



Satsang Music

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Drum Brothers is a four-member world percussion group based out of Missoula, Montana, that has performed together for nearly a decade. Their high energy performances feature a mix of ethnic and contemporary world sounds: West African djembe and doun-doun drums, Australian didgeridoo, saxophone and flute, guitar, vocals, and hand percussion. Experienced educators as well as performers, *Drum Brothers* have taught classes, clinics, and workshops in rhythm exploration and drum-making in schools and educational centers throughout the U.S. and in Canada.



"I HIGHLY recommend them to any community! But BEWARE! Their energy is contagious!" -Janice Torry, Salmon Arts Council

Recent highlights:

- 2008 (March) – Performed with Ladysmith Black Mambazo in Billings and Bozeman, Montana
- 1999-2008 - Residencies and community concerts in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, and Alberta, Canada
- 2006 – Began offering team building “rhythm experience” events to organizations and corporations throughout the Northwest.
- August 2003 – Sweet Pea Festival Main Stage, Bozeman, MT
- 2001 - 2008 – Rhythm Retreats, at Camp Mimanagish on the Boulder River, the Walking Lightly Ranch near Whitefish, Camp Mak-a-dream at Gold Creek and the Children’s Bereavement Camp at Camp Francis near Great Falls.

Their newest release

Featuring some of **Drum Brothers** favorite live performance material, **Remember** is filled with driving West African rhythms, dance grooves, polyrhythmic vocals, didgeridoo, guitar, ethnic flutes and world percussion. 4 cuts of this new CD are complimented with the djembe playing of master drummer, **Abdoul Doumbia**, from Mali, West Africa. Drum Brothers first met Abdoul in 1995 and have brought him yearly to Missoula for rhythm festivals and classes. Abdoul is the one of the foremost representatives of Malian jembe drumming living in the United States today.

**"Without Abdoul’s friendship and generosity, this album would not have been possible."
-from the liner notes**

History: A spark of rhythm

In the late 1980's, Matthew and his brother Patrick Marsolek were inspired by the rhythmic music created during evening circles at the Feathered Pipe Ranch, an educational center west of Helena, Montana. Patrick began making drums for himself, but the instruments were so popular with the Feathered Pipe's guests that they all were purchased immediately. Matthew soon joined him in this new entrepreneurial effort and the two set up shop in the Ranch's garage. During this time, Matthew began studying West African music with his friend and teacher, Michael Harrison.

Drum Brothers

In the fall of 1989, Michael Marsolek left Portland, where he worked in the restaurant business, and moved to Montana to join Matthew and Patrick in the musical trio, *The Marsolek Brothers*. The three also worked together in the newly named drum-building company, *Drum Brothers Drums*. Not long after this, their father David, who had been building drums in Wisconsin and working as a family therapist, also moved to Montana to be part of the venture. *Drum Brothers Drums*, now based in Arlee, Montana, has distributed hand-crafted instruments across the United States and in Canada.

World percussion ensemble

Drum Brothers began performing together as a musical group on New Year's Eve 1994 as a part of Missoula's inaugural First Night celebration. The early group consisted of Matthew, Michael and David Marsolek, and Casey Alexander. The band soon developed a following in Western Montana and released their debut CD, *Power of Rhythm*, in early 1997. In mid 1997, David and Casey left the band to follow other interests (David continues to manage the drum-making shop in Arlee Montana).

Multi-instrumentalist Lawrence Duncan, joined the band in June, 1997. Nathan Zavalney, who first connected with Drum Brothers as Matthew's student, followed in November. Nathan played with Drum Brothers for 10 fun filled years and in March of 2007 left the group to follow other pursuits. Drum Brothers newest member since July 2007 is Colin Ruggiero, a Missoula based musician and documentary film maker with a sweet touch on the drum.

Individuals make the band

Matthew Marsolek has received awards of excellence from the University of Montana for his musical work with theater and dance. He has studied East Indian and West African music for the past 15 years with a variety of teachers, including Mukesh Desai from India and Abdoul Doumbia from Mali, West Africa. Matthew has experience and training in jazz, classical, and Hindustani vocal technique and is also an accomplished jazz and classical guitarist. As a recording artist, he has released projects with Drum Brothers and Mandir as well as two solo recordings, the most recent entitled, "The Bhakti Road". A dedicated and charismatic educator, Matthew has a passion for rhythm, harmonic relationships, and the healing and community building potentials of music. He teaches classes and clinics in voice, rhythm, and hand drumming throughout the Northwest.

Michael Marsolek has performed as a vocalist and percussionist in various ensembles including *The Marsolek Brothers* and *Mandir*. He's currently the program director for KUFM/KGPR Montana Public Radio. Michael has produced and performed on the *The Stories Project* (1996) and *A Musical Dreamtime Journey* with Lawrence Duncan released in 2002. A student of the didgeridoo and Native American flute, Michael continues to follow a fascination with exotic percussion instruments, including the riqq, tar and udu-drum.

Lawrence Duncan's contribution to the *Drum Brothers* ensemble is anchored in 25 years of professional woodwind and vocal performance. He is comfortable in diverse musical idioms on instruments that include saxophone, harp, flutes, and ethnic percussion. As well as performing with *Mandir*, Lawrence has collaborated with videographer Dick Ostheimer in the award-winning series *Open Spaces* and has collaborated with Michael Marsolek on their recent 2002 release, *A Musical Dreamtime Journey*.

As part of his degree in Cultural Anthropology, **Colin Ruggiero** completed more than 40 credits abroad conducting independent studies of music and dance in Latin America with a focus on the influence of African music traditions. Colin plays percussion as well as guitar and his studies have taken him to nearly every country in Latin America including Cuba to study Rumba and 6 months studying traditional folkloric guitar technique in Mexico. He has played with numerous performance groups including Los Rumberos, Sambisho, Forty Freedoms, and Les Etudiants de l'Afrique and has played consistently for a variety of African, Brazilian and Cuban dance classes over the past 10 years. Colin also holds an M.F.A in documentary filmmaking and has produced a variety of award winning films for both broadcast and independent release. For more information about Colin and his production company please visit: www.rhythmproductions.org.