featuring the handpan in chamber music settings  
Founder and composer
- Orchard Orchestra**, Arlington Heights, IL **2023**  
Timpanist
- Chicago Jeff Awards Non-Equity Wing**, Chicago, IL **2023-2026**  
Drumset performer
- Chicago Jeff Awards Equity Wing**, Chicago, IL **2025**  
Drumset performer
- Sad House Guests (Rock Band)**, Chicago, IL **2023—Present**  
Drum set player
- Northern Illinois University Music Ensembles**, Dekalb, IL **2019—2023**  
Percussion Ensemble, World Steel Band, University Steel Band, University Jazz Band, Jazz  
Combo, Philharmonic, Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony, Husky Marching Band, Chamber Music  
Ensemble, New Music Ensemble
- Kishwaukee Orchestra**, Dekalb, IL **2019**  
Section Percussionist
- Ben Heppner (Singer Songwriter)**, Chicago, IL **2018-Present**  
Performer, Songwriter, Organizer
- Noted Performed Repertoire** **2018—Present**  
Rebonds B, by Ianis Xenakis; Marimba Spiritual, by Minoru Miki; Mariel, by Osvaldo Golijov;  
Impressions, by Nicolas Martynciow; The King of Denmark, by Morton Feldman; Concerto for  
Percussion Solo & Wind Ensemble by Gary D. Zeik
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## HONORS/AWARDS

<b>Scholarship Recipient</b> , 2022 Music Performance Trust Fund Music's Future Scholarship	<b>2022</b>
<b>First Place Winner</b> , 2022 NIU School of Music Chamber Ensemble Competition	<b>2022</b>
<b>Scholarship Recipient</b> , College of DuPage John Belushi Scholarship	<b>2022</b>
<b>Selected Composer</b> , 2022 NIU New Music Festival featured student composer	<b>2022</b>
<b>Recipient</b> , Crystal Lake Thunder excellence in music award	<b>2019</b>

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

<b>Percussion Director</b> , Wheaton Warrenville South High School	<b>2024—2026</b>
Directed percussion ensemble	
Organized and taught percussion class	
Taught private percussion lessons	
Teaches drumline	
<b>Percussion Specialist</b> , Westmont High School	<b>January 2023—Present</b>
Taught private lessons, conducted drumline clinics, conducted jazz rhythm section clinics	
<b>Private Music Instructor</b> , Self Employed	<b>2019—Present</b>
Taught percussion and drum set lessons grade 4-adult	
<b>Marching Percussion Instructor</b>	<b>2019—2025</b>
Prospect Highschool: drumline instructor .....	<b>2023—2026</b>
Wheaton Warrenville South High School: battery technician, drumline arranger .....	<b>2020, 2026</b>
Westmont Highschool: drumline instructor .....	<b>2023—2024</b>
Minooka Indoor Percussion: battery technician (2022) and battery coordinator (2023).....	<b>2022—2023</b>
Crystal Lake Thunder Indoor Percussion: bass drum and font ensemble technician .....	<b>2023</b>
Downers Grove South High School: battery technician.....	<b>2022</b>
Downers Grove North High School: assistant drumline director, drumline arranger .....	<b>2022—2023</b>
Lemont High School: battery technician .....	<b>2021</b>
Barrington Central High School: drumline camp instructor.....	<b>2019</b>

## LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE

<b>Student Percussion Ensemble Director</b> , College of DuPage	<b>2023</b>
Directed and arranged pieces for percussion ensemble	
Taught private lessons in professors absence	
<b>Battery Coordinator</b> , Minooka Indoor Percussion	<b>2022</b>
Directed and planned rehearsals, coordinated staff logistic	
<b>Section Leader</b> , Northern Illinois University Drumline	<b>2019</b>
Organized and lead sectionals	

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## MEDIA/SOCIAL MEDIA APPERENCES

**Interviewee**, WNIJ Radio Station **2022**  
**Collaborator**, Ellie Banke TikTok **2023-2024**  
Performed guitar for videos accumulating over 1.3 million views

