

## **Beau Stocker**

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**PhD candidate**

**Drum Set and Percussion**

**University of York, York UK**

### **Poster proposal: Timbre in Improvised Drum Set Performance**

**Drums - Timbre – Africa – Rhythm – Improvisation**

#### **Abstract**

My practice based research is a series of translations which include timbre and East African rhythm exploration on the drum set, live electronics and percussion instruments, in an improvised music setting. This work positions itself between the avant-gardes and popular music genres as a transgression of adhering to either title. The reason for this “on the fence” concept is that my musical influences and interests come from both the popular and avant-gardes mediums and, as such, hope to bridge that gap. Furthermore, the field work conducted, which directly informs my practice based research, comes from areas of the world currently experiencing conflict and human tragedy, South Sudan for example, and will be presented to former colleagues of those areas for their comments and critique as a means to interrogate this research through another lens.

Current work in progress includes the use of a KAOSS pad (popular among DJs); for use in the interpretation of live improvised performances through electronic manipulation and a Hazarai looping pedal (commonly used by bassists in popular music); which assists in establishing both bass guitar and keyboard loops in accompaniment to solo improvised drum set performances. The “new approaches” encompassed in this research include the presentation of improvised music concepts which explore timbre and East African rhythms in both an academic structured portfolio as well as in a popular music approach as live performances and recordings.

#### **Biography**

Beau Stocker is a drum set percussionist with a wide range of musical interests including improvised music, experimental electronic music, various jazz styles, blues/rock/pop, Javanese Gamelan, Cuban, Ethiopian and Sudanese music. His studies encompass an Honors graduate of the Humber College Music program (Toronto Canada), BFA recipient from York University (Toronto Canada), and MA in Jazz and Improvised music performance graduate from the University of York (York UK). Current practice based research at the University of York UK includes timbre exploration of the drum set and non-instrument implements fused with traditional rhythms from a select few areas of East Africa.