

John Damberg-Resume

Percussionist, Composer, & Educator

Artistic Accomplishments:

John Damberg is a master vibist, marimbist, percussionist, composer, and educator who has enjoyed a successful career in music spanning 43 years. John resides in Anchorage, Alaska where he is the leader of the **John Damberg Latin Jazz Quintet**, the **Instructor of Percussion at the University of Alaska Anchorage**, the founder and **Executive Director of the Alaska Jazz Workshop**, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit community service organization promoting jazz education and performance opportunities in Alaska. John is an active performer and educator in Alaska and Pacific Northwest where he is an ardent promoter of jazz & percussion education.

Background: John was born in 1952 in Kittery, Maine and received his early music training in Detroit, Michigan. John moved to Seattle in 1979 and was very active on the Seattle Music scene until 1991, when he moved to Anchorage, AK to teach percussion at UAA and explore Alaska's great outdoors.

Education and Training:

BM degree in Music Education: University of Alaska Anchorage, 1997.

MM degree-Jazz Studies and Ethnomusicology: University of Washington, 1989

BM degree-Percussion Performance: Wayne State University, 1976

Continuing Education: Workshops, Clinics, & Conventions

Jazz Educator Convention, Dallas-2014, California Brazil Camp, Cazadero, CA-2013 & 2010, Chamber Music America Conventions, New York City-2013 & 2001, Pan Ramajay Steel Drum Camp, U. of Denver, CO-2011, Rebeca Mauleon Afro-Cuban Music Workshop at UAA-2010, Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival-2008, Valerie Naranjo African Percussion and Gyl Workshop at UAA-2007, AJW Summer Jazz improvisation workshops at UAA-2000-12, IAJE Conventions in New York City, Long Beach, and New Orleans-1999-2005, Francis Awe Nigerian Talking Drum workshops at UAA-1994 & 1997, Afro Cubanismo Festival in Banff, Canada-1993, Ellie Mannette Steel Drum camp in Cannon Beach, Oregon-1990, Advanced vibraphone Studies with Tom Collier in Seattle, WA-1986-89, and Dave Samuels in New York City-1981.

Performance Experience:

John Damberg Latin Jazz Quintet: (1995-present). Featured in performances of original music in throughout Alaska in a wide variety of venues and events including: Alaska Arts councils concerts for the Valdez Arts Council-2013, the Cordova Copper River Wild Salmon Festival-2008, the Denali Arts Council Concert-2008, the Homer Jazz Festival-2007, the Kenai/Soldotna Performing Arts Society-2006, the Spenard Jazz Fest 2008-12, AK Native Heritage Center World Music Festivals 1998-present, UAA Jazz Week Festivals-1995-present, the AK Sea Life Center opening-1996, PAS AK Day of Percussion Festivals-1993-2007, the Girdwood Forest Fair-2000-2011, KNIK Breeze Cruises-2005-08, the Trinity Presbyterian and Anchorage Lutheran Church concert series, numerous Alaska middle and high schools, clinics, and at restaurants including the Organic Oasis.

Percussionist and Drummer 1971-present:

John has performed in a wide variety of musical settings nationally and internationally with the John Damberg Latin and jazz ensembles, the Detroit, Seattle and Anchorage Symphony Orchestras, and Broadway touring shows. He has performed with internationally acclaimed jazz artists including: Wynton Marsalis, Quincy Jones, Rebeca Mauleon, Eddie Palmieri, Jovino Santos Neto, Milt Jackson, Cedar Walton, Denis Deblasio, Oscar Stagnaro, Allison Miller, Michael Davis, & Mimi Fox and with nationally renowned entertainers including: Harry Connick Jr., Ray Charles, the Temptations, Gladys Knight and the Pips, Patti Austin, James Ingram, Sammy Davis Jr., Bob Hope, Dionne Warwick, Steve Allen, Joel Gray, and Liberace.

Commissions and Publications:

John writes music for his Latin Jazz Ensemble and for other creative projects including: movie sound tracks, travel videos and children's educational videos. John's compositions have been featured on the 2005 CD release *Azure* by the JoMaLa Jazz Quintet, the 1998 CD release of *Angie's Samba* by the John Damberg Latin Jazz Quintet, the 1993 release of *Human Hands: a Composers and Improvisers Ensemble*, on his 1985 release of *Soaring* and on videos including *Cruising Alaska's Inside Passage* and the award winning children's video *Monty the Moose*. John is currently working on a new CD of original jazz, Latin, and funk music to be released in September 2014 featuring the John Damberg Latin Jazz Quintet. His music is regularly featured on Alaska Public Radio Stations.

Collaborations: with Dan MacElrath and Ray Booker to perform and record a CD of original music by Alaskan artists-2013, with Yngivl Vatn Guttu to organize the Spenard Jazz Fest 2008-10: with the AJW co-sponsored the Count Basie Orchestra (2013) and the Thelonius Monk Institute (2008) ASD Jazz Education Residencies, coordinated AJW Student pre-concert music for the Anchorage Concert Association Jazz Concerts at the PAC, with UAA Music Professor Karen Strid-Chadwick to plan the UAA Jazz Week Benefit Concerts and UAA Jazz Week Festival events from 1991-present, and with AJW guest artists and Alaska faculty to provide AJW Jazz education classes and performances on a year round basis-2000 to present.

Awards:

2017 & 2012 ASCA Career Opportunity Grants to attend music workshops
2010 Rasmuson Foundation \$12,000 Artist Fellowship Award for Music Composition, 2001 CMA Travel Grant to attend the CMA Convention in New York City, 2000 Honorable Mention-Anchorage APRN Song of the Year Competition for *Angie's Samba* song, 1994 ASCA Artist Development grant to attend the Afro-Cubanismo Festival at the Banff Centre for the Arts.

Community Service:

Clinician & Adjudicator for the Region 1 Music Festivals in Nome, Kotzebue, Bethel, and Dillingham, AK-2004-2014, President and Vice President of the PAS AK Chapter-1993-2007, Coordinator of the PAS Alaska Day of Percussion-1996-2007, Coordinated numerous community service concerts for the AJW Student Jazz Combos at ASD Middle & High Schools, Bean's Café, the Children's Lunch Box Fall Harvest, Alaska Fourth of July Celebrations-1995 on, Guest Lecturer, Anchorage Concert Association-1995-present, Adjudicator, Alaska State Solo and Ensemble Festivals-1993-present.