

DAVID AMRAM & FRIENDS

David Amram & Friends was formed for the Diaspora Film Festival in Toronto to support the Canadian Premiere of Teri McLuhan's award winning feature Film "*The Frontier Ghandi*" for which Amram composed the score.

Below are the brief bios of this unique group all of whom perform world music, folk and jazz with elan and gusto.

DAVID AMRAM

David Amram is a symphonic composer, jazz artist, conductor, and world music pioneer, best described by the Boston Globe as a "Renaissance man of American music."

Long before the term "world music" was coined, Amram's high-spirited and inspired performances, combining jazz, Latin American, Middle Eastern, Native American and folk musics of the world have brought audiences to their feet.

A renowned multi-instrumentalist, Amram is one of the pioneers of jazz French horn, as well as a pianist and master of dozens of folkloric instruments, which he learned to play from fifty years of global tours.

As he approaches his 80th birthday, Amram's hectic schedule includes recent performances with Willie Nelson's band at Farm Aid, appearing at Madison Square Gardens for Pete Seeger's 90th Birthday, composing "*Symphonic Variations on a Song by Woody Guthrie*" commissioned by the Guthrie Foundation and a new *Piano Concerto*.

Other highlights include being the composer-in-residence for the Democratic National convention in Denver and a recent performance of global music at the Middle East International Film Festival in Abu Dhabi in support of Teri McLuhan's new film "*The Frontier Ghandi*" for which he composed the score, as well as conducting and soloing on several middle Eastern and South Asian instruments.

Amram's extraordinary musical collaborations over the past half-century include New York's first-ever public jazz/poetry performances with Jack Kerouac, and concerts and recordings with Odetta, Charles Mingus, Tito Puente, Bob Dylan, Lionel Hampton and Pete Seeger.

In Canada, he has often appeared at the Mariposa, Winnipeg, Edmonton and Vancouver Folk Festivals, the Montreal and Ottawa Jazz Festivals and guest conducted, as well as providing bilingual narrations for the Toronto Symphony, Montreal Symphony, and the orchestras of Vancouver, Edmonton, Hamilton, Calgary, Halifax and London Ontario.

He is the subject of Raffi's hit song "*Peanut Butter Sandwich Made With Jam: One for Me and One for David Amram.*"

Amram is also the author of three books, "*Vibrations*," an autobiography; "*Offbeat: Collaborating With Kerouac*," a memoir; and "*Upbeat: Nine Lives of a Musical Cat*" all published by and available from Paradigm Publishers.

He has composed more than 100 orchestral and chamber music works, written many scores for Broadway theater and film, including the classic scores for the films "*Splendor in The Grass*" and "*The Manchurian Candidate*."

Today, as he has for over fifty years, Amram continues to compose music while traveling the world as a conductor, soloist, bandleader, visiting scholar, folklorist and narrator in five languages.

David Amram's webpage <http://www.davidamram.com/>

For outstanding live performances documented over the past thirty-two years, please access:

http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=DE566F6F01A2403A

To contact David Amram directly for interviews or special programs designed for your festival's needs please access:

amramdavid@aol.com

www.davidamram.com

home 845.528.4305

mobile 914.299.3497

LEIGH CLINE

Leigh Cline is a guitarist, producer and sound engineer. The music he plays focuses on Black Sea, Greek and Turkish music with echoes of the Caucasus and Celtic music.

Leigh was part of the Toronto/Yorkville folk and blues music scene of the 1960s. He performed and gave guitar workshops at many North American Folk Festivals including Mariposa, Philadelphia and Fox Hollow, among many others, as well as being Technical Director and board member of the Mariposa Festival for many years. During this time, Leigh was able to learn musical styles and guitar firsthand from the likes of Mississippi John Hurt, Skip James, Bukka White, Rev. Gary Davis, Maybelle Carter, Lonnie Johnson, Muddy Waters, Howling Wolf, Bill Munroe, Merle Travis and Doc Boggs.

