

David Wold Associates Presents

**RANDY ARMSTRONG • VOLKER NAHRMANN
& BEYOND BORDERS**



October 28, 2017 • 8pm
South Church • Portsmouth, NH

A Portion of the Proceeds from this Concert will benefit:
UNICEF / VOICES FROM THE HEART / OCEAN CONSERVANCY
South Africa Humanitarian Tour

BEYOND BORDERS MUSICIAN BIOGRAPHIES

Randy Armstrong	Guitar, Lakota flute, World percussion and strings, vocals, composer.
Volker Nahrmann	Upright & electric bass, keyboards, World percussion, vocals, composer.
Henrique De Almeida	Drums, Brazilian & World percussion.
Charlie Jennison	Saxophones, clarinet, keyboards, World percussion.
Taylor O'Donnell	Vocals, keyboards, World percussion.
Theo Martey	African drums and dance, World percussion, vocals.
Ben Cook	Piano, keyboards.
Nick Phaneuf	Guitar, fretted string instruments, World percussion.



Randy Armstrong has been hailed by the Boston Globe as “a sure-fingered, guitar virtuoso” and Downbeat Magazine has called his music “a marvelous kaleidoscope of shifting melodies, rhythms and instrumental colors.” He is the Director of the Phillips Exeter Academy West African Drumming Ensemble and North Indian Music Program and taught courses for PSU Integrated Arts Graduate Studies. Randy has been selected to be the 2017-2018 Artist in Residence for the Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra. He is also the recipient of the 2017 Governor’s Arts Award for Arts in Education.

Randy is the co-founder of Do’a World Music Ensemble and Unu Mondo and has performed throughout the United States, Canada, Alaska, Belize, India, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Slovenia, Croatia, Italy and South Africa and West Africa. He has appeared on over 45 albums, theater and film scores and has been the recipient of numerous grants from the National Endowment on the Arts and the New England Foundation for the Arts. As a composer and recording artist, he has released a solo CD, No Regrets; and a double CD soundtrack for the 4 part PBS primetime series, Dinner on the Diner filmed in Spain, South Africa, Scotland and Southeast Asia.

He has served as an Arts Councilor for the NH State Council on the Arts appointed by two NH Governors and is on the NHSCA Arts in Education and Arts in Health juried rosters. Randy has presented educational programs for tens of thousands of students throughout his career.

His original score and soundtrack CD for the theater and dance production, THE CONFERENCE OF THE BIRDS is currently on the GRAMMY ballot for BEST NEW AGE ALBUM and was released at

the premiere performance in San Jose, CA in September 2016 featuring 11 international dance traditions with over 50 actors ages 4 to 84. Randy will be on the South Africa concert tour with Voices from the Heart in the summer of 2018. For information, please visit: <http://www.randyarmstrong.com>.



Volker Nahrmann is a Summa Cum Laude graduate of Berklee College of Music in Bass Performance with additional studies in jazz and classical performance at the Hochschule für Musik in Graz, Austria and Frankfurt, Germany. He has toured the USA with the Artie Shaw Big Band and Do'a World Music Ensemble. Volker is the principal bassist for Symphony New Hampshire (<http://symphonynh.org>) and co-founded Unu Mondo and Beyond Borders with Randy Armstrong of Do'a World Music Ensemble.

Volker and Randy collaborated on the 1994 CD release, *Hand In Hand* on the Global Pacific Record label featuring many of his original compositions and his skilled bass and keyboard performances and he also appears on the Do'a World Music Ensemble album, *World Dance*.

Performing together for over twenty five years Volker Nahrmann and Randy Armstrong have earned critical acclaim and ever-widening audience enthusiasm.

"One of the hottest world music bands in the country" (The Patriot News).

"Ridiculously talented..." (Metroland).

The Boston Phoenix stated "Nahrmann's hypnotic solo nearly stopped the show".

In 1987, he authored *The Music of Oscar Pettiford*, 80 transcribed bass solos. Available through <http://www.jazzbooks.com>

Volker also runs the highly successful Nahrmann Bass Shop in Billerica, Massachusetts.

Website: <http://www.nahrmannbass.com>

Randy Armstrong and **Volker Nahrmann** are celebrating the release of their latest CD entitled: **BEYOND BORDERS**. Five years in the making featuring 35 musicians from around world, it is a Global Voyage in Music. Beyond Borders was nominated for the 2015 ZMR Music Awards – Best World Album.



Henrique De Almeida is an Associate Professor at the Berklee College of Music and holds a Master Degree in Music Performance from The University of Southern Mississippi. He is a graduate of The Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA, in Jazz Composition. He is the leader of his own groups: The Henjosal Trio featuring Berklee Professors, Joe Santerre on bass, and Sal DiFusco on guitar. He also leads the Jazz Fusion group World News. Henrique endorses Humes & Berg drum cases. He is a clinician for Yamaha Drums, LP Percussion, Vic Firth Sticks, Paiste Cymbals, Evans drumheads and Earthworks Microphones. He utilizes Westone Audio In-Ear monitor systems. An accomplished author and published clinician, Henrique's educational products are often ranked high in Modern Drummer Magazine and are currently available through the

top publishing companies such as Amazon.com and online schools such as Drumeo for which he is on faculty as well.

