

Jeffrey Barudin

\$36.00**C. Alan Publications****Instrumentation (7 players):** piccolo snare drum, concert snare drum, 2 concert toms, tambourine, cowbell, hi-hat, ride cymbal, China cymbal, kick drum**Web:** [audio sample](#)

With a pedagogical mindset and the intention of utilizing limited instrumentation, Jeffrey Barudin composed “Downside, Up and Around” for two snare drum soloists accompanied by five percussionists. Each accompanying percussionist plays only one or two instruments. Being a percussionist himself, Barudin understands the time constraints in percussion ensemble rehearsals and is making a valiant effort with his *Singular Series* (a collection of percussion ensemble works that feature limited instrumentation) to compose quality music that encourages instructors to focus on teaching musical concepts. Pieces with smaller setups leave the instructor more rehearsal time, and the ability to focus on teaching techniques of individual instruments and coaching students in listening and playing together (ultimately, without a conductor), rather than spending rehearsal time coordinating and managing large multiple-percussion setups.

The compositional style of “Downside, Up and Around” is largely influenced by techno music, with steady, simple meter and slowly evolving groove textures. While the piece clearly serves as a pedagogical tool for high school or young college percussion ensembles, the high energy of techno music combined with two snare drum soloists makes it a definite crowd pleaser!

—Julie Licata