



James Smale

PG.Dip TCL, BMus (Hons)

James is a freelance percussionist currently working in Austria with the Graz Opera and Ensemble Zeitfluss. He writes a monthly article for DRUMMER magazine (UK) and is the Director of Music of Academy Smale in Austria, which runs intensive one-to-one courses for talented musicians.

James has been an examiner for Trinity College London since 2005 and has examined in India, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka and Dubai as well as the UK.

He completed his Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Surrey, where he studied composition with Sebastian Forbes and Stephen Goss. He then went on to achieve a distinction for his postgraduate studies in orchestral percussion and timpani at Trinity College of Music in London.

James' teaching posts have included Dartington College of Arts, Devon County Wind Orchestra, Devon Youth Concert Orchestra and Channings Wood Prison. He was Head of Instrumental Studies at Taunton School in Somerset until July 2009.

He has performed and recorded with many orchestras, chamber ensembles and jazz bands throughout the UK and Europe. These include the Barton Workshop, the Royal Choral Society, Orchestra of the Swan, Ten Tors Orchestra, Orchestra West, AIMS Festival Orchestra in Graz, Scott Stroman, Charlie Hearnshaw and many others.

In addition to playing and teaching, James is called upon to judge various music competitions and awards. He is often invited to give percussion master classes, most recently throughout India.