

GUY MENDELOW BAND

Inventive World Music & Outreach

SOME OF OUR MORE UNUSUAL INSTRUMENTATION



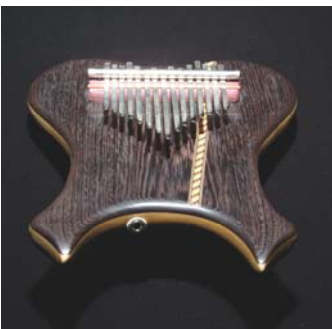
VOCALS & OVERTONE SINGING (GUY MENDELOW): Overtone singing permits one singer to produce two or more voices at the same time. There are various techniques of overtone singing found in different parts of the world, some of the most prominent including the Tuvan throat singing styles collectively called *Khoomei* and Tibetan monastic chanting. Unlike these styles, the overtone singing Guy practices is not intrinsically linked to any one culture and is found in Mongolia, Europe and even the 1920's cowboy songs of the American Arthur Miles. To distinguish it from other overtone singing styles, it has sometimes been called Western Overtone Singing. Western Overtone Singing also differs technically: Whereas the Tuvan and Tibetan styles rely on false vocal flaps in the throat, Western

Overtone Singing is produced with the oral cavity and breath. When done correctly, the lower voice sings a drone or bass line, and a seemingly independent whistle-like voice sings melodies above.



BERIMBAU (GUY MENDELOW): *Berimbau da Barriga* (jaw harp of the stomach) was the Portuguese name given to this musical bow brought to Brazil by African slaves and found in indigenous communities already in the land. It is one in a long list of names. Nearly all cultures that have used bows and arrows have also adapted them for musical purposes, and musical bows are found worldwide, from Mexico and Patagonia to South Africa, Angola and Camaroon, from India and Nepal to Japan and Greece. The Brazilian 'bow' is made from Biriba wood. "The string comes from the inside of a car tire. A dried and cleaned out gourd is tied

around the string and bow to amplify the sound. The right hand strikes the string with a stick while simultaneously playing a shaker called *caxixi*. The left hand presses a coin or stone against the string to change the pitch." (N. Scott Robinson) Guy's berimbau sounds quite different from typical berimbaus because of several modifications including alternate tuning and amplification techniques that permit the sounds of a full percussion kit including snare, high hat and "bass drum" hits.



ELECTRIC MBIRA (ANDY BERGMAN): The traditional Mbira is an African "thumb piano" strongly rooted with the Shona people of Zimbabwe. There are also many similar instruments throughout Africa (e.g. sanzhi, likembe, and kalimba). The instrument is typically made from a flat piece of wood with hammered nails for tongs and a resonator often made of a gourd. For amplification, this electric version



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forges the traditional resonating body for an electric pickup, much like an electric guitar.



JAW HARP (ANDY BERGMAN): The Jaw harp is an ancient instrument type found in over one hundred cultures worldwide. It has at as many names including the Jew's Harp, Trump (Scotland), Kha-rnga (Tibet), Vargan (Russia) Munnharpa (Norway). The jaw harp has a rich history in both religious and secular music and is typically constructed with metals or bamboo.



BAMBOO FLUTE (ANDY BERGMAN): Bamboo flutes have been common wherever bamboo grows naturally, most notably Asia (e.g. China, Japan, Vietnam, Cambodia). The contemporary bamboo flute used in the band is constructed in a style more similar to Native American flutes than East Asian ones, but it retains the distinctive sound qualities of bamboo. Bamboo is especially well-suited as a flute material due to its inherent durability, lightness, hollowness, and ease of cultivation. Yet flutes are, generally, such a basic instrument type that almost every available sturdy

material has been used around the world to make them, a trait that has enabled them to survive long after instruments made of softer organic materials (e.g. wood) have deteriorated. The oldest playable instrument in the world, for example, is a 9,000 year-old flute of hollowed bird bone found in Henan province, China.

A FEW OF OUR OTHER INSTRUMENTS:



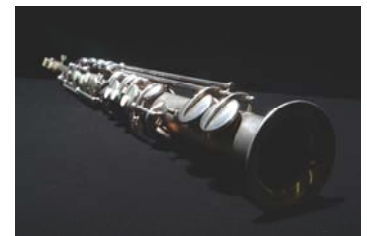
Percussion: Rich, Guy, Andy, Tomoko



Tenor Sax: Andy



Guitars: Guy



Soprano Sax: Andy