

Geoff Johns
Cross-Cultural Percussionist

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Personal Resume

Teaching Experience

- **Washington State Public Schools**

Four-times selected for the Washington State Arts Commission's Artist-in-Residence Program, also received funding from the King County Cultural Education Program, and the Enumclaw Arts Commission. Served many arts residencies at K-12 Public Schools throughout Washington State, Led teacher training workshops and student performances at each of these sites

1994-2006
- **University of Washington - Experimental College**

Taught weekly classes in world music and drumming to adults and teens

2001-2006
- **Project Drum- Seattle Summer Rhythm Institute**

Taught intensive week-long programs designed for teacher-training, focusing on the music of Brazil and West Africa, and techniques for presenting this material in the classroom

2004-2005
- **Seattle Children's Museum- Summer Drum Camp**
2005

Taught a week long intensive camp for children, including songs, movement, games, and lots of traditional drumming from around the world
- **John's Music** (Seattle, WA)
1993-2006

Taught weekly drumming classes and private lessons for adults and teens
- **Escola de Samba Olywa** (Olympia, WA)

Co-directed this community-based drum and dance ensemble. Taught workshops and led rehearsals and performances of traditional Brazilian percussion music

1998-2001
- **The Evergreen State College** (Olympia, WA)

Taught Brazilian music and directed the Evergreen Batucada Ensemble in performances for Griffin Elementary School, Olympia; Evergreen Elementary, Shelton; Komincha Middle School, Lacey; Capital High School, Olympia, and for graduation ceremonies at Evergreen State College.

1994
- **The Naropa Institute** (Boulder, CO)

Developed and taught classes in global music studies, including West African dance-drumming, Cuban folklorico, Haitian vodun, North Indian classical, Balinese gamelan, and Brazilian batucada, Directed the Balinese Gamelan Club, Accompanied dance classes in Haitian and West African styles, Directed and produced large-scale, interdisciplinary, student performances each semester, Co-directed the Study Abroad Program (Bali, Indonesia)

1985-93

1992
- **University of Miami** (Miami, FL)
1991

Taught a week-long intensive on African musics as part of a graduate program in music education
- **Children's Museum** (Denver, CO)

Presented a series of 45 minute global percussion demonstrations, K-6th grade

1991
- **Fairview High School** (Boulder, CO)

1990

Co-taught a 6-week performing arts class for teenagers-at-risk, culminating in two student performances

- **University of Colorado, University of Wyoming, and the Kindermusik Assoc.** 1988-1990
Presented workshops and teacher trainings on *Rhythm and Drumming in World Music*
- **Oak School** (Tokyo, Japan) 1980
Taught English as a second language (K-12)
- **Full Circle** (Bollinas, CA) 1979
Supervised and tutored emotionally and educationally disabled adolescent boys

Performing Experience Highlights

- With vocalist **Gina Sala**, at the Women of Wisdom Conference, Seattle, WA 2005
and at Pura Vida Retreat Center in Costa Rica
- With electric cellist, **Jami Sieber**, at the Broadway Center for the Performing Arts, Seattle Wa 2004
- With **Kane Matthis** on kora, **Naby Camara** on balafon, and Etienne Cakpo on dunun, at the Seattle Art Museum 2003
- As leader of a **Ketjak** (BalineseMonkey Chant) ensemble, at *Benaroya Hall*, Seattle, WA 2000
- As musical director of the Brazilian drum and dance club, **Samba Olywa**, performances have included the *Northwest Folklife Festival* in Seattle, and *Procession of the Species* in Olympia, WA 1997-2001
- With Seattle's premiere Caribbean dance band, **Jumbalassy**, performed regularly at clubs throughout the Northwest and California, also performed at *Bumbershoot* and *Reggae on the River* 1996-98
- With the African marimba ensemble, **Musango**, performances included *MarimbaFest* in Eugene, OR; and *Rhythmfest*, *Folklife* and *Bumbershoot* in Seattle 1993-95
- As leader of the West African drum and dance ensemble, **BaKongo**, performances included *Rhythmfest* and the *Northwest Folklife Festival* in Seattle 1993-2002
- With the **Bill Douglas Trio**, completed two tours of Spain, selling-out major concert halls in 14 cities, recorded a concert for television (taped in Madrid), performed a concert at the Botanical Gardens in Denver, broadcast live on KCFR radio, and another with the Denver Symphony Orchestra 1982-94
- With the afro-pop orchestra, **King Mama**, performances included the Boulder Theater, and Mammoth Events Center (opening for *King Sunny Ade*). Voted best dance band in Denver two years in a row by *Westword* magazine 1988-91
- With the **Eden Theater Company**, arranged and performed traditional African music for the stage production of *The Numma's Story*, Denver, CO 1989
- With the middle-eastern music ensemble, **Klezmer V'od**, performances included the Paramount Theater in Denver, and the Lincoln Center in Fort Collins, CO 1984-88

Recordings

- *DRUM!*, *How to play the rhythms of Africa and Latin America with Geoff Johns*, an instructional CD with accompanying booklet. Played all the parts and gave spoken word commentary 1991

- *BAKONGO, Drumming for Dancers*, Arranged music and played lead drum parts on this CD of traditional songs and rhythms from West Africa, Cuba, and Haiti 1992
- *The Conga Drummer's Friend*, Recorded and produced this practice partner CD of traditional clave, bell and shaker rhythms from Cuba, West Africa, Haiti, and Brazil 1998
- *Time* (with **Jumbalassy**) Soca, Reggae 1997
- *Jewel Lake, Cantilena, Kaleidoscope* (with **Bill Douglas**) Lyrical New Age 1988-93
- *Klez Encounters, Heartwork* (with **Klezmer V'od**) Middle-Eastern Pop 1986-87
- *Gateways* (with **Jonathan Goldman**) Men's Drumming and Chanting 1991
- *Rough New Prize, The Dance Tape* (with singer/ songwriter **Aubrey Carton**) 1989-91

Music Studies 1981-2006

- **Kobla Ladzekpo** Traditional West African music from Ghana, especially Ewe dance drumming technique and rhythms
- **John Amira** Cuban folklorico and Haitian vodun, secular and liturgical percussion and vocal music, and dance accompaniment
- **Zakir Hussain** North Indian tabla drumming, traditional technique and compositions
- **Chalo Eduardo** Brazilian percussion, instrumental technique and traditional dance rhythms
- **Bill Douglas** Basic musicianship, ear training, music theory, reading and writing
- **Mamady Keita** Traditional West African music from Guinea, Ivory Coast, and Mali, instrumental technique for djembe and dunun drums, traditional dance rhythms
- **Colin Walcott** Cross-cultural rhythmic concepts, techniques, and applications
- **Stephen Smith** Shona music from Zimbabwe, instrumental technique and traditional compositions for mbiras and marimbas
- **Jerry Granelli** Sound and movement improvisation
- **Bira Almeida** Brazilian percussion, berimbau technique, traditional rhythms and songs
- **John Bergamo** Cross-cultural rhythmic techniques, vocalizing rhythms, tabla technique and compositions, drumset fundamentals
- **Nyoman Sumandhi** Traditional Balinese music, instrumental technique and compositions, especially for gamelan gong kebyar, and ketjak (Balinese monkey chant)
- **Claire Jones** Shona music from Zimbabwe, instrumental technique and traditional

