

UNIVERSITY  
OF WYOMING  
Department of Music

**UW Percussion Festival  
Featured Concert**

Featuring:

Dr. Andrew Spencer, Dr. Greg Harris, Carl Dixon, Dr. Andrew Wheelock

Saturday  
April 16, 2022

BCPA Concert Hall  
5:30 p.m.

**Program**

Solo/Ensemble Outstanding Performers - Selections TBA

Mambo Influenciado	Chucho Valdes arr. Wheelock
Greg Harris Solo	Greg Harris
Samba Medley	Traditional arr. Carl Dixon
Brazilian Drumming Quartet	Carl Dixon
Songs I-IX for Actor/Percussionist	Stuart Saunders Smith
Traditional Ghanaian Music	Traditional arr. Harris/Wheelock
One Hand	Andy Wheelock

## GUEST BIOGRAPHIES

### Dr. Andrew Spencer



Andrew Spencer is Professor of Percussion at Central Michigan University. An active recitalist and clinician, he has performed as a soloist in the United States, Poland, Japan, Canada, and Costa Rica. In 1999, he released "Slender Beams," a recording that features work by composer Dave Hollinden. Spencer has also premiered works by David Gillingham, Mark Polishook, Samuel Adler, Robert May and Henry Gwiazda among others. Equally experienced in orchestral performance, Dr. Spencer is timpanist with the Lansing Symphony Orchestra, and Principal Percussionist for the Midland Orchestra. Additional positions have included timpanist/principal percussionist with the West Michigan Symphony Orchestra, Yakima Symphony Orchestra, Cascade Festival Orchestra, Fargo-Moorhead Symphony Orchestra and Fargo-Moorhead Civic Opera Company. He has performed with the Oregon Symphony, Spokane Symphony, and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. In addition, he has performed with numerous chamber ensembles throughout the United States, and

plays drum set with the CMU Faculty Jazz Ensemble with whom he has recorded two CDs, "Caught In The Act" and "Conspiracy Theory".

Dr. Spencer received his bachelor of music and master of music in performance (percussion) and studied with Dr. Terry Applebaum at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. He earned his doctor of musical arts in performance and literature (percussion) from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York where he studied with John Beck. In addition, Eastman granted Dr. Spencer the coveted performer's certificate as a percussion soloist.

"Spencer's energy put the piece in overdrive." - Seattle Post Intelligencer

## Carl Dixon

Versatile percussionist Carl Dixon is at home with music spanning multiple genres, continents, and instruments. He can be found performing in concert halls, jazz clubs, dance parties, festival stages, and street parades.

Carl teaches percussion and directs the Brazilian Bateria and LatinJazz percussion ensembles at the [University of Colorado-Boulder](#). He is the Musical Director of the [Boulder Samba School](#) and Bateria Alegria, a community based Brazilian drumming ensemble. He teaches private lessons in all areas of percussion and has presented workshops at Indiana University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Northern Illinois University, Naropa University, Colorado College, Colorado State University-Pueblo, University of Northern Colorado, the Colorado and Wyoming PAS Days of Percussion, and the California BrazilCamp.



In 2022, Carl will serve as guest teacher in residence at the University of Wyoming to start and develop a Brazilian Bateria ensemble. Carl's arrangements of traditional rhythms found in Brazil's samba schools and blocos have been performed by university and community ensembles across the country.

As a drumset player and percussionist, he has performed/recorded with Ginga, Pink Martini, Casuarina, Paula Santoro, Moyseis Marques, Alessandro Penezzi, Ronaldo Andrade, Kailin Yong, Jake Schepps, Pat Bianchi, Jeff Jenkins, Dexter Payne, Doug Walter, and nationally touring Broadway musicals. While studying music in Rio de Janeiro, Carl has played with the samba school Salguerio and the bloco Bangalafumenga. Carl's percussion and oud duo with Derek Wright released their debut album *Pairings* in 2020.

Carl is the Principal Percussionist of the Central City Opera and Fort Collins Symphony, percussionist with Opera Colorado, and has performed with the Colorado Symphony, Colorado Ballet, Boulder Philharmonic, Colorado Springs Philharmonic, and Greeley Philharmonic orchestras.

In 2018, Carl founded [Virada Drums](#), a business that imports and distributes authentic quality percussion instruments from Brazil. Virada Drums serves professional percussionists and students, and regularly assists schools in selecting instruments, planning repertoire, and advising ensemble directors.

