

Jonathan Wade
Percussionist - National Arts Centre Orchestra

When did you know you wanted to be a musician?

I started out as a drummer. When I was very young I'd bang on pots and pans and play on tabletops. Eventually my parents got me drum lessons and after I begged and begged they also got me a drum set. This is something I always wanted to do.

What are your sources of inspiration?

I listen to a lot of recordings. It's helpful to listen to music that I have to prepare to play myself. Listening to live music is also really important. When I was studying at Ottawa U, I would always be over here at the NAC watching Ian [Bernard] playing with the NAC Orchestra. Ken [Simpson] and I like to go down to Montreal to hear the Montreal Symphony Orchestra players. We see live orchestras wherever we can and watch them on TV, but live music is always the best.

What types of music do you listen to?

I like all kinds of music. Classical, symphonic, and elements of jazz. I also like progressive rock; groups like *Genesis* and *Rush*.

What is "Bangers and Smash"?

I'm a member of "Bangers and Smash". It's a percussion duo that started out in the late 1980s performing music in schools. The NAC has a "Music in the Schools" program which sends small groups - not the whole orchestra - out all over the region to kids who might not otherwise be able to get to the NAC for a show. What we do is bring a vanload of all kinds of percussion instruments into the schools and we put on about a 45-minute performance. We even try to get the kids up and playing with us at one point. We're a pretty successful duo and do between 15 and 20 shows a year. It's something that we have a lot of fun doing.