

## STEEL DRUMS AND PERCUSSION

Jeff Narell is an internationally known steel panist, Afro-Caribbean percussionist and educator-clinician who studied in the 1960's with Ellie Mannette, the principle inventor of the modern steel drum.

With his 2006 release, *Callaloo*, Jeff cooks up a Caribbean stew of dance grooves featuring top vocalists from the region including Crazy, Rasul, Carlos Soto and Claudia Villela. *Callaloo* features Jeff's original composition *Ellie Man*, a top tune played by steel orchestras island-wide for Trinidad Carnival 2003. A tribute to his mentor, it was sung and recorded in collaboration with Trinidad calypso star Crazy and performed by Ellie's original steel orchestra, *Invaders*, at Panorama. Selected by steel orchestras in five countries, *Ellie Man* captured the crown in Toronto's Caribana festival.

Narell has recorded and performed with a diverse array of artists including George Benson, the Grateful Dead, Bobby McFerrin, and Olatunji and on four big box office films, including *48 Hours* and *Commando*. He has composed two theatrical scores, one of which, commissioned for the California Shakespeare Company's production of *The Tempest*, won the *Hollywood Dramalogue* award for "Best Original Theatrical Score".

As a bandleader based in the San Francisco Bay Area, Jeff has brought his musical ensembles before audiences at concert/club/corporate events across the USA including Hawaii. He also has acted as musical director for Trinidad Calypsonians Crazy and Chalkdust and performed with Boogie Sharpe, Robert Greenidge and Ray Holman.

Jeff was a guest artist on the Grammy nominated CD in the Latin Jazz Category, *Rhythm at the Crossroads*, featuring Cuban master percussionists, Patato, Changuito, and Orestes Vilato.

In 1995 *Lost Tribe Records* released Jeff Narell's self-produced debut CD of original compositions, *Wave of Love*, described by *Latin Beat Magazine* as a "hot World pop debut. . . pure Caribbean sugar. . . funky, jazzy around the edges and ready to get you dancing." *Wave of Love* received national airplay.

Jeff's second CD *Voyage to Paradise* features standout performers in the Caribbean jazz idiom including Rebecca Mauleon Santana, Ray Obiedo, Manny Oquendo, Jesus Diaz and Michael Spiro.

In his commitment to perpetuating the artform, Jeff has traveled internationally to set up steel band programs and conduct clinics and workshops. In addition, he directs several ongoing Steel Drum Programs in the San Francisco Bay Area, involving hundreds of students at the middle school, high school, and college level. He also leads his professional group in performances under the auspices of the San Francisco Symphony and Young Audiences *Arts in Education* programs.

## JEFF NARELL

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