



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR FOR DC TEACHERS

**Saturday, February 16, 2013**

**Featured presenters include:**

**Sugar Bear \* JuJu \* David '32' Ellis  
Sweet Cherie \* Chris "Geronimo" Allen  
Stanley Cooper \* JB**

Kenneth Carroll, Melvin Deal, Thomas Sayers Ellis,  
Donnell Floyd, Natalie Hopkinson, Kip Lornell,  
Maurice Shorter, and Charles Stephenson

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*Photo © Thomas Sayers Ellis.*

## SEMINAR SCHEDULE

**8:30 - 9:00 Registration**

**9:00 - 9:15 Welcome**

DC Commission on the Arts  
DC Public Schools  
Prince George's County Public Schools  
Nekos Brown for Chuck Brown's family

**9:00 - 10:00 What is Go Go?**

Film: The Belly of the Drum  
Dialogue  
Presentation on the Soul Searchers and early history of go-go

**10:00 - 10:45 Go-Go Gallery Walk**

Issues and themes in go-go.

**10:45 - 11:00 Questions**

Question Focus Technique to generate questions for special guests.

**11:00 - 11:45 Special Guests with Q&A**

Introduction and Q&A

**11:45 - 12:30 Dialogue and Dine**

Lunch with special guests and book signing.

**12:30 - 2:30 Workshops**

Music teachers rotate to three 30 min. workshops with musicians.  
Social studies and other subjects in one workshop with special guest presenters and interactive lesson.

**2:30 - 2:40 Gallery Walk of Teaching Ideas**

Read and comment on teaching ideas by peers.

**2:40 - 2:50 Website**

Presentation of <http://thebeatisgogo.com/>

**2:50 - 3:00 Evaluation**

Complete evaluation. Submit for PLUs.

**3:00 - 3:30 Band**

A go-go at the DC Commission on the Arts

**Facilitation by John "JB" Buchanan, Marya McQuirter,  
Deborah Menkart, and Charles Stephenson.**

## PRESENTERS

### Chris “Geronimo” Allen

Chris Allen, a native Washingtonian, has been a professional musician for over 20 years. His first music teacher, Mr. Ronald Harbor, ignited his initial love for music. Chris’ musical education started in elementary school and continued at UDC. He has collaborated with a range of musicians, including Mass Extinction, Redds & The Boys, Trouble Funk, Soul Patrol, Be’la Dona, Chuck Brown, Najee, Earth, Wind & Fire, Wayman Tisdale, Goodie Mob, DJ Kemit, Bone Crusher, The Chronicle, