

# UTAH PAS 2105 DAY OF PERCUSSION

## GUEST ARTISTS / CLINICS



### BILLY MARTIN – DRUMSET

He pursues the ecstatic and the insightful from a variety of vantage points: as a drummer and percussionist, as a composer, as a filmmaker, sculptor, visual artist, and even as a carpenter. To varying degrees, each endeavor is marked by Martin's dearly held belief that unfettered improvisation and an honest commitment to the moment at hand can bring about new levels of understanding, new perspectives, new sonic textures, and a more profound emotional impact.

Billy is best known to music enthusiasts as one-third of the indescribable **Medeski Martin & Wood**. About to enter their twentieth year as a performing and recording aggregation, Medeski Martin & Wood are an entirely unique instrumental ensemble, able to apply principles from a staggering range of traditions (from free and modern jazz to classic R&B and well beyond) while remaining eminently relatable, even accessible. Via fifteen albums, tireless touring (performing everywhere from jazz clubs to jamband festivals), and collaborations with the likes of John Scofield and John Zorn, the trio have united audiences from disparate corners of the musical universe who react with equal awe and enthusiasm to the band's infectious grooves and undiminished exploratory zeal.

*Life on Drums*, his feature-length directorial debut, was released in 2010, combines conversations with solo and group performances (some improvised, some composed) to create an engrossing portrait of Martin's evolving musical aesthetic. "*Life on Drums* is my reaction to all the bad instructional videos I've seen," Martin elaborates. "Much of what's out there tends to put a lot of focus on technique, but most creative things don't come from technique. I want the viewer to see this and come away with the idea that they can be an artist – you don't need this full spectrum of technique before you can start thinking creatively."

Martin has performed alongside such luminaries as John Scofield, Bob Moses, Bill Frissel, Cyro Baptista, Dave Liebman, Jerome Harris, and more. He went on his first tour as a member of Moses's ensemble, and indulged his fascination with Brazilian rhythms by co-founding the group Batucada, who were a fixture on New York's Brazilian scene for two years. After touring and recording with Chuck Mangione for two years (1987-1989), Martin reinvested himself in the downtown scene, participating in John Zorn's Cobra improvisational game pieces and performing with John Lurie's Lounge Lizards. His burgeoning interest in filmmaking has resulted in several music videos and short subjects, with *Life on Drums* being his first feature-length project. "Making videos and films – the whole idea of images moving along in a time frame: that's very musical and rhythmic."



### SSG JEFF PROSPERIE – RUDIMENTAL SNARE DRUM

SSG Jeff Prosperie is currently serving as a member of **The Legendary Hellcats at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York**; a position he began in December of 2006. Jeff is a World Snare Drum Champion and the first and **only individual to capture the "triple crown" of solo competition (DCI, PAS, DCA)**. Jeff is also a former winner of the PAS Mock Symphony Audition, PAS Orchestral Snare Drum Competition and the Drum Corps Midwest Snare Drum Competition. In addition to his duties as a Hellcat he also performs on occasion with the West Point percussion ensemble, steel band, and concert band.

Jeff also served for two years as the percussion arranger/instructor for the nationally televised Army All-American High School Marching Band. Prior to these positions he served as Director of Percussion Studies at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette, Principal Percussion with the Baton Rouge Symphony, and as the percussion designer/caption-head for the World Champion Phantom Regiment Drum and Bugle corps of Rockford, Illinois. He actively serves as a championship level adjudicator for DCI, WGI and as a marching percussion committee member for PAS. Jeff earned his B.M.Ed from LSU, his MM from The University of North Texas, and has completed all course work for the DMA from UNT. SSG Prosperie has performed, presented clinics, and adjudicated throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, and Japan as well as PASIC, TMEA, TBA, and The Mid-West Band and Orchestra Convention. Jeff's compositions and solo performances can be seen in his book/DVD "Aptitude- A Conversation in snare soloing" published by Drop 6. This publication received the very rare rating of a perfect "10" from Modern Drummer Magazine declaring it a classic. Jeff can also be seen as a featured artist on the recent DVD "The Rudiment Project" by the Percussive Arts Society as well as several performances on YouTube. Jeff is a performing artist endorsed by Pearl/Adams, Sabian, Innovative Percussion, and Evans.



## MICHAEL VERCELLI

**Dr. Michael B. Vercelli** is the director of the World Music Performance Center at West Virginia University. Michael holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Percussion Performance with a minor in Ethnomusicology from the University of Arizona. While well versed in the classical percussion repertoire, Michael's specialty lies in non-Western instruments. He has studied the traditional music of other countries and done fieldwork in Bali, Cuba, Brazil, and primarily, Ghana. Dr. Vercelli has received many awards for both his performance and study of indigenous music such including a WVU Faculty Senate Research Grant for his project – "*Remembering the Hunters: Preservation through Performance of the*

*Ritual Birifor Funeral Music of Ghana.*"

At WVU, Dr. Vercelli also directs summer study abroad courses to Ghana and Brazil, focusing on music, dance and cultural emersion. Dr. Vercelli is a contributing author to the *World Percussion* chapter in the third edition of Gary Cook's *Teaching Percussion*. He is a participating member in the Society for Ethnomusicology and Percussive Arts Society where he serves on the World Percussion Committee. Michael has given lectures, performances and workshops, across the United States, Mexico, Brazil, China and Iceland, and is a founding member of the Zumbumba Percussion Trio.



## RON BROUGH – KEYBOARD

**Dr. Ron Brough** taught percussion at Indiana State University before coming to Brigham Young University as a faculty member in 1984. He has served as Percussion Coordinator in the School of Music and is artistic director for the Percussion Ensemble and *Panoramic Steel*. In addition to recitals and performances, Dr. Brough has performed as principle percussionist in the Utah Chamber Orchestra and as percussionist with the Pioneer Memorial Theater Orchestra, Ballet West, Utah Opera & Symphony, and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. His performances with these companies have involved numerous productions in Utah, and have included performance tours throughout the U.S.,

Canada, Japan, Europe, Russia, Israel, Australia, and New Zealand. He is active in the recording studios of Salt Lake City in the production of movie film-scores, movie trailers and solo artist projects.

He performs regularly as a member of the faculty jazz quintet *Q'd up* and they have three recent releases on the Tantara label and a more recent edition on Jazz Hang Records. He has written arrangements for percussion ensemble and steel band that are published by Malleworks and Panyard Publications and has authored a DVD/CD-ROM entitled "Percussion Techniques" which is distributed by C. Alan Publications.