

string
theory ∞



Jay Umble

Jay Umble is the band's writer. His compositional approach brings a strong, modern harmonic sensibility to the group. His improvisational concept is highly linear, offering a fusionistic groundwork for the band.

Jay has been a professional guitarist for 27 years. In the early years, he spent his time with various rock and commercial groups.

In the early 80's Jay was on the road for four years with the Ron Smith Trio, an organ based group. In the mid 80's to mid 90's he was the founder-leader of "In Transit", another organ based trio that focused on the Jazz-Blues idiom. The group played the music and arrangements of George Benson, Jack McDuff, Jimmy Smith, Charles Earland and others. "In Transit" also played jazz standards and original music.

Jay has studied with world-renowned guitarists Pat Martino and Joe Diorio and has released three recordings with material ranging from jazz to commercial. His latest recording, "Spirit Crossing" includes international percussionist Jamey Haddad from the Paul Simon Group.

He is on the faculty of Bucknell University and Susquehanna University where he teaches guitar mechanics, harmony-theory and fretboard integration in addition to general guitar playing. He has several instructional books and CD's published in the states and Japan, through Mel Bay Publications with endorsements from such Jazz greats as Steve Kahn, Pat Martino, Paul Bollenback, Barry Greene, Sid Jacobs and others.

His latest book called "Payin' Your Dues With The Blues" is due out in the Spring of 2008

You can find out more about Jay's latest work and upcoming performance schedule at jayumble.com



Jay Umble

Andy Alonso

Bassist, Andy Alonso is one of central Pennsylvania's most in demand musicians.

He originally hails from New York City and credits his Father, a well known Latin Jazz Composer, as his first musical influence. Andy is a Berklee Alumnus and earned his living for twenty years in the Big Apple playing along side the best Rhythm & Blues and Jazz musicians on the scene including members from Funk/R&B luminaries as Tower of Power and The Average White Band.

Andy's influences are too vast to list. As one who appreciates all styles of music, Andy is inspired by players from all genres and instruments. As a bassist, Andy's goal is to always create a bass line that is supportive while at the same time being melodic and interactive with the other band members. He brings an eclectic approach to the table with deep roots in jazz, rhythm & blues and funk. He also offers a highly evolved improvisational aspect to String Theory.

Teaching is also a vital part of his profession. He enjoys nurturing up and coming players, helping them understand the traditional role of the bass as well as teaching modern bass techniques.



Andy Alonso

Kevin Ditzler Checket

Kevin has roots in Fusion, Rock, Pop and Jazz which provides versatility to the band.

He has worked with many groups over the years honing his unique, incredible chops touring from New England to Texas. Two of the most successful groups he has been associated with are "The Front", a power pop quartet and "Simon Apple", a group that had chart reaching success.

His parents told him that he was born with drum sticks in his hands. He was "always banging on something and had an insatiable desire to figure out how music worked". Kevin's enthusiasm has never stopped. He sites his drum influences as Buddy Rich, Mike Clark and Steve Smith to mention a few. He continues to be inspired by these players as well as many others.

Kevin is also a multi-instrumentalist covering the guitar, piano and flute. He has recorded several solo albums of original material. As a creative composer he occasionally performs solo throughout Central Pennsylvania utilizing state of the art technology resulting in a phenomenal one man show!

As the band's "rhythmic engine", his incredible, fluid, "over the bar line" style of playing always propels the band into uncharted territory.



Kevin Ditzler Checket