



# YAMAHA

## Educator Series

PERCUSSION



*Nanae Mimura*

*Nanae Mimura is on the faculty of Berklee College of Music. She received her master of music in marimba degree from the Boston Conservatory in May of 2000. She has performed numerous solo recitals and concerto concerts in the United States, Japan, Europe, Asia, Central America and South America. Sony Classical Japan released her debut CD recording in the Fall of 2000 and released her second solo album in the Spring of 2002. In the 1999-2000 season, Mimura made her Boston debut, her New York debut at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall and her Tokyo debut at Kioi Hall. Nanae is a Yamaha performing artist and she performs on a YM-5100A Grand Marimba. Her official web site is <http://webs.to/nanae/>*

## Establishing Your Originality: A Way to a Meaningful Performance

By Nanae Mimura

People who I admire move me in many ways through their great abilities to communicate. They could be movie stars, authors, musicians, or just close friends around me. After wondering how they affected me, I realized they all have something in common. They all know who they really are, and they all have a deep understanding of what they are trying to convey, each through a unique talent. This probably means that they have already established their identities in their own ways. As a musician, I strive to make my audience feel good about my performance. I do not think it is wrong for me to say that all musicians wish to move audiences with their music. In order to do this, it is most important to really know yourself.

It is essential for you to find out and know what you are good at and what kind of music brings out your best. I teach undergraduate students at the Berklee College of Music. Most of them do not know their abilities as musicians yet. Of course, part of my job is to help them with their technical weakness. It is very important to pay attention to your weakness and overcome that, because you want to give a "high quality performance." However, that is not the only thing I spend time on. I put a lot of emphasis on helping them find their strong qualities and how to amplify them. I do this so they know and accept their unique qualities, which will lead them to achieve a "meaningful performance." I believe that meaningful performances (or concerts in which you actually communicate your feelings and thoughts to your audience through music) happen only when you make full use of your best qualities as a musician.

In any setting, when a person wants to communicate with others, one needs to have "confidence" and "persuasive power." For example, if I want to persuade someone about something about which I have little understanding, I would try to use someone else's words or surface knowledge that I obtained from a book. Even if I were able to make sense with words, those words might not have enough power to affect anyone. In order to have successful communication, I need to have a deep-rooted knowledge. The same thing applies to musical performances. They come from having a deep-rooted knowledge of your instrument, as well as carefully chosen repertoire that best reflects your qualities. In addition, much care should be put into phrasing, as well as mallet choice and stroke. You must have a clear vision of what it is that you would like to convey to your audience.

Remember, you need to have a good understanding about yourself. It is when you are confident of your intention that your originality and identity will be established. With that, your music will become more meaningful and you will be able to give a performance that has power to affect your audience. This is why I strongly believe that having an original identity is one of the most important elements of being an artist.

Yamaha Corporation of America • Band & Orchestral Division  
3445 East Paris Ave., SE • P.O. Box 899 • Grand Rapids, MI 49518-0899  
[www.yamahapercussion.com](http://www.yamahapercussion.com)