Henrique De Almeida is in high demand as a teacher, producer/composer, and sought after artist. He is constantly delivering products to the music industry and designing courses for the Berklee Percussion

Department. Henrique works in the TV industry (such as HBO) and the commercial world including writing original music for TV campaigns with companies such as Victoria Secret and Australian David Jones Department stores. He also recorded and toured nationally and internationally with acclaimed USAFA Falconaires Contemporary Big Band, and the USAFA rock band Blue Steel. Henrique has performed several times at the prestigious Carnegie Hall. He writes articles for Modern Drummer Magazine, performs at music conferences such as PASIC (Percussive Arts Society International Convention), JEN – (Jazz Educators Network) and numerous jazz festivals around the world. Henrique has performed for The President of the United States, Vice President, and Secretary of Defense. He has performed with an enormous range of artists: David Ellefson (Megadeth), Victor Wooten, Leo Blanco, Steve Hunt (Allan Holdsworth), Bruce Gertz, Dave Samuels, Jerry Bergonzi, Gloria Estefan, Nat Adderley, Antonio Hart, Christopher Holiday, Donny McCaslin, Chris Speed, Igor Butman, Dave Valentin, Scotty Barnhart, Tiger Okoshi, Larry Coryell, Jeff Berlin, Stanton Moore, Billy Cobham, Nelson Rangel, Jeff Narell, Ira Sullivan, Victor Mendonza, Danilo Perez, Phil Wilson, Baron Brown, Matt Garrison, Bill Summers, Hilton Ruiz, Betty Carter, Willie Williams, Nando Lauria (Pat Metheny Group), and Brazilian Pop Stars: Alceu Valenca, Gilberto Gill, Raul De Souza, Luiz Gonzaga, and Hermeto Paschoal. Also Brian Lynch, Ronnie Matthews, David Williams, Luciana Souza, Katy Webster, and Oscar Kartaia among others.

Website: <http://www.thedrumsetcoach.com>



Charlie Jennison, a New Hampshire-based multi-instrumentalist, began his jazz career in 1961 playing at rotary clubs and at other local functions while still in junior high school. Moving to New Hampshire from Florida, he formed a jazz combo at the University of New Hampshire from which he graduated in 1969 with a degree in Music Education. Jennison has studied with such major jazz figures as Jerry Bergonzi and Charlie Mariano. The defining moment in Jennison's career came early when he met pianist Tom Gallant, a teacher at the Berklee School of Music and an alumnus of Woody Herman's band. Jennison played with Gallant for more than 30 years. He has also shared the stage or has been in the recording studio with such notable jazz musicians as Dizzy Gillespie, Buddy DeFranco, Alan Dawson, and Marshal Royal.

Jennison has also been on numerous albums including backing vocalists Kathleen Kolman and Leila Percy, as well as with Do'a World Music Ensemble and trumpet player Clark Terry. In 1999, Jennison released his first album for Maine's Invisible Music label titled *Iridescence*, which features Jennison's tenor and soprano saxophone skills. In a quartet format, the album's play list is comprised of ten Jennison originals, which run the tempo gamut from ballads to faster paced material. In addition to recording projects and performing in local venues, Jennison currently holds the position of instructor of saxophone at New Hampshire's Phillip Exeter Academy. Charlie Jennison performed and recorded with Do'a World Music Ensemble on the albums, *Companions* and *World Dance* and on the Unu Mondo release, *Hand In Hand* as well as the Randy Armstrong • Volker Nahrman album, *BEYOND BORDERS*.



Taylor O'Donnell, a Colorado native, is a contemporary vocalist who mainly uses her roots in classical vocal performance, musical theater, jazz, folk and R&B. She holds a bachelor's degree in Jazz Studies from Western Michigan University, and a master's degree in Jazz Performance from the University of Miami. She has studied and worked with Diana Spradling (renowned jazz pedagogue), Fred Hersch (Grammy award-winning composer and pianist), Grammy-nominated vocalists, Peter Eldridge and Lauren Kinhan, and New Hampshire native, Lila Mori. O'Donnell studied composition with celebrated trumpet players and composers, Dave Douglas and Terence Blanchard.

Highlights of O'Donnell's performing and teaching career include working with producer David Foster during an appearance on the Oprah Winfrey Show, performing at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in NYC, working with Grammy award-winning producer Rudy Perez, teaching at Miami Dade College as a Professor of Jazz Voice, and singing background vocals for singer-songwriter Ben Folds.

Taylor O'Donnell operates a private studio in Maine and teaches at Bowdoin College and Portsmouth Music & Art Center (PMAC). In addition to teaching vocal contemporary style and classical technique for all ages and experience levels, she offers composition and piano lessons in the Maine and New Hampshire Seacoast area. She regularly performs with various groups in the Seacoast area playing jazz and folk, and also can be seen in the up-and-coming soul group, Mother Superior and the Sliding Royales. Taylor O'Donnell was the 2016-2017 Artist in Residence for the Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra.



