



ABOUT US

Acclaimed musicians, Eddie Bullen and Master Percussionist Joaquin Nunez Hidalgo have brought together a group of premier musicians of Caribbean descent to form the Caribbean Jazz Collective (CJC).

The CJC brings Caribbean flavour and rhythms to modern and classic jazz standards. The music takes beloved and popular Caribbean songs with a mix of a jazz twist. This approach will delight audiences whether they have a Caribbean background or are simply jazz fans. One thing is certain, the audiences are taken to another world of warm sunshine, ocean waves and tropical vibes by the music.

The Caribbean Jazz Collective (CJC) brings audiences a taste of music from the Caribbean that transcends musical borders. It gives the audience a bit of historical background on the music that makes the world a happier and brighter place. Bringing the music of the Caribbean to the world.

SOCIAL LINKS

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For Booking Information please contact:

Olga Zayas | jddrums13@gmail.com | 416-274-7567 | 416-879-3123



Eddie Bullen

Since his move to Toronto in 1980 from Grenada, Eddie has worked with Caribbean, Canadian and American artists like Melba Moore, Anslem Douglas, Byron Lee, Maestro, David Rudder, Liberty Silver and Dee Dee Bridgewater. He is also a composer and arranger for TV, Radio and Films. His work has been heard on City TV, YTV, Love & Hip Hop (American Television Series) and Wine TV Australia.

To date Eddie Bullen has produced over 200 albums and is currently working on several new ventures through his record company Thunder Dome Sounds and publishing company QDB music. Eddie is always on the lookout for cutting edge new innovative artists.

Through his production company Thunder Dome Sounds, Eddie is fulfilling his passion for nurturing youth talent through a high school co-op program he launched in 1986. Challenges like this keep Eddie Bullen growing artistically and personally.

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Joaquin Nunez Hidalgo

Multi Juno Award winner Joaquin Nunez Hidalgo is a professional artist who has a successful music career in Cuba. Performing in numerous music events and festivals, he shared the stage with some of Cuba's most elite musicians like *Emiliano Salvador*, *Juan Pablo Torres* and *Chucho Valdes*. Eventually settling in Toronto in 1999, Hidalgo quickly became immersed in the local music scene performing as a drummer and percussionist with top Canadian- based artists across the country as well as internationally. He is also the leader and musical director of the Afro-Cuban Jazz Project "Habana Safari". Joaquin has a prolifer and very active career as teacher and educator. He is a Program Facilitator for the Toronto District School Board, founder of After School International Program Sistema Toronto and he has been Faculty Professor for Private Drum & Percussion Program at Humber College in Toronto since 2020; to mention some. As a producer he has been involved in many musical projects, one of the most important being the 2011 CD with Italian super star singer *Zucchero* and *La Sesión Cubana*. Touring and performing all around the world performing at some of the most re-known stages like The Royal Albert Hall in London and Madison Square Gardens, New York. Joaquin has been nominated for multiple Grammy Awards (USA) and Juno Awards in Canada, holding a Juno Award nomination as the producer for the CD "Companbiche" in 2021. This multifaceted career makes Joaquin Nunez Hidalgo, an artist and ambassador of hope through the power of music.

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Gareth Burgess

Garth has been playing the Steel Pan for over 20 years and is currently enrolled in the Music Faculty at York University, Toronto in the Jazz Program. Since participating in the relentless jazz ensemble playing in the York program over the last several years, he has developed into one of the finest jazz soloists in Canada, with a refined technique reminiscent of Northern Illinois university's Liam Teague. He has played in three of Toronto's top Steelband Orchestras: Silhouettes, Panatics, Earl La Pierre's famed Afropan, and Caribbean Jazz Collective. This has given him the opportunity to work with some of the best arrangers in Canada. Gareth teaches Steelband classes at two high schools in the Greater Toronto Area. His father Lindy Burgess, who leads the Toronto chapter of the La Petite Musicale Choir, also teaches a Steelband ensemble class at the York U. Faculty of Music. Gareth plays drums with that student band at York and coaches the ensemble students as a Teaching Assistant in the Faculty.

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Andrew Stewart

(Bassist, Composer, Arranger, Producer, and Luthier)

Born in Toronto to Jamaican immigrants, Andrew Stewart has become an integral part of Canada's emerging new school jazz and world music scenes. Andrew was introduced to soulful gospel music and the melodic, exciting rhythms of the Caribbean through his father/Halton's guitarist Winston Stewart. Taking cues from the likes of Stanley Clarke, Jaco Pastorius, Marcus Miller, and Victor Wooten, Andrew views the bass guitar as a solo instrument. Andrew's is a sound that reimagines the Caribbean Jazz tradition through a North American urban sensibility. This sound is generated through the beautiful handmade custom bass guitars that Andrew himself crafts (Stew Art Musical Instruments). In the mid-1990's while still a high school student, Andrew discovered his passion for wood woodworking. It was during those formidable teenage years where Andrew taught himself to make bass guitars with limited tools and resources. By the early 2000s, Andrew established his brand "Stew Art Musical Instruments" and quickly became recognized for his jaw-dropping bass designs as well as his impressive music chops.

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Neil Brathwaite

Neil Brathwaite was raised in Montreal, Quebec, with West Indian roots in Barbados. Neil was introduced to classical music and studied piano with Daisy Sweeney, Oscar Peterson's sister, at the age of 7. He was initiated to Jazz by his dad and began to play Alto sax in high school. Studied Sciences at the Université de Montpellier/France and later studied saxophone in the Jazz program at Humber College with Pat Labarera.

Neil has worked with George Clinton, Salome Bey, Caribbean Jazz Collective, The Dream Warriors, Molly Johnson, Tabby Johnson, Panic, The "A" team, S.O.S band, The Philosopher Kings, Eddie Bullen, Danileo Perez, and many more people. Neil has wide experience providing musical direction for television shows and live events.



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