

**Reunion: Percussion Music by
Stanley Leonard and Brett W. Deitz**

Tempus Fugit Percussion Ensemble
and Hamiruge

Stanley Leonard Percussion Music

“Always two there are, no more, no less: a master and an apprentice”—words famously uttered by Yoda, one of my favorite characters from *Star Wars*. This

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percussion ensemble recording by Tempus Fugit and Hamiruge (Louisiana State University's Percussion Ensemble led by Brett Dietz) is quite literally the reunion of master Stanley Leonard and (former) apprentice Brett Deitz.

PAS Hall of Fame member Leonard was Principal Timpanist of the Pittsburgh Symphony and a lifetime educator. Many of Leonard's compositions are conservative and pedagogical in nature with good form and idiomatic writing. Dietz has carved out a successful dual career as a percussionist/educator and a composer of thoughtful and interesting works. Two works by Dietz are featured here: “Exit Wounds” and “Cranktool.”

The performances by Tempus Fugit and Hamiruge are outstanding and well recorded. There are several gems on this recording, but the strongest is “Exit Wounds.” Performed with verve, it has a cohesive dramatic arc and consistent compositional language. Originally written for the University of Kentucky Percussion Ensemble, the piece is based on the last tone cluster of Morton Feldman's piano composition “Triadic Memories.” Dissimilar to Feldman's music, which is characterized by soft dynamics and static fields of color, Deitz's work dissolves in and out of a cacophonous frenzy of drums and woodblocks.

Rather than taking over the universe like the Sith in *Star Wars*, Leonard and Dietz—with considerable talents from their colleagues and students in tow—combine their efforts here to create imaginative percussion music.