

# Gig Fund Artists



**Greg Bandy** has been a professional drummer for more than 30 years. Discovered when Greg was 20 years old by Charles Mingus, Greg has also played with greats like Lee Morgan, Freddie Hubbard, and Pharoah Sanders. Greg has toured Europe, Africa, and Japan. Greg was mentored by Art Blakey and Robert Maston of the Cleveland Sympony Orchestra. Greg has received two Grammy nominations.



**Art Baron** has been a trombonist for 43 years, having played with greats like Duke Ellington, Buddy Rich, Bruce Springsteen, and Stevie Wonder. Art has toured 70 countries, notably Africa and Europe with Duke Ellington. An alumnus of Berklee College of Music, Art also received instruction from Sonny Costanzo and Phil Wilson. Art's style is influenced by Duke Ellington, Roswell Rudd, and Tricky Sam Nanton.



**George Braith** has been a professional saxophonist for 70 years. A former Blue Note recording artist, George has played with greats like John Coltrane, Sonny Rollins, and Dizzy Gillespie. George has toured the U.S., Europe, and Japan. An alumnus of Manhattan School of Music, George was mentored by Lou Donaldson. Shows by George feature an instrument of his own making called the Sopralto Braithaphone.



**Ed Cherry** has been a professional guitarist for 38 years, having played with greats like Lonnie Smith, Paquito D'Rivera, and Dizzy Gillespie for 12 years. Ed has toured Europe, the U.S., and Africa. An alumnus of Berklee College of Music, Ed was mentored by Dizzy Gillespie and Bruce Johnson. Bruce received a Grammy for his work on *Live at Royal Festival Hall*.

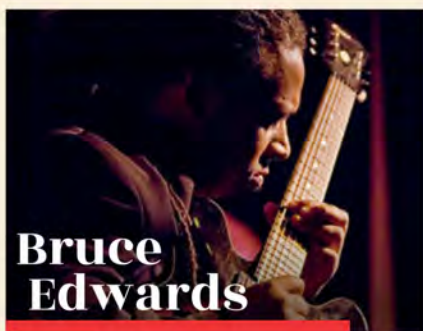


**Kim Clarke** has been a professional bassist for over 40 years, having played with greats like Art Blakey, Mary Lou Williams, Geri Allen, and Yusef Lateef. Kim has toured the U.S., Eastern Europe, Turkey, and Russia. With a B.A. in Music from Long Island University, Kim's style is influenced by Ron Carter, Barry Harris, and Larry Graham.



**Neil Clarke** has been a professional percussionist for over 40 years, having played with greats like Harry Belafonte, Dianne Reeves, and Miriam Makeba. Neil has toured Europe, the Caribbean, Asia, the South Pacific, the U.S., and Africa. Neil was mentored by Chief James Horthon, Chief Bey, and Papa Ladji Camara. Neil's style is influenced also by Mongo Santamaria and Randy Weston. Neil was made a Nigerian Chief in recognition of his mastery as an African style percussionist.

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**Bruce Edwards**

**Bruce Edwards** has been a professional guitarist for 30 years, having played with greats like James Carter, Charles Tolliver, Sun Ra, and Cecil Taylor. Bruce has toured Japan, Europe, the U.S. and the South Pacific. Bruce was mentored by Sun Ra, John Patton, and John Ore. Called a 'musician's musician' by critic Tim Price, Bruce's style is influenced also by Wes Montgomery, Lenny Breau, and Joe Pass.



**Alvin Flythe**

**Alvin Flythe** has been a professional saxophonist for over 50 years, having played with greats like Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, Roy Haynes, and Dr. Lonnie Smith. Alvin has toured Europe and the Caribbean. Alvin's style is influenced by John Coltrane, Dexter Gordon, Sonny Rollins, and Sonny Stitt.



**Phil Harper**

**Phil Harper** has been a professional trumpet player for 33 years, having played with greats like Etta Jones, Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers, Charles Mingus Big Band, and Betty Carter. Phil has toured Europe, Japan, and South Africa. An alumnus of Hartt School of Music, Phil studied under Jackie Mclean. Phil's style is influenced also by Lee Morgan, Freddie Hubbard, and Billy Higgins.



