

**SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE, AND DANCE**

*at the University Center for the Arts*

*Guest Artist Concert:*

**VON HANSEN, PERCUSSION**  
**SEPTEMBER 23, 2025 | 7:30 P.M.**  
**ORGAN RECITAL HALL**



**COLORADO STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

SEASON SPONSOR:



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**GUEST ARTIST: VON HANSEN, PERCUSSION**

**MUSIC IS THE BEST:  
OR HOW I LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING AND TRUST FRANK ZAPPA  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2025 | 7:30 P.M. | ORGAN RECITAL HALL**

<i>Music is the Best</i> (2025)	by Von Hansen
<i>Mergence</i> (2012)	by Tobias Butler
<i>Anything Worthwhile is Perishable</i> (2019)	by Von Hansen
<i>Welcome to the United States</i> (2009)	by Von Hansen
<i>Gr@w£ix</i> (2019)	by Von Hansen
<i>Mortal Coil</i> (2023)	by Von Hansen
<i>Watermelon in Easter Hay</i> (1979/2025)	by Frank Zappa arr. Hansen

MUSIC IS THE BEST uses Frank Zappa to narrate the evolution of my musical identity and the integral role my father has played in shaping this journey. Zappa, affectionately known as “Uncle Frank” in our household, was my father’s favorite artist due to his relentless challenge of societal and musical norms. My dad consistently encouraged me to push the boundaries of my ideas, both as an artist and as a person. This philosophy ultimately guided me toward the development of my own distinct style as a composer and performer. At the core of this performance lies the titular track from my debut album, *Mortal Coil*, which I wrote in honor of my father. This composition conveys my deep gratitude for his influence, particularly for instilling in me a pursuit of greater depth and meaning, both in my music and in my life. Through exploring Zappa’s music, humor, and satire, I use his work as a musical surrogate for my father, creating a bridge between their legacies and my own compositions.

**Von Hansen (b. 1984)** holds the position of Assistant Professor of Percussion at Washburn University. Dr. Hansen is a performer, composer, educator and multi-media artist. His goal is to bring joy and thought through engaging musical experiences. Von's musical style is a synthesis of the hip-hop, jazz, rock and electronic music he grew up listening to melded with minimalism and experimental music. Using drums, percussion, and computer processing he creates music that grooves hard in unusual beats.

Von is committed to increasing the educational opportunities for percussionists and is active with the Percussive Arts Society. He has presented concerts and masterclasses at various universities and conferences including The Percussive Arts Society International Convention, Electronic Music Midwest, The Kansas City Electronic Music Alliance, The Kansas and Oklahoma Days of Percussion, The National Conference on Percussion Pedagogy and SEAMUS.

Doctor of Musical Arts in Percussion Performance: The University of Kansas

Master of Music in Percussion Performance: Central Michigan University

Master of Music in Composition: Central Michigan University

Bachelor of Music Education: Washburn University

FIND OUT MORE AT [VONHANSENMUSIC.COM](http://VONHANSENMUSIC.COM)

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