

## CCA Faculty/Student Mentored Research Award – Faculty Statement

Ian Riley, DMA candidate and percussion graduate assistant, has a profound skill in all things digital! He has greatly added to the technical knowledge in the percussion department since his arrival in 2018, and his understanding of audio/video streaming concepts is legendary. I have greatly enjoyed mentoring Ian during his project *Touching Light*.

As the world continues to find new ways to connect virtually, this project pushes the boundaries further than ever thought possible. As Ian seeks to truly mix virtual reality and physical instruments and space, he is creating something utterly new. He is connected with world-wide experts in the field of virtual reality (including Microsoft), and is gradually becoming an authority on the subject of mixed realities. There is nothing like this project anywhere to be found.

Ian is the ideal mentee. While some of the concepts including in *Touching Light* are beyond even my understanding, we have been able to work together to ensure comprehensibility among more than digital elitists.

If you have any questions concerning this project please contact me at [George.willis@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:George.willis@mail.wvu.edu).

Sincerely,

*George Willis*

George R. Willis  
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Director of Percussion Studies  
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