**Craig Haynes**

**Craig Haynes** has been a professional drummer for over 45 years, having played with greats like Tony Bennett, George Benson, Clark Terry, and the Allman Brothers Band. An alumnus of St. John's University and Five Towns College, Craig received instruction also from his father the legendary drummer Roy Haynes. Craig has toured Europe, South America, China, Japan, and West Africa. Roy's style is also influenced by Max Roach, Tony Williams, and Elvin Jones.



**Mark Johnson**

**Mark Johnson** has been a professional drummer for 44 years, having played with greats like Abbey Lincoln, Geri Allen, Stanley Turrentine, and Freddie Hubbard. Mark has toured Europe, Australia, Africa, Turkey, and Israel. An alumnus of Wisconsin Conservatory, Mark received private instruction from Art Taylor and Alla Rakha. Mark has taught at the Brooklyn Conservatory for the past ten years.



**Boncellia Lewis**

**Boncellia Lewis** has been a professional vocalist for 25 years, having played with greats like Bill Saxton, Donald Smith, and Harry Whitaker. Boncellia has toured the U.S., South America, and Europe. Boncellia received instruction from John Motley and Peter Wilhousky. Boncellia has held residency at Red Rooster for 5 years and held residency at Chez Josephine for 40 years. Boncellia's style is influenced also by Mahalia Jackson and Yma Sumac.

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**Ray Mantilla** has been a professional percussionist for 60 years, having played with greats like Max Roach, Art Blakey, Eartha Kitt, and Charles Mingus. Ray has toured the world, notably Cuba with Dizzy Gillespie and Italy every year for the past 35 years. Ray's style is influenced by Tito Puente, Machito, and Ray Barretto.



**Whitney Marchelle** has been a professional vocalist for 46 years, having played with greats like Herbie Hancock, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Clark Terry, and Quincy Jones. Whitney has toured Dubai, Japan, Singapore, and France. An alumnus of Eastman School of Music, Whitney also received instruction from Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald. Whitney's style is influenced by Sarah Vaughan, Aretha Franklin, and Nancy Wilson.



**Abdou Mboup** has been a professional kora player and percussionist for more than 50 years, having begun training as a Griot at 3 years old in Senegal. Abdou has played with greats like Hugh Masakela, Nina Simone, Joe Zawinul, Joe Lovano, and Kenny Barron. Abdou has toured Europe, Africa, Southeastern Asia, Nepal, Japan, and India. Abdou's style is influenced by traditional Senegalese music together with Chick Corea, Weather Report, and Stanley Clarke.



**Dayna Stephens** has been a professional saxophonist for more than 16 years, having played with greats like Brad Mehldau, Ambrose Akinmusire, Kenny Barron, and Gerald Clayton. Dayna has toured Europe, Japan, China, Israel, and Brazil. An alumnus of both Berklee College of Music and the Thelonious Monk Institute, Dayna was mentored by Al Foster and Kenny Barron. The New York Times calls Dayna Stephens a 'must see.'



**Will Terrill** has been a professional drummer for 25 years, having played with greats like Betty Carter, Benny Golson, Abdullah Ibrahim, and Nnenna Freelon. Will has toured the U.S., Europe, Asia, and Africa. With a B.A. from City College and an M.A. in performance and composition from New York University, Will also studied for 3 years with Ron Carter. Will's style is influenced by Roy Haynes, Art Blakey, Philly Joe Jones, and Max Roach.



**Rafik Williamson** has been a professional pianist for 58 years, having played with greats like Hank Mobley, Lou Donaldson, Archie Shepp, and Pharoah Sanders. Rafik has toured the U.S., Canada, the Caribbean, and Japan. Rafik is an alumnus of the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music. Rafik's.



# Gig Fund Artists Expanded List

Wayne Escoffery

Seleno Clarke

Ray Blue

Hamiet Bluiett

Santi Debriano

Nioka Workman

Vincent Chancey

Esther Blue

David Colding

Kelvyn Bell

Kermit Driscoll

David Durrah

Guillermo Edgehill

Clifton Anderson

Phil Young

Bob Mover

Patience Higgins

Jimmy Hill

Greg Lewis

Joey Morant

Tony Moreno

Karen Borca

Bern Nix

Steve Swell

Melvin Vines

Graham Haynes

Jerry Griffin

Essiet Oko Essiet