

Jim Robitaille Trio

Jim Robitaille

Guitarist and award winning composer, Jim Robitaille, has performed and or recorded and shared the bill with Dave Liebman, Karl Berger, Bob Moses, Joe Beck, Gerry Gibbs, Santi Debriano, Julian Lage, Esperanza Spalding, Oscar Stagnaro, Kate McGarry, Pop singer Billy Gilman and the Dizzy Gillespie Alumni All-Stars, and has appeared on 30 recordings as a leader and sideman including “To Music”, and “A View From Within” on WCS with the Jim Robitaille Group featuring NEA Jazz master Dave Liebman. His latest release on WCS with the Jim Robitaille Trio is called Space Cycles. His television and live performances include: The BET Jazz Channel, The Time Warner Music Choice Jazz Channel, PBS Television, The Baird Auditorium at the Smithsonian Institute's Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C, The Bearsville Theatre, Woodstock, N.Y, The Deerhead Inn, Delaware Gap, PA, The Wang Center, Boston, MA, The Knitting Factory and Smoke in New York, and tours in the US, Canada, Europe, and the West Indies.

Awards include The 9th Annual Thelonious Monk International Jazz Composers Competition, The 2002 Great American Song Contest First Place Instrumental Category, and The 2002 Great American Song Contest Outstanding Achievement in Songwriting Award, The 2011 Assets For Artists Grant, The Julius Hemphill Jazz Composers Alliance Competition, and The International Songwriting Contest. Jim is an international clinician, an applied jazz guitar instructor, small jazz ensemble, and guitar ensemble director, and founder and director of the Performance Jam Session Series on the Jazz Faculty at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

Chris Poudrier

Drummer/ Percussionist, Chris Poudrier's career has spanned forty years. Not limited or bound by a specific genre his talent, passion, dedication, and musicality afford him the luxury to play all styles at a very inspiring level. Poudrier graduated from UMASS Amherst with a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education Cum Laude. Endorsements include Canopus Drums, Istanbul Agop Cymbals and Regal Tip Drum Products. In addition to “drum set professor” and “musical director” for the UMASS Dartmouth Latin-Jazz “ Vision” Ensemble, Poudrier has been called upon several times as Guest Faculty for The Berklee College of Music's Annual Percussion Festival. Chris's prowess extends beyond the drumming world where he is an active composer and is a skilled Irish Bodhran player.

Chris has worked with Dave Liebman, Tony Monaco, Karl Berger, Clyde Criner, Santi Debriano, Billy Preston, John Lockwood, Michael Gregory, Shawnn Monteiro, Bruno Raberg, Tim Ray, Bruce Gertz, Dino Govoni, Assif Tsahar, Jim Robitaille, Bruce Bartlett, Brad Hatfield, Phil Grenadier, Dave Limina, Bobby Keyes, Chiara Chivello, Alon Yavnia, Fernando Huergo, Greg Abate, Bob Nieske, Matt Richard, Sophia Koutsovitis, Jane Miller, John Harrison III, Armsted Christian, Akili Jamal Haynes, and the late Rick Britto among many others.

Poudrier's work is documented on many recordings and he can be seen performing live in the greater Boston area weekly. Highly regarded as an outstanding musical and organic performer on drum set Poudrier imparts years of experience and wisdom on the bandstand. Through a deep understanding of the music one plays, and mastery of technique combined with deep musicality, Poudrier plays with drive and groove, passion and originality, thus giving a moving memorable performance to all.

Bill Miele

Bassist, Bill Miele, has performed and recorded with many well known artists throughout the U.S. and Europe, including The John Almark Orchestra, The East Side Horns, Greg Abate, Bill Harley, and Mark White. He has also been an orchestra member for numerous theater performances and Broadway shows.

Bill has a wide range of teaching experience as a private lesson instructor on bass guitar in all styles of music, and an ensemble director. He is on the faculty at the Rhode Island Philharmonic Music School, Providence College, and the Franklin School of Performing Arts.