

River Guerguerian

www.ShareTheDrum.com

Multi-Percussionist/Composer/Educator

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ENSEMBLES

- River Guerguerian Project** 1988-present; performances ranging from solo to large ensembles
Pulse:Heart:Beat 2010 (Sydney, Australia), Manhattan School of Music, William Patterson College, CUNY, Clemson Univ., UNCA, CSU, SUNY Purchase, Festival of New American Music (CA), Brubeck Institute, NYC Day of Percussion, Music Theatre Group (NYC, Santa Fe), SoundRes Festival (Lecce, Italy), Lake Eden Arts Festival, Moog Foundation
- Omar Faruk Tekbilek** 2003-present; Sydney Opera House, Tokyo, Istanbul, Rome, Athens, Lincoln Center, New Delhi, Jerusalem Hall, Barcelona, Moscow, Madrid International Jazz Fest., L.A. Sacred Music Fest., Mexico, Barbican Hall-London
- Talujon Percussion Quartet** 1990-present; co-founder, East Coast tours, Brubeck Institute Festival, Carnegie Hall outreach concerts, recorded two CD's
- Free Planet Radio** 2002-present; co-founder, US tours, Festival of New American Music, two CD's
- Lizz Wright** 2012-present; European/Middle East tour
- Keowee Chamber Artists/Pan Harmonia** '08-present, cARTwheels touring NC, one CD
- Paul Winter Consort** 2005, 2011 ; Appalachian State University
- BBC Concert Orchestra** 2000; solo percussionist for Tan Dun's recording *2000 Today: A World Symphony for the Millenium* (Sony), features Ziggy Marley and the Gypsy Kings
- Tan Dun/Soundshape** 1988-1994; U.S. tours, Edinburgh International Arts Festival (Scotland), Snape Maltings Festival (England), PBS film on classical Chinese painters, PBS documentary-*"The Mao Years"*, performed in BBC documentary film-*"Earthsounds"*, Hong Kong, Guggenheim Museum, recorded three CD's
- New Music Consort** 1986-1994; Carnegie Hall Series, US tours, Moscow New Music Festival, performed in the John Cage documentary film entitled *"I Have Nothing to Say and I Am Saying It"*, recorded two CD's
- Harry Partch Ensemble/Newband** 1992-1994; US tours, East Berlin Contemporary Arts Festival, Library of Congress (Washington D.C.), recorded two CD's
- Tibetan Singing Bowl Ensemble** 1992-1994; New York City performances, recorded two CD's
- Sophie B. Hawkins** 1986-1989; New York City performances and recordings
- English Chamber Orchestra** 1986; w/ conductor Jeffrey Tate, Carnegie Hall and Northeast tour

Recorded on over 200 albums including latin-jazz composer **Roland Vasquez** (featuring **Anthony Jackson**), **Donna The Buffalo**, Turkish virtuoso **Hasan Isakkut**, folk artists **David Wilcox**, **Chris Rosser**, **Billy Jonas**.

COMPOSITIONS

Recorded Compositions

The Billy Sea 2013 – *Global Americana*

River Guerguerian 2012 – *Grooves for Odd Times*

River Guerguerian 2008 – *Tibetan Bowl Meditation* (The Relaxation Company)

"Anywhere USA" 2008 -- soundtrack – Sundance Film Festival winner

Circle of Stones Ritual Theatre 2007– *The New Earth* Soundtrack

Michael Lipsey 2006 -- *Thanks, So Long...*

Free Planet Radio 2004 – *New Bedouin Dance*, '08 – *The Unraveling*

River Guerguerian 2002 – *Trance*, '92 – *Chamber works*

Talujon Percussion Quartet 1994 – *Hum*

"Dead Funny" 1994 – soundtrack for international motion picture featuring Andrew McCarthy

Pointless Music 1993 – collaboration on *ReR Megacorp* (Amsterdam).

