



# Drum Factory



CORY HILLS

**Second verse, same as the first**, a little bit louder and whole lot more PERCUSSIVE! Welcome to **Drum Factory**, my second CD of percussive stories. A lot has happened since my first CD, *The Lost Bicycle*, was released in 2010. Here is a funny list:

1. My son Oren was born!
2. We moved to Los Angeles.
3. The Chicago Cubs STILL have not won the World Series.
4. Percussive Storytelling celebrated its 400th performance to more than 50,000 children in 8 different countries.
5. Some of my hair has fallen out and the rest is turning gray...

I am very excited to share *Drum Factory* with you. Besides crazy sounds and fun lyrics, *Drum Factory* also offers some fun within the liner notes. Unfold this booklet, turn it over, and you will see a poster of the drum factory, ready to be colored. When you have colored the poster, please share a picture with me on Twitter (@splatboombang) and you may win something!

As always, thank you for your support. Please check out [splatboombang.com](http://splatboombang.com) to listen to audio, watch videos, and get information on future performances.

Yours,  
Cory Hills

### **Drum Factory**

*Drum Factory* is a retelling of the age-old camp classic, Button Factory, in which a poor guy named Joe keeps getting told to push buttons with different parts of his body. I took this idea and rewrote it to be *Drum Factory*, where I assigned the button parts to different percussion instruments. After hitting each instrument, my "boss" tells me to go faster and faster until I lose control. This is a fun one to perform!

### **Bright, Green Leaves**

*Bright, Green Leaves* is the first of two stories loosely connected, the other being *Hatchling*. *Bright, Green Leaves* is an original story that tells the tale of a woefully bored and lonely caterpillar whose only desire in life is to fly. Yet try as he does, the caterpillar repeatedly fails to fly. After some advice from the wise oak tree, the caterpillar decides to try one more time and, in the process, discovers that he isn't a caterpillar anymore; rather, he is a butterfly. I am particularly fond of the boutique sounds in this story - terracotta pots, glass bottles, random metal pipes, and more.

### **I'm My Own Grandpa**

A super oldie, but a super goodie. This Appalachian folk-tale has been around for well over a hundred years and countless singers have set it to music. While I thoroughly enjoy the ludicrous nature of the story, I wanted to challenge myself to do something I had never done in any of my stories - speak as fast as possible. So I created a simple groove and tell the story twice, once at a regular speed and once at warp speed!

### **Harumph!**

Rudyard Kipling's *Just So Stories* have always been favorites of mine. In fact, I have set many of them to music (including the track Njovu on my first album, *The Lost Bicycle*). For this album, I was drawn to Kipling's *How the Camel Got His Hump*. I rewrote the story in rhymes, something I have never tried to do for any of my stories. And let me tell you, rhyming is not easy! With the story composed in such a strict, rhythmic-based form, I decided to use a drum to help tell the story. Since the story takes place in ancient Persia, I decided to use one of my favorite drums called a zarb, a goblet drum capable of very, very, very cool pitch bends. Listen and enjoy!

### **Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly**

This one needs no introduction. The poor lady swallows so many animals but never tells us why! As the story builds in intensity, more and more percussion instruments are added in order to create a frenetic feel.

### **Black Bear and Mountain Lion**

In 2008 while Artist-in-Residence at Rocky Mountain National Park in Estes Park, Colorado, I was commissioned by the National Park Service to write a story about the park. I wrote *Ponderosa Pine*, which appears on my first album. In the summer of 2015, I was invited back to the park to serve as the centennial Artist-in-Residence for the 100th birthday of the park. I was again commissioned to write a story, and *Black Bear and Mountain Lion* is the result! The story is told in the tradition of many Native American tales - a mythical version of how something became something. In this case, a young black bear and mountain lion become the faces of two rock formations that point people in the direction of the highest peak in the mountains.

### **Hatchling**

*Hatchling*, as compared to its counterpart *Bright, Green Leaves*, is a much more delicate story and as such, the sounds are more delicate - a number of sustained metals, pitched bells, tuned gongs, and triangles. It's a story about a butterfly hatching from its cocoon and then finding its way to the highest branch of the oak tree with bright, green leaves. While there, the two new butterflies meet and the story ends...or does it?!

Dedicated to Lindsay.

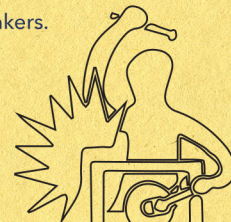
**Special thanks** to the following people for helping to make *Drum Factory* a reality: Annalise, Zoie, Oren, Levi, Sharon and Joseph Hills, Joanne and Chris Nawrocki, Naomi, Amanda, Miriam, Ari, Matthew Coley, the Los Angeles Percussion Quartet, Vanessa Tomlinson, Michael Burritt, Michel Marion, AcutebyDesign, Antonio Sacre, Growing Educators, Dan Merceruio, Collin Rae, Daniel Shores, Hans Olsen, and everyone at Sono Luminus.

Recorded at Sono Luminus Studios, Boyce, Virginia  
June 15-18, 2015  
sonoluminusstudios.com

*Producer:* Dan Merceruio  
*Recording, Mixing & Mastering Engineer:* Daniel Shores  
*Recording Technician:* David Angell  
*Editing Engineers:* Dan Merceruio, Daniel Shores  
*Photography:* Strider Jordan  
*Graphic Design:* Caleb Nei  
*Cover Art:* Hans Olsen  
*Pyramix Engineer:* Madelynn Shores

Recorded with Merging Technologies Horus. Mastered with Merging Technologies Hapi. Recorded at 24 bit, 192kHz.

Mixed and mastered on Legacy Audio speakers.  
legacyaudio.com





## Cory Hills

Multi-percussionist, composer, and improviser Cory Hills thrives on breaking down musical barriers through creative, interdisciplinary projects. He has received degrees from Northwestern University, Queensland Conservatorium, and the University of Kansas, and was awarded a research fellowship to Insite Fabrica. Currently, Hills is an active performer, composer, and recording artist in Los Angeles, as well as a member of the Grammy-nominated Los Angeles Percussion Quartet ([lapercussionquartet.com](http://lapercussionquartet.com)).

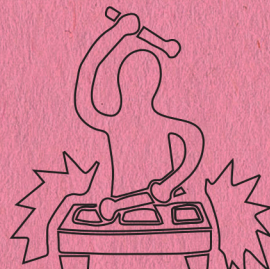
An advocate of new music, Hills has individually commissioned and premiered over 85 new works for percussion. He has given solo and chamber recitals across Europe, Australia, The United States, Mexico, and China. These include a featured performance for the International Society of Improvised Music, the Days of New Music Festival in Chisinau, Moldova, the Queensland Music Festival, the Ravello Concert Festival, the Venice Art Biennale, five PASIC conventions, the Morelia Percussion Festival, and Festival Mozaic. An advocate for percussion as an artistic discipline, Hills has been the artist-in-residence at Rocky Mountain National Park, Conservatorio de Las Rosas, and a fellow at the OMI international artist's colony.

*Percussive Storytelling*, a program that brings classical music and storytelling to kids in fun and accessible ways, was launched by Hills while a fellow at Insite Fabrica. The program recently marked its 400th performance, and has reached more than 50,000 children in eight countries. For this work, Hills has been the recipient of numerous arts grants, and was named the 2009 Emerging Artist through the Kansas Arts Commission. *The Lost Bicycle*, Hills' debut solo CD of percussive stories, has received four national parenting and creative arts awards (NAPPA Parent's Awards Gold, Parent's Choice Award Silver, World Storytelling Honors Award, and a Creative Child preferred choice). In June 2015, *The Lost Bicycle* was released as a fully illustrated children's book published by AcutebyDesign.

