University of Guelph
College of Arts and School of Fine Art and Music Present

Jim Gelcer Trio

THURSDAY AT NOON

Free Concert Series
Thursday, February 11 • 12:00 pm
MacKinnon Room 107  (Goldschmidt Room)

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Program

Today’s program will be announced from the stage.

Biographies

Brimming with musical influences as diverse as the exotic places he’s called home, Jim Gelcer hit the North American scene at age eighteen and has not looked back. He was seduced by the township energies of his father’s South African home, drawn by his mother’s Middle Eastern mysticism and came to that table with more than a dollop of his own brand of jazz, funk and soul. The result is a heady amalgam of old world devotion and new age syncopation, music for the 21st century.

Gelcer is a multi-instrumentalist and singer, an in-demand collaborator who’s performed and recorded with other artists at the top of their game, people like Paul Hoffert, John Switzer and Richard Underhill, to name a few. Gelcer rocks on piano, guitar, harmonium and vocals but his musical through line has always been percussion. And as a timekeeper, Gelcer is second to none on djembe, cajon, dumbek or a standard drum kit.

Gelcer patented his unique sound and sensibility early on. As a child, he used any kitchen utensil he could get his hands on to drum the beats he couldn’t get out of his head and onto a surface fast enough. The rhythms were informed by the sights, sounds and smells he picked up living in 1960’s South Africa. A space where indigenous music had pride of place among soul singers like Bill Withers and jazz musicians like Charlie Parker and Thelonious Monk.

Hitting his formative years in 1970’s Canada, Gelcer was now paying passionate attention to pop soul radio. Early influences began to add up, helping lay the groundwork for the artist Gelcer was to become - global in style, popular in nature, fat and funky in tone - laced with references to pop and soul giants like Stevie Wonder, Van Morrison, The Beatles and Jimi Hendrix. The table was being set for a new brand of musical continentalism. International tour dates with a wide variety of bands and artists in a suite of musical genres followed.
In the 80’s, Gelcer launched another career, this time as a composer for film and television, working prolifically for the CBC’s arts and current affairs portals, scoring jingles and soundtracks for television MOW’s. He is now a partner in Gopher Lunch, an international company specializing in music for tv and movies.

Gelcer’s early exposure to earthy African grooves and Middle Eastern spirituality drew him to Kirtan, a powerful style of devotional music involving call and response mantra chanting, fostered during an intensive period spent on a Paradise Island ashram. There, Gelcer learned the ancient teachings of Sivananda Yoga. His practice and Kirtan concerts continue to this day.

Gelcer’s upcoming album is only the last in a line of notable releases the artist has produced in the jazz, pop and Kirtan genres. Future tour dates include stops in Los Angeles, Bali and Australia. Ain’t no stopping him now.

**Kim Ratcliffe** (guitar) has close to 35 years experience covering a wide variety of musical endeavors and worlds. He plays with his own jazz quartet, Rat4, the Walrus Guitar Quartet (chamber music with David Occhipinti, Ted Quinlan and Roddy Elias), and with groups led by Bruce Cassidy (Heal the Universe and Hotfoot), Paul Delong, and more. Kim’s toured or recorded with singers Holly Cole, Colm Wilkinson, David Clayton Thomas and Ron Sexsmith. He was a member of genre bending ensemble Hemispheres, avant funk band Gotham City, studied and performed with composer James Tenney, and played w/ children’s entertainers Sharon, Lois and Bram and many others. He is on the guitar faculties at Humber and Mohawk Colleges.

**George Koller** (bass) has accumulated hundreds of wildly diverse performing, touring and recording credits in his expansive musical career. He has performed / toured / recorded with Peter Gabriel, Holly Cole, Loreena McKennitt, Ian Tyson, David Clayton-Thomas, Phil Woods, The Shuffle Demons, Olivia Newton-John, Chaka Khan, Eddie Harris, Eartha Kitt, Bruce Cockburn....just to name a few. A prolific composer and producer, George also plays a variety of instruments. He also has 9 solo recordings on the Solitudes/Avalon/Reflections labels (Cello by the Sea, India, Bali, Breathing for Relaxation, Peaceful Harmony, Zen Tranquility, Zen Harmony, Zen Serenity, Rest Well). He has performer/bassist/ producer credits on over 800 cd’s.
Concert Series
♫♫ “Celebrating over 48 Years of Music Making” ♫♫

Winter Semester 2016

Concerts start at 12:00 p.m. Thursdays in MacKinnon Room 107 (Goldschmidt Room)
Admission FREE – donations gratefully appreciated. Everyone Welcome!

January 21 ... Faculty Showcase. The School of Fine Art and Music Faculty and Instructors perform.

January 28 ... A Feast for the Ears. Music that celebrates life’s greatest joys: love and lunch. With Sheila Dietrich, soprano, accompanied by Chris Fischer.

February 4 ... Music from the Future. Composer Eric Ross, presents his Ultimedia Concept. Performing on piano, guitar, synthesizer, and theremin, Eric’s compositions include elements of jazz, classic, serial and avant garde while videos by Mary Ross are displayed.

February 11 ... Jim Gelcer Trio. The trio will be on full and eclectic display, performing select cuts from Gelcer’s newest recording. The album, due to be released January 2016, awakens the jazz in pop classics from Jimi Hendrix to Bob Marley and Bill Withers to Sting.

February 25 ... Jasmin Lacasse Roy, performs a program of classical guitar music from the 1920's, played in the grand romantic style of that time. The concert will feature work by Joaquin Turina, Manuel Ponce and Heitor Villa-Lobos, among others.

March 3 ........ The Ribbon of Extremes with Philippe Hode-Keyser. The realism of the façade is manifested in the inordinate effort to stick to given means. This concert is part of the annual Creative Music Symposium.

March 10 ........ Jason Wilson and The Perennials. This Global-Roots project draws from the deep and varied wells of the reggae canon, the Scottish and English Folk Revival and NYC bebop. The result is a singular Canadian sound that summons the many muses of this mercurial and two-time Juno nominated artist. Marcus Ali on saxophones/whistles/vocals, Patrice Barbanchon on trumpet/vocals, Perry Joseph on guitar/vocals, Andrew Stewart on bass, Zaynab Wilson on cajon/percussion/vocals & Jason Wilson on vocals/piano/organ/accordion.

March 17 ....... The McMaster Trio. A recital tracing the evolution of the piano trio, from Haydn, the founding composer of the genre, to Kelly-Marie Murphy, one of Canada’s most well respected composers. With Murphy’s rhythmic energy, Haydn’s sunny disposition, and Mendelssohn’s virtuosic beauty, these pieces show the scope and depth of piano trios at their best. Shoshana Telner, piano, Sonia Vizante, violin and Rebecca Morton, cello.

March 24 ....... Student Soloists Day, featuring our talented Applied Music students.

March 31 ....... Student Soloists Day, featuring our talented Applied Music students.

For more information on the winter 2016 series, contact Vicki Isotamm (visotamm@uoguelph.ca) 519-824-4120 ext.52991