Choreographers (collaborations with)

Asheville Butoh 2012 – *Pulse*; Odyssey Community School

Moving Women 2011 - Black Mountain College reHappening

Asheville Contemporary Dance Theatre 2006 –2007 – Asheville Schools Residency

JD Project 2003 – *American Dance Festival*, Duke University

Muna Tseng Dance Company 1993-1994--East coast tours

Yoshiko Chuma's "School of Hard Knocks" 1989-1993--New York City performances, including
Lincoln Center and La MaMa ETC, featuring international performance artists

Zen Dance Arts Company 1992--New York City performances featuring Asian artists

Hong Kong City Contemporary Dance Theatre 1990 -- Hong Kong International Arts Festival

TEACHING POSITIONS

Odyssey Community School 2010-present, Asheville, NC – Music Director/Educator

Created music curriculum for K-12 program

Creative Technology and Arts Center 2010-present, Asheville, NC – Music Director

Private Studios 1983-present -- NC, NYC, NJ, NM, HI, India

- conducts & coaches professional and student chamber ensembles

High Bridge Voices 1994 – Developed curriculum and taught a music class to 150 gifted children
for an after-school program in South Bronx, New York

Hospital Audiences Incorporated (NYC) 1989-1994 -- World Percussion/Sound Exploration
Workshops

Columbia University (NYC) 1988-1989 – Adjunct Professor

Residencies – Workshops – Master Classes

Asheville Percussion Festival 2011-2013 International gathering directed by River Guerguerian

Carolina Day School 2013

Tryon Fine Arts Center- NC 2009-2012

Aaron Copland School of Music - City University of New York 2003-2011

Isaac Dickson Elementary School – NC 2006, 2011 – “Rhythm & Sound Exploration”

University of North Carolina-Asheville 2008-2011

Greenville Fine Arts Center – South Carolina 2010

New York City Day of Percussion 2007 & 2010

cARTwheels program – North Carolina Arts Council/ 2009 -2010

American Frame Drum Gathering – 2009 hosted and directed by River Guerguerian
International event with workshops and performances, Asheville, NC

Montclair State University - NJ 2004, 2007

Columbus State University - Georgia 2007

California State University-Sacramento 2006

University of North Carolina School of the Arts 2006

University of Lecce - Italy 2006

Mentone Men's Conference - Alabama (w/ Robert Bly) 2004, 2005, 2008

European Frame Drummers Meeting (Barcelona, Spain) 2005

University of the Pacific - Stockton, CA 2005

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Asheville Chamber Music Series 2007 – 6 week School Residency with Keowee Chamber Music
Asheville City Schools Foundation 2006 – “Rhythm, Environment & Dance” - 12 week residency
City University of New York Research Foundation 2005-2006 – commission & recording project
Meet The Composer 1988-1993--five time recipient for commissions from New York State Council for the Arts, including a semester long project grant to teach composition and improvisational techniques to high school students
“Bessie” Award (NYC’s prestigious dance awards) 1993--“*best music score*” for collaboration with Tan Dun in “*Jo Ha Kyu*”
Downtown Community Arts Grant (NYC) 1991-- for producing a multicultural public concert with the Talujon Percussion Quartet at the legendary *RCA Studios*
Melvin Wodka Award 1989-- Manhattan School of Music Conservatory’s award for “most outstanding percussionist”
William F. Corio Scholarship (NJ) 1985-- for “*high achievement in the arts*”
New Jersey Governor’s Award (2) 1985--“*best high school jazz musician*”, “*Sousa National Band*”

EDUCATION

Manhattan School of Music Conservatory 1985-1989--Bachelor of Music
Merit Scholarships (1985-1989)
Fred D. Hinger (principal tympanist/percussionist with the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra) 1985-1989--private instruction
Nils Vigeland (Department Chair of Composition at Manhattan School of Music)
1990-1992--private instruction
Justin DiCioccio (master jazz educator) 1985-1986--private instruction
Ron Whitney 1979-1985--private percussion instruction



RIVER
GUERGUERIAN
PERCUSSION

River Guerguerian has been inspiring audiences with his ecstatic and versatile percussion for over 30 years. Whether collaborating with world-class artists, supporting symphonies or creating his own dynamic explorations of rhythm, River's devotion and attention to the vibrant life of the drum reverberate through the mind and soul of the listener.

Born in Canada to Armenian-Egyptian parents, River's studious journey began at an early age. In 1989, he received a Bachelor of Music degree from The Manhattan School of Music Conservatory and was granted the school's award for Most Outstanding Percussionist.

In 1988, just before graduating, he began working with Grammy and Oscar-winning composer, Tan Dun. Over the next several years he continued performing with several artists, which placed him in the prestigious concert halls of most major cities of the world, including Carnegie Hall, The Sydney Opera House and Lincoln Center.