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## DISCOGRAPHY

*Forever, Untitled*, Tyler Stock Self-Published album **Summer 2026**  
Session Vocalist for three tracks

*Save Some For Me*, Riverun Self-Published single **February 2026**  
Co-songwriter, co-producer, performer

*Scary Movies*, Riverun Self-Published Album **October 2025**  
Songwriter, producer, performer, mixing and mastering engineer on all 10 tracks

*Quarters*, Sad House Guest Self-Published EP **November 2025**  
Session musician

*Don't Move*, Ben Heppner Self-Published Single **July 2023**  
Songwriter, producer, performer, mixing and mastering engineer

*Here I Go*, Ben Heppner Self-Published Single **November 2022**  
Songwriter, producer, performer, mixing and mastering engineer

*Fire*, Sarah Durbin Self-Published Single **July 2022**  
Co-writer and Session musician

*Love You the Way I Do*, Ben Heppner Self-Published Single **February 2021**  
Songwriter, producer, performer, mixing and mastering engineer

*Benjamin*, Sarah Durbin Self-Published Single **January 2021**  
Session musician and co-writer

*Over The Wall*, War is Over Self-Published Single **November 2020**  
Session musician

*About Time*, Sarah Durbin Self-Published EP **August 2020**  
Session musician on tracks 1, 2, 4 and 6  
Co-Writer on tracks 2 and 3

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## DISCOGRAPHY (cont.)

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|--|--------------------|
| <i>Gold, War is Over Self-Published Single</i><br>Session Musician                         | <b>March 2020</b>  |
| <i>You Don't Get To Decide, Sarah Durbin Self-Published Single</i><br>Session Musician     | <b>May 2019</b>    |
| <i>Catalyst, Jo's Corner Self-Published Album</i><br>Drummer and band member on all tracks | <b>August 2018</b> |
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## MARCHING PERCUSSING ARRANGING

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| <b>Wheaton Warrenville South High School</b><br>Drumline parts for " <i>The Hive</i> "          | <b>2025</b> |
| <b>Wheaton Warrenville South High School</b><br>Drumline parts for " <i>Restoring Balance</i> " | <b>2024</b> |
| <b>Downers Grove North High School</b><br>Drumline parts for " <i>State of Mind</i> "           | <b>2023</b> |
| <b>Wheaton Warrenville South High School</b><br>Edited drumline parts for " <i>Erupt</i> "      | <b>2020</b> |
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## SELECTED COMPOSITIONS AND ARRANGEMENTS

### **Optimum Conentur**

Solo snare drum comedic percussion piece (3:00)

Premiere: Dice Graham; Wheaton, IL; May 2026

### **Killer Worm**

Expandable quintet for bass drums (5:00)

Premiere: Wheaton Warrenville South High School Percussion Ensemble; Wheaton, IL; May 2025

### **Gerudo Valley**

15 piece percussion ensemble arrangement (4:30)

Premiere: Wheaton Warrenville South High School Percussion Ensemble; Wheaton, IL; May 2026

### **HOT TO GO by Chappell Roan**

14 piece percussion ensemble arrangement (4:00)

Premiere: Wheaton Warrenville South High School Percussion Ensemble; Wheaton, IL; May 2025

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## SELECTED COMPOSITIONS AND ARRANGEMENTS (cont.)

### **Kids by MGMT**

16 piece percussion ensemble arrangement (4:00)

Premiere: Wheaton Warrenville South High School Percussion Ensemble; Wheaton, IL; May 2024

### **A Triangle Is Not A Square**

Solo triangle comedic percussion piece (2:00)

Premiere: Peter Foster; Wheaton, IL; May 2026

### **Skylight**

Fusion quartet composed for hand pans, marimba, vibraphone cello and violin. (7:00)

Premier: NIU New Music Concert; Dekalb, IL; November 3, 2022

### **Three Cycles for Handpan and Marimba**

Handpan and Marimba Duets (15:00)

Premiere: Skylight; Dekalb, IL; April 2022

### **Bird's Eye View**

Percussion sextet (5:00)

Written for the "Himmelfarb Project"

Premiere: NIU Percussion Ensemble; Wyoming, WI, September 22, 2019