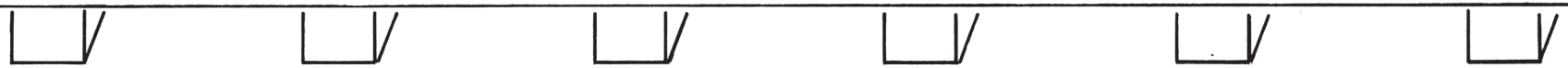
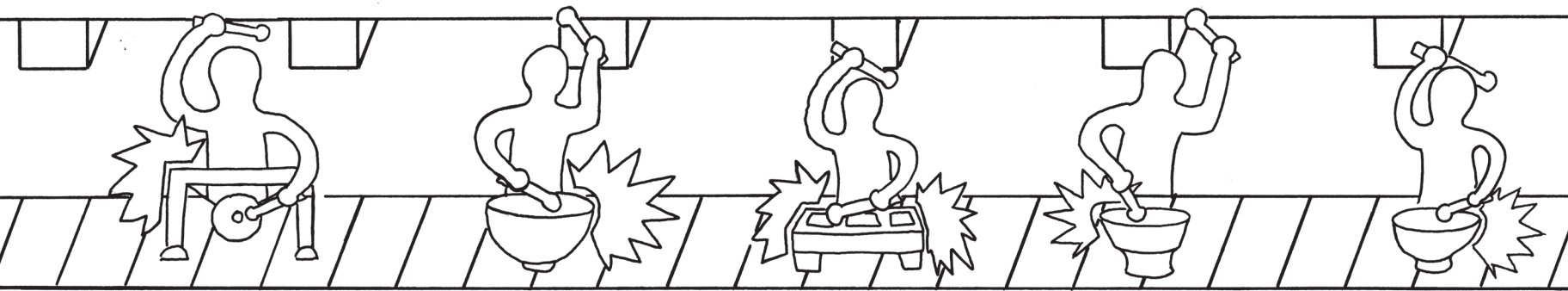
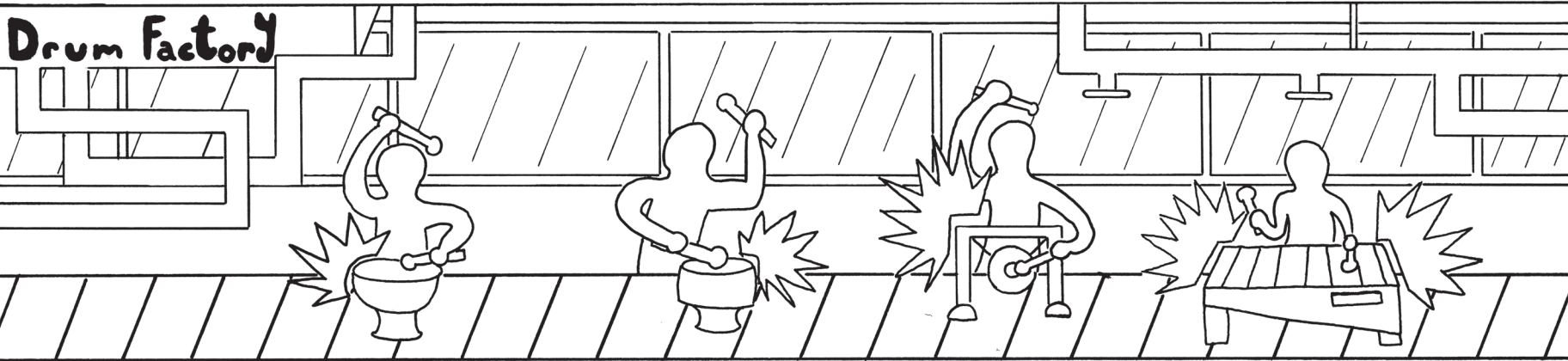
Hills is an artist for Innovative Percussion, Remo, Sabian, Yamaha, and Black Swamp Percussion.

For more information, please visit [splatboombang.com](http://splatboombang.com).

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