

The William Zickos Drum Set Quartet

Doug Auwarter, John Brazelton, Ron Vaughn, Norman Weinberg



Standing: Weinberg, Vaughn, Auwarter. Seated: William Zickos (2018)

After 60 years, all the music performed today, as well as other drum set compositions by William Zickos, are available again, exclusively through VAPMedia.com.

These early drum set works are historically important and musically relevant still today. While they have great pedagogical value, they will again become audience favorites.

Use the QR code below to jump directly to the exclusive William Zickos Collection page on the VAPMedia.com website. You'll find much more information about William Zickos' life, his music, and his drum designs. He was WAY ahead of his time!!!



The William Zickos Drum Set Quartet



PASIC 2024
Thursday, November 14, 5:00PM
Room 120

William Zickos Drum Set Quartet

PASIC 2024 Program

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| Polyideaism | William Zickos Vaughn, Auwarter, Brazelton, Weinberg |
| Drumfire | William Zickos Doug Auwarter |
| Ozone ₂ | William Zickos Brazelton, Weinberg |
| An Operational Variable | William Zickos Auwarter, Weinberg, Brazelton, Vaughn |

William Zickos 1929-2020

First and foremost, William Zickos was a jazz drummer. In addition, he was an accomplished teacher, composer, inventor, businessman, and an incredibly spiritual human being. Born in Fulton, Missouri in 1929, he attended Western Reserve University in the pre-med program. A fateful encounter with Buddy Rich led to him sitting in with Buddy's band. Afterwards, the praise he received from Rich encouraged him to switch careers from medicine to being a drummer, and he never regretted it.

He soon began touring with popular big bands, including those of Ray Anthony, Tommy Dorsey and Vern Byers. But it was while traveling with Stan Kenton and performing his Latin-influenced music that Bill began to see the vast potential of drums and percussion ensembles. At the same time, he was studying music with Pete Rugolo, Kenton's chief composer/arranger who encouraged him in his compositions and to think outside the box, musically speaking. Eventually, Bill settled in the Shawnee Mission area of Kansas City, Kansas and for many years had an active private teaching studio and was a beloved drum teacher to numerous students.

One of Zickos' primary pedagogical tools was having his students play original drum set solos that he composed specifically for them. In addition, he composed works for drum set duets through quintets that were performed by ensembles of his students. These groups and Zickos' compositions were well known around the region and his students won many top awards at state music competitions.

William Zickos was one of the earliest pioneers of original concert-style drum set composition. Not content to simply write drum set pieces that featured jazz-ride patterns with improvisation, Zickos composed pieces that explored the nexus of the newly emerging percussion ensembles with an ensemble of drum sets as the main instruments.

In addition to compositions for drum set solo and drum ensembles, he composed drum set ensemble concerti that featured drum set soloists with wind band accompaniment. Two of these compositions were the featured centerpieces of combined half-time performance with two of the Shawnee Mission high schools at Kansas City Chiefs' football games in 1968 and 1969.

William Zickos is considered the father of acrylic drums. He first experimented with clear acrylic drum shells in 1959. He invented, patented, and produced the first clear drum shells along with other innovations in drum set and hardware design. His drums were an instant success and were played by Keith Moon of The Who, Ron Bushy of Iron Butterfly, Dennis Wilson of the Beach Boys, Floyd Sneed of Three Dog Night, Buddy Miles, and many, many others.

