



Power of Song Musicians, Educators and Lecturers: Biographies

Linda Richard, Outreach Educator and Musician, received her M.S. in Elementary Education from SUNY New Paltz with a focus in Environmental Education and holds a NYS Permanent Teaching Certificate – N-6. Having taught in traditional and non-traditional education settings for three decades, including Manitoga/The Russel Wright Design Center, Ashokan Field Campus, Sam’s Point Preserve, Ulster County BOCES, and the Mid-Hudson Teaching Center, Linda’s experience and passion lends to the amazing success of programs she is involved in. From public schools, to the decks of sloop *Clearwater* and countless classrooms and auditoriums throughout the Hudson Valley, she has sung songs, introduced topics, developed theories, inspired and ignited eager learners, young and old alike. Linda’s work with Clearwater took her through a gamut of positions through her eleven-year tenure, where she shared stages, decks and classrooms, with important folk musicians Pete Seeger, Arlo Guthrie and Tom Paxton. In addition to working for Clearwater, Linda also holds an Education Consultant position with Manitoga/The Russel Wright Design Center. Her greatest ability may very well be her panache for creating and activating the love of music and activism in our next generation.

Pete Seeger, the legendary musician, singer, songwriter, folklorist, labor activist, environmentalist, and peace advocate can be said to be one of the most influential activists of the twentieth century. In Seeger’s capable hands, from the Forties to the present day, a concert isn’t regarded as a one-way proceeding but a group sing-along. Indeed, Seeger’s gently assertive insistence that his audience sing out can be read as a larger metaphor for the necessary involvement of citizens to insure the healthy functioning of democracy in America. Seeger has recorded and performed tirelessly throughout his career, honoring the folksingers’ timeless commitment to spread the word and involve an audience. “My ability lies in being able to get a crowd to sing along with me,” he said in an interview. “When I get upon a stage, I look on my job as trying to tell a story. I use songs to illustrate my story and dialogue between songs to carry the story forward. And hopefully it gets people to care and then act.”

Victorio “Roland” Mousaa, an Apache Indian from New Mexico, was raised in homes for children, has worked on farms in Colorado, hitchhiked to NYC, dodged the Vietnam draft, is still active in AIM, has performed with some of the most foremost American folk and Native American artists. He has been involved with Clearwater since 1969.

Travis Jeffrey is a trained musician, artist, ship’s captain, carpenter, activist and author- a true twenty-first century renaissance man. As a volunteer, educator, and a former captain on the sloop *Clearwater* for twelve years, he knows the ropes. Travis has been heard throughout the Hudson Valley for decades, playing the banjo and getting us all to sing together for environmental and social justice.

David Amram 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*; two operas, including the groundbreaking Holocaust opera *The Final Ingredient*; and the score for the landmark 1959 documentary *Pull My Daisy*, narrated by novelist Jack Kerouac. He is also the author of three books, *Vibrations*, an autobiography, *Offbeat: Collaborating With Kerouac*, a memoir, and *Upbeat: Nine Lives of a Musical Cat* published in the fall of 2007 by Paradigm Publishers.

A pioneer player of jazz French horn, he is also a virtuoso on piano, numerous flutes and whistles, percussion, and dozens of folkloric instruments from 25 countries, as well as an inventive, funny improvisational lyricist. He has collaborated with Leonard Bernstein, (who chose him as The New York

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Philharmonic's first composer-in-residence in 1966), Dizzy Gillespie, Langston Hughes, Dustin Hoffman, Willie Nelson, Thelonious Monk, Odetta, Elia Kazan, Arthur Miller, Charles Mingus, Lionel Hampton, Johnny Depp and Tito Puente.

Amram's most recent orchestral works include *Giants of the Night*, (commissioned and premiered by flutist Sir James Galway in 2002); *Symphonic Variations on a Song by Woody Guthrie*, (commissioned by the Woody Guthrie Foundation in 2007); and *Three Songs: A Concerto for Piano and Orchestra* (written for and premiered by pianist John Namkamatsu in 2009). He was also chosen as the 2008 Democratic National Convention's "Composer In Residence For Public Events." In 2010, Amram is working on a new orchestral piece and new book. He will also be the subject of a new documentary film about his life, which will include a filming and recording of his 1968 comic opera *12th Night* and several of his other works.

Jeff Haynes, a "Percussion Wizard" according to the Albany Times, brings a sound to today's music scene that takes percussion beyond "technique" and "tradition". In recorded and stage performances, Jeff moves effortlessly from varied and subtle textures... to grooving in the pocket... to anchoring the rhythm section. Jeff has toured worldwide and recorded extensively with Cassandra Wilson, for 15 years.

He has toured worldwide with the Pat Metheny Group, Al Jarreau, Boney James, Lizz Wright, Harry Belafonte, Dionne Farris and Peabo Bryson. His talent is widely reflected in over a 100 CDs with recording credits ranging from prominent names in R&B, Jazz, and World Beat, to New Age. Jeff is the founder and President of Komunyaka Music, Inc., a multi-faceted music production company. The company offers a music enrichment program called Music for the Mind & Spirit.