In the 1970s Leigh formed several of Toronto's first World Music bands ("*Al Taysr*" and "*Kismet Orchestra*") with local Middle East and Balkan musicians. Since that time, he has worked for many years in Greece and Turkey, playing and recording with top folk and nightclub musicians and has specifically developed a unique guitar style to accompany Pontic Music – the archaic, modal, Celtic-influenced music of the Eastern Black Sea Coast.

Leigh has three solo CDs, "*Orient Express*" (a synthesis of East/West music and musicians), "*Al Asha Bi Daha*" (traditional Eastern Black Sea music) and "*Galatia*" (a coming together of top Black Sea and Celtic musicians) which have been licensed in Europe, the Balkans, the Middle East, Central Asia and the Indian subcontinent

He is completing a book for Mel Bay Publications with fiddler Sandy MacIntyre, tentatively titled "*Cape Breton Traditional Style Scottish Fiddle Sets with Guitar Tablature.*"

Leigh continues to record and perform at concerts, clubs and festivals as well as giving workshops on guitar styles, long necked lutes (saz and tambura), rhythms, scales and the music of Greece, Turkey, The Caucasus and Central Asia.

Leigh Cline's webpage <http://www.leighcline.com/>

DAVID WOODHEAD

Best known for his melodic and personal style on the fretless electric bass, David Woodhead has explored much musical territory on his own and with other notable travellers. His creative instrumental work has appeared on almost 200 albums in the contemporary folk field, including Stan Rogers' first two albums and CDs by instrumentalists Don Ross and Oliver Schroer, as well as vocalists Loreena McKennitt, Ron Hynes, Brent Titcomb, Valdy and Mary-Jane Lamond.

He started by playing banjo at grade school assemblies in Montreal, and his early summers in Vermont provided much inspiration for the material on his CD "*Sweets and Conundrums*." After joining the ground-breaking Perth County Conspiracy ("does not exist"), and through a spell on the West Coast, he has settled in Toronto and raised a family.

Always busy on the studio, concert, and festival scene, David has recently been performing with his own Confabulation (which is currently recording an album chiefly of David's material) as well as with the irrepressible Betty and the Bobs, Malagasi guitarist Donne Roberts and flamenco rhumba band The Sultans of String. In the Fall of 2009 he toured England and Western Canada with James Keelaghan, having played on James' newest CD "*House Of Cards*."

He has been one of the most frequently appearing musicians at Toronto's Hugh's Room, and other performances have included the Montreaux Jazz festival, Guadalajara's Fiesta de Octubre, the Monterey World Music Festival and practically every contemporary folk venue and festival in Canada.

He has produced many recordings for other musicians, including engineering and arranging credits, and scored television and film projects. David completed his first CD "*Sweets and Conundrums*," a fanciful distillation of his melodic compositions, with a recording grant from the Canada Council in 1999. He has also been awarded grants from the Ontario Arts Council and the Toronto Arts Council.

He has done bass instruction at Rosedale Heights School of the Arts in Toronto, the Ottawa Folklore Center, the Goderich Celtic College in Goderich, Ontario and completed a mentoring program with the Ontario Council of Folk festivals.

David Woodhead's webpage <http://www.davidwoodhead.com/>

DEBASHIS SINHA

Debashis Sinha is a Toronto-based percussionist interested in seeking out the threads that bind disparate musical and percussive traditions.

He is a founding member of Autorickshaw and Maza Mezé, two of Canada's most well known world music ensembles.

His unique approach to percussion has netted him two Juno nominations (with Maza Mezé and Autorickshaw) and a Juno Award as part of Leela Gilday's ensemble.

A percussionist with a distinctive voice and imagination, Sinha has been an invited performer with Trichy Sankaran, Jesse Cook, The Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band, the Evergreen Club Gamelan, Maryem Tollar, and others.

A fixture on Toronto's dance scene, he has collaborated and performed with Peggy Baker, Dancemakers, Peter Chin, Julia Aplin, Sukalyan Bhattacharjee, Hari Krishnan, and Winnipeg's Fusion Dance Theatre.

Debashis Sinha's webpage <http://www.debsinha.com/>