Ben Cook has performed as pianist for the Boston Pops Orchestra and Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra at Symphony Hall and on tour throughout the United States. Since first working for the BPO and BPEO in 2003, he has performed over 100 times at Boston's Symphony Hall, the Hatch Shell at the Esplanade, the Tanglewood Music Festival, and on several national tours, working with conductors Keith Lockhart and John Williams and backing such diverse artists as Yo-Yo Ma, Melissa Etheridge, Kenny Loggins, Carly Simon, Tom Morello, Donna McKechnie, Jim Belushi, the Dropkick Murphys, Tom Scholz, Train, Chris Isaak, Joey McIntyre, Emmy Rossum, Melinda Doolittle, Katharine McPhee, Ayla Brown, and others. Ben has performed music with orchestras that have ranged from pop songs to jazz to the symphonic repertoire of Leonard Bernstein, Aaron Copland, John Williams, Ralph Vaughan-Williams,

John Alden Carpenter, and Morton Gould, among others. Recently, he performed the soloistic piano part on John Williams' Grammy-award winning "The Book Thief" at Tanglewood with Maestro Williams conducting, and was featured on the Pops' 2015 Florida tour soloing on Duke Ellington's "It Don't Mean a Thing". In March 2015, Ben performed with the Pops brass section and noted Broadway vocalist Brian Stokes Mitchell at the opening of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute in front of President Obama and other dignitaries. In December 2015, he recorded a live performance with the orchestra that was broadcast nationally on PBS in December 2016.

Ben Cook has also recorded numerous times with jazz artists such as Miles Donahue, Fred Buda, Cassandre McKinley, and Crosscurrent. He has also worked as a New England area pit orchestra musician for numerous Broadway shows, including Wicked, Jersey Boys, Mamma Mia, and dozens of others. He is an adjunct faculty member at Brandeis University and summer program instructor at Berklee College of Music.



Theo Nii Martey is a talented artist who was born and raised in Accra Ghana, West Africa. Theo is a Songwriter, Recording Artist, Producer, Performer and Teacher. He has taught and performed African drumming, dancing and music in Ghana, England, Ireland, Mexico, Canada and the United States. In 1986 at the age of 6, Theo began performing with the African Personality Youth Ensemble, and then joined the Shidaa Cultural Troup in 1989. At age 17, he joined the Dance Factory Company at the National Theater of Ghana, one of the most sought-after performance ensembles in Ghana. When in London in 2000-2002, he performed with the Brekete Drum and Dance Ensemble.

While touring with the Brekete Ensemble, as drummer, dancer, and choreographer, Theo Martey formulated the idea of creating the Akwaaba Ensemble in 2002. The Akwaaba Ensemble's energetic

and engaging performances are a reflection of their name, which means "welcome" in the Twi language of the Ashanti tribe of Ghana. At each performance the Ensemble brings West African drumming, music and dance to vivid life, holding sway with the rich and subtle rhythmic patterns and styles specific to different tribal groups of West Africa.

In addition to his on stage experience, Theo is an accomplished teacher of African drumming and dance and has received numerous grants from the New England Foundation for the Arts, The National Endowment for the Arts, Massachusetts Cultural Council and New Hampshire State Art Council to teach in school residencies- workshops and performances in dozens of schools all over New England. He enjoys working in a variety of settings, with children and adults, making music, teaching rhythms and songs, and telling the stories behind the songs and the Ga's tribe. He has performed for and taught children at dozens of schools throughout the United Kingdom and the United States. He has collaborated with the Randy Armstrong World Music Ensemble, Steve Ferraris Root System, Dan Perkins and the Manchester Choral Society for the Zulu Mass and Christmas Tapestry project, New Hampshire Theatre Project for Dreaming Again, and Now Teaching West African Drumming and Dance for credit at the University of New Hampshire, in Durham. <http://www.akwaabaensemble.com>



Nick Phaneuf is a multi-instrumental performer and educator. A New Hampshire native, he attended the University of New Hampshire and has been playing and teaching ever since. He covers a wide array of genres including: jazz, Afrobeat, bluegrass, folk, and rock as well as performing and composing live electronic and ambient music. Phaneuf is also an adept engineer and producer who has recently partnered to open a new recording studio, The Noise Floor, in the New Hampshire Seacoast. He currently performs regularly with the Soggy Po' Boys and Dan Blakeslee and the Calabash Club. Nick Phaneuf has been on the faculty at Portsmouth Music and Arts Center since 2008. A New Hampshire native, he attended the University of New

Hampshire and has been playing and teaching ever since. He covers a wide array of genres including: jazz, Afrobeat, bluegrass, folk, and rock as well as performing and composing live electronic and ambient music. Phaneuf is also an adept engineer and producer who has recently partnered to open a new recording studio, The Noise Floor, in the New Hampshire Seacoast. He currently performs regularly with the Soggy Po' Boys and Dan Blakeslee and the Calabash Club. Nick Phaneuf has been on the faculty at Portsmouth Music and Arts Center since 2008.