Since the spring of 2000, Jeff has conducted a variety of percussion-based workshops in cultural institutions and schools. Jeff's workshops feature dynamic professional storytellers, spoken word artists, dancers and musicians, from Jeff's vast network friends and professional contacts. Students learn from performances and hands on experiences to can take a refreshing journey through the world of music. His school programs have been featured in the Poughkeepsie Journal and Times Herald Record, among other press. Jeff has been developing conceptual curriculum based arts in education programs through grant partnerships.

Last spring he worked with the faculty and PTO at JV Forrestal Elementary School in Beacon City School District to receive the Dutchess County Art Council Arts-in-Education Grant. His programs at JV Forrestal lead to a coordinated district wide residency. From March through May 2008, Jeff is working with 5th grade classes in all four elementary schools in Beacon City School District on a drumming and spoken word program that helps students internalize and express the realities of Slavery and the Underground Railroad.

Joel Chadabe, composer, is a well-known pioneer in the development of interactive music systems. His music has been performed at Expanded Instruments Festival (Engine 27, New York City), Centro Cultural Recoleta (Buenos Aires), Venice Biennale, Wellington Festival (New Zealand), Aarhus Festival (Denmark), De Isbreker (Amsterdam), New Music America, Inventionen (Berlin), IRCAM (Paris), Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam), Ars Electronica (Linz, Austria), Electronic Music Festival (Stockholm), New Music New York, and other venues worldwide. His music is recorded on EMF Media, Deep Listening, CDCM, Lovely Music, and other labels. He is the author of 'Electric Sound', a comprehensive history of electronic music; and his articles have been published in leading journals and anthologized in books by MIT Press, Routledge, and other publishers.

His honors include awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, Ford Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Fulbright Commission, SUNY Research Foundation, New York Foundation for the Arts, and other organizations.

As president of Intelligent Music, a research and development company, he was responsible for the development of interactive music software. He is currently Professor Emeritus at State University of New

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York; on the faculties of Manhattan School of Music and New York University; and he is founder and president of Electronic Music Foundation.

Tom Beyer studied classical percussion with Paul Price and later studied jazz and ethnic music with percussion masters, Fredrick Waits, Eddie Blackwell, Jack DeJohnette, Billy Hart and Guillermo Franco. He has worked in most styles of music including various ethnic musics, jazz, rock, opera, theater and new media as a drummer, percussionist, composer, engineer, technologist and teacher.

Professor Beyer completed a Masters Degree in Music Composition at NYU/Steinhardt. In addition to being a member of the New York University Composers Ensemble, and a founding member of the newly formed International Composers & Interactive Artists, he is engaged in engineering and sound design projects throughout New York City. He also composes for various concert, Internet and multimedia projects. His awards and honors range from a Lincoln Center Award as a High School Student to recently receiving, each for two consecutive years, The NYU/Steinhardt Music Jack Krieselman and ASCAP Plus Awards. Professor Beyer has taught at The Center for Open Education, Emerson College, and The New School. He was the Director of the Electronic Music Program at The County College of Morris. Since 1998 he has been the Chief Systems Engineer for the Music Technology Program and the Network Administrator for NYU Steinhardt Music. He joined the adjunct music faculty at NYU Steinhardt in 1999.

Professor Beyer's compositions, in many genres and with diverse instrumentations, range from solos to huge multimedia extravaganzas. His works have been performed in many venues and festivals in Europe, Asia and the United States. His interests are Sound for Visuals, Synthesis, Percussion, Software and Hardware Design and The Uses of Technology.

Rednex Poetry Squad: As artists, educators and activists, they seek to alleviate ignorance by tackling various issues including, but certainly not limited to race, gender, politics, history, social injustice, gentrification, poverty and segregation. Their evolution into which they are today has been fueled by their experiences as their enlightening and empowering commentary is framed by politics, history and current events.

Moved by the innocence and fearlessness of youth, the ReadNex Poetry Squad gives youth leverage through their nationally recognized Hip Hop and Spoken Word Poetry Youth Empowerment Workshop that started in Newburgh, NY in 2004. This program is designed to build confidence, give an in depth understanding of poetry and use Hip-Hop as a positive medium for self-expression and public outreach.

In 2009, the group continued their acclaimed youth programming and spent time reflecting on their seven week Front Lines Tour that hit 40 cities in the Summer of 2008. The expedition was test of faith in their art willingness and the willingness to complete a self sustained tour. They were also the Featured Artist of the World Social forum in Brazil in January 2009. In April 2009, the ReadNex Poetry Squad hosted the second annual Hip Hop Seasons, a week-long festival in the Hudson Valley, NY.

This unwavering desire to facilitate social change has culminated in their metamorphic rebirth embodied in their new album, "Day Before Sound," set for release in early 2010.