John Kilkenny is a percussionist, conductor and artistic leader who successfully manages a career that encompasses performance, teaching and artistic leadership, skillfully balancing a modern, 21st century career in the arts.

Committed to the music of our time, John appears regularly as a soloist and chamber musician with a range of ensembles.  He has given the Washington, DC region premiere of the Philip Glass Concerto Fantasy for Two Timpanists and Wind Symphony and has performed Michael Daugherty’s timpani concerto Raise the Roof, with orchestras and wind ensembles across the United States.

Hailed as a “particularly fine timpanist” by the Washington Post, John has enjoyed an active career as a symphonic percussionist, appearing with the National Symphony, Washington National Opera and Ballet, The Washington Concert Opera, Washington Chamber Symphony, American Symphony, Cathedral Choral Society, Washington Chorus, Choral Arts Society of Washington, and The Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts Orchestra, to name a few.

Appointed Artistic and Executive Director of the Sewanee Summer Music Festival in 2018, John is guiding this esteemed festival to new heights of success. The 2019 season boasted significant increases in enrollment, earned revenue, and annual giving, as well as securing the first significant endowment gift in over a decade.

In January 2021, the Sewanee Music Festival will launch its first ever *WinterFest.* Offered digitally, this groundbreaking new program will focus on career development, community engagement, performance practice and in-depth study of the symphonic literature. The festival is also launching a new Opera Intensive program, both online and in person, during the 2021 Season. The opera intensive will be led by master teacher and performer Laura Brooks Rice

Deeply committed to the future of classical music and a committed educator, John is Director of Percussion Studies and Associate Professor at George Mason University. The Mason percussion group, which John founded, has performed all over the world, including tours of Costa Rica, scheduled tours of China, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and clinic performances at the Virginia Music Educators, New York State Music Educators Western International Band Conference, Percussive Arts Society International Convention.

Recognized internationally as an engaging and thoughtful clinician, John has enjoyed the unique opportunity to work with gifted young musicians at a wide range of institutions, including the Eastman School of Music, the Shepherd School at Rice University, The University of Michigan, The Juilliard Pre-College, Interlochen School for the Arts, University of Tennessee, University of North Carolina, The National Institute of Music in San Jose Costa Rica, The University of Costa Rica, and the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing. He has presented a regular series of workshops for the percussion students at New York University for several years. A long-standing relationship with *The Music for All* organization has seen John appear for many years as an evaluator and clinician for the Sandy Feldstein National Percussion Festival. In 2019 he served as the percussion clinician for the Honor Orchestra of America

John studied conducting with Anthony Maiello and began early percussion training with Jonathan Haas and William Richards.  He went on to receive his bachelor's degree at the Juilliard School under the tutelage of Greg Zuber and Daniel Druckman. He completed a Master’s Degree at Temple University, where he studied with legendary percussionist Alan Abel.  He is sponsored by Vic Firth Mallets, Zildjian Cymbals, Remo Percussion products and is a proud Yamaha Performing Artist. For more, visit www.johnkilkenny.com