

# World, Wind & Percussion

Tom Teasley John Jensen Chris Battistone



*"...the result is magical."*

– Young Audiences of Virginia

*"...percussion wizard Tom Teasley... manages to blend world sounds and jazz influences into a raucous, melodic highly danceable stew..."* – Peter Aaron, *Jazz Improv Magazine*

*"Latin, Brazilian, and Middle Eastern flavors abound, yet they're blended in such a way that the resulting dish hits the palate as wonderfully different, toying with each composer's original recipe to great effect."* – Larry Nai, *Jazziz*

*"...a rare gift for being innovative and audience-friendly at the same time."*  
– Joanne Masterson, *Presenter*

*"Tom Teasley's dazzling musicianship and vibrant personality make him a natural at turning young hopefuls into capable and often virtuosic drummers."* – Jean Kellogg  
*Director of Education, Lyric Opera of Chicago*

**World, Wind and Percussion** performs music from many cultures on brass and drums, with a twist. The group uses instruments in their earliest known forms, made from tree limbs, animal horns and shells.

Led by acclaimed percussionist Tom Teasley, the trio includes John Jensen on trombone, didgeridoo (an Australian woodwind), and conch shells, and Chris Battistone on trumpet and shofar (a ram's horn).

The performers explore ancient, traditional, and contemporary music and original works. They offer fresh arrangements for familiar tunes, and completely restyle others.

The group builds on Teasley's poly-cultural, past-meets-future approach. Whether using frame drums, the Middle Eastern doumbek, or the Egyptian riq in combination with ancient or modern horn, Teasley might add a looper, hand drum synthesizer, and other electronics.

During its first year on tour, they performed widely across the northeast, presenting education programs and concerts. "If you've ever wondered what medieval music sounds like with Dixieland tailgate trombone," Teasley said of one arrangement, "... now you'll know!"

One program explores how the conch shell, didgeridoo and djembe evolved into the trumpet, trombone and drum set. In another, the performers improvise with playful freedom in a unique program of music across the ages.

The Washington Post hails Teasley as "a percussionist in the widest and most exuberant sense of the word." John Barrett Jr. of *Jazz Improv* says Teasley's work "...is exotic while familiar, relaxing yet vigorous. In short, the time spent is far from standard... You listen, you enjoy, you want to hear more...."

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## Featured Instruments

**Didgeridoo** — a wood instrument sometimes thought to be one of the first woodwinds ever used. Discoveries show that Australia's native people used such instruments about 1500 years ago.

Made from a limb or tree trunk naturally hollowed by termites, the player creates a drone by blowing into the hollow core with vibrating lips, much like playing a brass instrument today.

**Shofar** — an instrument made from a ram or ibex horn. It is traditionally used in music for religious occasions. It is used on Judaism's high holy days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, to mark times of observance or worship.

**Doumbek** — A goblet-shaped hand drum of ancient origin, used in Arab, Persian, Balkan, Armenian, Azeri, Jewish, and Turkish cultures. With its thin drumhead and open-ended body, players use a lighter hand and finger action, producing a crisp sound.

It is related to the larger West African **djembe**, which is played with whole-hand techniques as well as the fingers.

**Looper** — an electronic device that captures a sample of music and repeats it continuously. World, Wind and Percussion players capture segments in live performance and develop improvisations around them using the looper.

## Tom Teasley

Almost from the outset, Tom Teasley has brought percussion up from the background, profoundly demonstrating its strength in solo performance. He is "a creative bonanza," claims Bruce Wittet in *Modern Drummer Magazine*. "... give Tom a bass drum, a snare drum and a djembe & he'll give you part Stravinsky, part Art Blakey."

Teasley is an acclaimed composer, educator and ensemble leader. The *Washington Post* called his presentation "the evening's dazzler" at a multi-performer event. He has served as artist-in-residence at the Kennedy Center and is artist-in-residence at the Levine School of Music in Washington, D.C.

Currently he tours in the U.S. and Europe, presents workshops, and makes recordings. He's released over nine CDs and videos, recorded several Kennedy Center performances, and enjoys airplay on TV, film, and National Public Radio.

## John Jensen

The *Washington Post* says Jensen plays "straight ahead jazz performed with care and spirit... truly engaging performances." He has been featured with the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra and has enjoyed the spotlight at the White House, the Corcoran Art Gallery, and the Kennedy Center.

His CD release, *Shifting Views*, features a wide variety of tunes ranging from a swinging version of "Sidewalks of New York" and "Tricotism," to Billy Strayhorn's "A Flower is a Lovable Thing." His first release, *Homecoming*, is a collection of great American standards.

## Chris Battistone

Chris Battistone played professionally while completing his degree in Jazz Education. He then joined the Glenn Miller Orchestra and toured the United States and Europe. Now back in Washington, he stays active as a free-lance musician.

Battistone was a member of legendary guitarist Danny Gatton's band, and the band with saxophonist Ron Holloway. He appears on several albums by both performers, as well as those of numerous Washington, DC area jazz artists.

**Educators:** World, Wind and Percussion provides concerts and in-school programs, engaging students of all ages in the creative process. Underwriting assistance may be available.