Percussionist Justin Alexander is acclaimed for the versatility and musicality of his playing as well as his commitment and focus as a teacher. He is Associate Professor of Music and Director of Percussion Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University where he has built a successful undergraduate percussion studio. A champion of new music, he has commissioned or premiered over 20 pieces for percussion. He is featured on over 7 recordings, including the Grammy®-nominated album, *Children of Adam*, with the Richmond Symphony Orchestra. He is the creator of *Embodied Time*, a philosophy and methodology of rhythm study that centers vocalization and movement as a means to help musicians improve their rhythm, time, and groove.

A percussionist who began on the drum set, Justin’s creative work has revolved around this instrument and is a central pillar of his pedagogy. He has premiered or recorded important new works for drum set, including Zipzap: Concerto for Drum Set and Wind Ensemble by Adam Silverman, "Drum Dances" by John Psathas, and "fade", and concerto for drum set and percussion ensemble by acclaimed percussionist / composer Clif Walker. Justin's early interest in both popular and classical music has enabled him to move between fluidly between genres and styles.

Justin’s most recent interest has been studying non-western percussion traditions. He is currently a tabla student of Shawn Mativetsky, and has studied mridangam, frame drum, and Afro-Cuban percussion. Justin is a student in the "Carnatic Approaches to Western Music" program offered through the Conservatorium van Amsterdam. His interest in and commitment to into an integrated approach to non-western traditions in the percussion studio has led to a presentation at the 2018 National Conference on Percussion Pedagogy as well as a co-authored article in *Percussive Notes*(2020)*.*

Justin holds the Doctor of Music Degree in Percussion Performance from The Florida State University. His primary teachers include Dr. John W. Parks IV, Dr. Blake Tyson, and Prof. Leon Anderson. He is proudly endorsed by Pearl / Adams Musical Instruments, Zildjian Cymbals, Vic Firth sticks and mallets, Grover Pro Percussion, and Remo, Inc.