Carl received a Master of Music degree in percussion performance from the University of Colorado-Boulder, where he studied with Dr. Douglas Walter and Paul Romaine, and a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he studied with Anthony Di Sanza. Other important teachers include Michael Spiro, Mark Lamson, Jorge Alabe, and Mestre Marcão.

A Wisconsin native, Carl spends his free time in the mountains rock climbing, backcountry skiing, and road biking.

## Dr. Greg Tanner Harris



Greg Tanner Harris is a multi-instrumentalist in Denver, Colorado. On any given night, you might find him playing jazz vibraphone, tickling the ivories, laying down world funk rhythms, or producing eclectic sounds for albums. His music has been described as being "unfailingly lush and rich" (All About Jazz), "deep-in-the-pocket" (Westword), and that "whatever he's doing, it's working" (Denver Post).

Among his work as a studio musician, he has released 8 albums including- Greg Harris Vibe Quintet "Glass Gold," "Open Space," "Frames Live," "Glass Gold", Prospector "Memory of Pilots" featuring trumpeter Ron

Miles, and "World Citizen" with West African master xylophonist Aaron Bebe Sukura. His newest projects including "Cloudhouse", "This Western Front", and his take on Erik Satie's "Gymnopedies" can be found on all streaming platforms and on Bandcamp and Soundcloud.

Greg has a great interest in the West African Xylophone called the Gyil (pronounced JEE-lee), the national instrument of the Lobi and Dagara people of Ghana, Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa. He has performed with Baaba Maal, Aaron Bebe Sukura, SK Kakraba, as the musical director for Prudence Mabhena from Zimbabwe, and has also done fundraising performances for the Whole Planet Foundation. He also plays an assortment of Frame Drums from around the world, exploring the Bodhran of Ireland and the Doyra of Uzbekistan. He holds an D.M.A. in Jazz Studies and an M.M. in Music Performance, Percussion from the University of Colorado, Boulder and a Music Education and Music Performance Bachelor of Arts degree from Fort Lewis College. Greg teaches percussion, Ethnomusicology, music theory, composition, and improvisation as a private instructor, high school teacher, and college instructor. Greg is a freelance musician in the Denver/Boulder area and has performed nationally and internationally. He teaches electronic music and percussion at the University of Colorado Denver, jazz vibraphone at Metropolitan State University of Denver, jazz and percussion at Denver School of the Arts, Colorado Conservatory for the Jazz Arts, and as a piano instructor and music theory teacher at Red Rocks Community College.

## Dr. Andy Wheelock

Andy Wheelock is a drummer/percussionist, composer, and educator from northern Michigan. He began playing drums at a very young age and by the time he was 12, was playing in various Jazz groups around his hometown, Suttons Bay, Michigan. He went on to study percussion and music education at Central Michigan University and earned a Masters' and Doctorate in Jazz Studies at the University of Illinois.



Wheelock is most fulfilled when playing music from a wide variety of genres including jazz, classical, Afro-Cuban, Hip-hop, Brazilian, Funk, Gospel and traditional African folk music. Wheelock has performed with Ernie Watts, Bobby Shew, Chuchito Valdés, Joel Frahm, Gary Foster, Jim White, Denis Marks, Matt Olson, Chip Stephens, Tito Carrillo, Larry Gray, Bill Sears, Oliver Nelson Jr. and Rob Smith to name a few.

Andy and his family moved to Laramie, Wyoming in 2018 and took over as the Percussion Area coordinator at the University of Wyoming. In the time since, he has established himself as a top call drummer and percussionist within the Front Range music scene. He can be heard touring the greater Front Range area with the Gonzalo Teppa Quintet, Ben Markley, the University of Wyoming Jazz Faculty, as well as performing regularly at Jazz rooms around the Ft. Collins and Denver areas. Andy's compositions and creative approach as a drummer and band leader include melding Jazz, Afro-Cuban, Gospel, Brazilian, and Funk influences into unique musical experiences that focus on unrelenting grooves, permeating melodies, and open creative space. Wheelock endorses Innovative Percussion Sticks and Mallets, Zildjian Cymbals, Yamaha Drums, and Remo Drumheads.

This is the 57th concert in the 2021-2022 UW Music Department Season.  
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