In 1994, River decided to sell all of his possessions and step off of the grid. He resided in a wildlife sanctuary in the Himalayas. The adventure lasted for five years and led to his immersion into extensive nature-inspired research and experimentation into the physiological effects of sound upon brainwave states. He continued his investigation of trance-inducing instrumentation as he further explored the East, closely observing the distinctive techniques of several cultures.

Drawing upon his richly diverse experiences, River plays across a remarkable span of musical genres and traditions, both obscure and mainstream. His patient research and unrelenting passion have allowed him to develop a personal and masterful sound from Old World frame drums, Middle Eastern, Indian, Western, African and Afro-Cuban percussion instruments and more. His compositions have been commissioned for and performed by chamber ensembles, universities, modern dance companies, and international music festivals.

As a highly regarded studio musician, River has recorded on over 200 albums and film soundtracks, including the John Cage documentary film, "I Have Nothing to Say and I Am Saying It." Over the span of his prolific career, he has performed and/ or recorded with such groups as the BBC Symphony Orchestra, New Music Consort, Tibetan Singing Bowl Ensemble, Paul Winter Consort, Talujon Percussion Ensemble, Lizz Wright, Chuck Berry, Sophie B. Hawkins, and Ziggy Marley and The Gipsy Kings. He often engineers his own percussion tracks for artists at his studio. _ _A respected music educator, River is Music Director for Odyssey Community School's Creative Technology & Arts Center. He also conducts "rhythm and sound exploration" workshops throughout the country, and enjoys teaching privately.

Since 1999, River has lived in the beautiful mountains of Asheville, NC with his wife and three daughters. In recent years, he has done most of his international touring with Turkish master musician, Omar Faruk Tekbilek. Locally, you can hear his lyrical style with The River Guerguerian Project; his world jazz trio called, Free Planet Radio and the global Americana group, The Billy Sea. As he seeks to further establish his legacy, River has successfully launched the [Asheville Percussion Festival](#), a down-home and world class experience that summons percussionists from near and far to fellowship, study, and be renewed in their practice and lives.

Visit him at www.ShareTheDrum.com

*"Guerguerian's composition, sensationally performed,
devoted itself even more religiously to the possibilities of pure sound."
-New York Times*



Venues and Performance Partners

Selected Venues	Performed or Recorded with
Carnegie Hall	BBC Concert Orchestra
Sydney Opera House	Omar Faruk Tekbilek
Lincoln Center	Tan Dun
Madrid International Jazz Festival	Paul Winter Consort
Barbican Hall - London	English Chamber Orchestra
Hong Kong Arts Festival	Harry Partch Ensemble-Newband
White House - Washington D.C.	New Music Consort
World Music Sufi Festival - New Delhi	Keowee Chamber Artists
Jerusalem Hall - Jerusalem	Tibetan Singing Bowl Ensemble
Palau De La Musica – Barcelona	Lizz Wright
Royal Opera House – Muscat, Oman	David Wilcox
Cervantino Festival - Mexico	Chuck Berry
Edinburgh International Festival - Scotland	Ziggy Marley/Gypsy Kings Project
Turkish Cultural Centre - Tokyo	Sophie B. Hawkins
Guggenheim Museum - New York	Music Theatre Group
Cemal Resit Rey Concert Hall - Istanbul	City Contemporary Dance Company-
Festival of New American Music - California	Hong Kong
SoundRes Festival - Italy	Synergy Percussion – Sydney, Australia

Quotes/Reviews

"Guerguerian made magical sounds" - The New York Times

"superb drumming by River Guerguerian" - Savannah Morning News

"Meeting River was one of the highest experiences in my life. Having someone in that spiritual and musical level is a great blessing for me. Life is a great mystery to live, not a problem to solve; this is true when I am with him."

-Omar Faruk Tekbilek - Master Turkish musician

"River Guerguerian is another name to add to the list of master percussionists. His album Grooves for Odd Times is a superb presentation of global percussion. There is a message for the body in the sound"
- Angel Romero, World Music Central

"...the live music provided by River Guerguerian was creative and spectacular. Asheville is truly fortunate to have world class musicians"
- Asheville Citizen Time

"Guerguerian's composition, sensationally performed, devoted itself even more religiously to the possibilities of pure sound." - The New York Times

List of Works

Compositions

Title	Date	Instrumentation	Premiere
Jabberwocky	1990	Voice & Percussion	Seattle Fest. Of New Music; CD
Duet	1990	Marimba & Violin	Manhattan School of Music
On Us	1991	Bar. Saxophone & Perc.	City University of New York
Amongst & Throughout	1991	Violin, Bass, Marimba	Manhattan School of Music
Breathe	1991	Solo Percussion	San Antonio, TX
Sircomestandstill	1991	Solo Percussion	Univ. of Bridgeport, CT; CD
Frame/Soar	1991	Flute and Percussion	House Concert, Brooklyn, NY
Symphonie Op. 21 (Webern)	1992	arr. For Perc. Quartet	William Patterson College, NJ
Quite a Quiet Quandering	1991	Electronics & Percussion	Kent, OH
One Day	1991	Flute Quartet	Recording
Still They Are	1992	Clarinet & Percussion	Holy Cross HS, NY
So She Shines	1993	Percussion Quartet	Washington Square Church, NYC; CD
Emerge & See	1993	Calrinet, Guitar, Percussion, Cello, Base, Pno.	Holy Cross HS, NYC
Seathrew	1994	Percussion Quartet	Manhattan School of Music
Bride of the Sister	1994	4 String Bases, 4 Percussion	Manhattan School of Music; CD
D.T. Lives	1994	Flute, 2 Percussion, Electronics	Washington Square Church, NYC
Liquid Love	2001	Solo Frame Drum	Diana Wortham Theatre, NC
Mother's Trance	2002	Sarod, Flute, Percussion Ens.	CD
The Courting	2002	Native American Flute, Water Perc.	CD
Moonlight	2002	Flute, 2 Frame Drums	CD
Lullaby for the Mountain	2002	Gongs, Singing Bowls, Voice	CD
Holly's Groove	2004	Solo Cajon	Aaron Copland School of Music – CUNY
Holly's Groove	2004	Rev. for Percussion Ensemble	Suffolk Community College, NY; CD
Barbecue in Istanbul	2004	Bass, Clarinet & Percussion	SUNY Purchase
Barbecue in Istanbul	2005	Rev. for Bass, Pno., Percussion	Asheville Jazz Composers Concert, NC
Seventeen Eights	2005	Percussion Ensemble	Brubeck Institute Festival, CA; CD
Seventeen Eights	2006	Revision	SoundRes Festival, Lecce, Italy
Fifteen for Michael	2006	Percussion Solo	Festival of New American Music, CA; CD
Boulevard	2007	Percussion Ens., Bass	NYC Day of Percussion, UNCA; CD
She Walked In	2007	Percussion, Vln. Piano	NYC Day of Perc., Columbus State; CD
Gong Lab	2008	Percussion, Ens. Electric Guitar	Aaron Copland School of Music-CUNY;CD
Tem For You	2008	Percussion, Ens., Dotar, Piano	Aaron Copland School of Music-CUNY;CD
Immerse	2008	Tibetan Bowls, Gongs, Cello, Bass, Guitar, Water	Tibetan Bowl Meditation CD
Deepen	2008	Tibetan Bowls, Gongs, Cello, Bass, Guitar, Water	Tibetan Bowl Meditation CD
Release	2008	Tibetan Bowls, Gongs, Cello, Bass, Guitar, Water	Tibetan Bowl Meditation CD
Odd Reflection	2010	Solo Multiple-Percussion	Sydney Town Hall, Australia; CD
Seven Tambourines	2010	Percussion, Didjeridu, Electronics	Tryon Fine Arts Center, NC; CD
Overture Six	2010	Percussion, Bass, Pno, Voice	LEAF Festival, Black Mountain, NC
Mud People	2010	Percussion, Didjeridu, Bass, Oud	CD
Overture	2010	Percussion, Didjeridu, Voices	CD
Ancient Technology	2010	Perc, Didj, Voice, Indian Dotar	TEDx Asheville – Orange Peel
Twenty Three Beats	2011	Percussion Ensemble	CD
Eleven Pieces	2013	Percussion Ensemble, Piano, Bass	Asheville Percussion Festival

Compositions with Choreographers

Title	Date	Choreographer	Premiere
Stop & Go Kathmandu	1991	K2 Dance & Arts Company	La MaMa Annex, NYC
Jo Ha Kyu	1992	Tan Dun & Yoshiko Chuma	St. Marks Church, NYC
The Pink	1994	Tan Dun & Muna Tseng	Bryn Mawr College, PA
Dream in Paradise	1993	Tzyann Hsu	Lincoln Center Out of Doors
Samsara	1994	Tzyann Hsu	Taipei Theatre, NYC
The Mound	2003	JD Project	American Dance Festival, NC
S/He Loves Me, S/He Loves Me Not	2011	Moving Women	Black Mountain College reHappening
Skin	2011	Holly Mason	Masonic Temple, Asheville, NC
Pulse	2012	Asheville Butoh	Odyssey Community School

Selected Recordings

Discography (selected from over 200)

Title	Date	Artist	Remarks
Nine Songs – Ritual Opera	1990	Tan Dun	
No Separate Love	1990	Roland Vasquez	
Chamber Works	1991	Paul River Guerguerian	All original works
Rana, Ritual, & Revelations	1992	Anne Le Baron	
Snow in June	1993	Tan Dun with Talujon – Arditti String Quartet	Featured soloist
The Travels of Babar	1994	Raphael Mostel	Art by Jean De Brunhoff
Hum	1994	Talujon Percussion Quartet	Featured compositions
Echoes From the Gorge	1995	Chou Wen Chung –with New Music Consort	
Listen it's Snowing	1998	Susan Botti	Featured soloist
Violin Concerto	1998	Stephen Hartke – Riverside Symphony	Featured soloist
Victor Rice st Verson City	1999	Victor Rice	
2000 Today	2000	Tan Dun with BBC Concert Orchestra – The Gypsy Kings with Ziggy Marley	Featured soloist
Trance	2002	River Guerguerian	All original works
Traveler	2002	Johnsmith	
Paper Bird	2003	Kellin Watson	
Spin	2003	David LaMotte	
Forget October	2004	Martha's Trouble	
New Bedouin Dance	2004	Free Planet Radio	All original works
Here's That Rainy Day	2005	Kat Williams	
Kibar	2005	Hasan Iskkut	Turkish music virtuoso
The Weight of Words	2005	Aaron Burdett	
Transmuting Currents	2006	John Vorus	
Prasad for Women	2005	Debra Roberts	Performed and engineered
Hidden Everywhere	2006	Chris Rosser	
Mens	2006	Blof	Dutch supergroup
So Long, Thanks...	2006	Michael Lipsey	Featured compositions and soloist
May Arise	2006	David Stevenson	Featured soloist
Native Soil	2007	Dana Robinson	
Resolve	2008	Aaron Burdett	
No Static	2009	Kellin Watson	
Happy Accident	2009	Billy Jonas	
Wicker	2009	Josh Phillips Fold Festival	
Tibetan Bowl Meditation	2009	River Guerguerian – (released by Sounds True)	All original works - 6 months on top 20 list for cd's sold in USA
Hayat Bir Hayat	2009	Hasan Isakkut	
The Unraveling	2009	Free Planet Radio	All original works
Settle Down	2009	Kari Sickenberger	
In Prism	2009	Polvo	
Tupelo	2010	Ashley Chambliss	
Infused with the Blues	2010	Peggy Ratusz	
Big Mystery	2010	Dana & Sure Robinson	
Blue Moon Dancing	2010	Marina Raye	
Stand Up Eight	2010	Aaron Burdett	
Anchor Tattoo	2011	Martha's Trouble	
Yours To Find	2011	Billy Cardine	
A Window To Color	2011	Mamek Khadem	Persian music virtuoso
Grooves for Odd Times	2012	River Guerguerian	All original works
The April Sessions	2012	Cardine, Rosser, Page, Guerguerian	
Jonathan Scales Fourchestra	2013	Jonathan Scales Fourchestra	
Global Americana	2013	The Billy Sea	

Films (performed in)

Title	Date	Artist	Remarks
I Have Nothing to Say and I Am Saying It	1990	John Cage	Biography Film-American Masters
Soundshape	1990	Tan Dun (produced by Guggenheim Museum)	Biography Film
Documentary Film	2005	Omar Faruk Tekbilek	Greek Public Television

Film Soundtracks

Title	Date	Artist	Remarks
The Mao Years	1994	Tan Dun	Documentary Film
Dead Funny	1994	Allumination Filmworks	Motion picture featuring Andrew McCarthy
The New Earth	2006	Circle of Stones Ritual Theatre	
Anywhere, U.S.A.	2008	Chusy Jardine	Sundance Film Festival Award
Ultrasuede: In Search of Halston	2010	Director Whitney Smith	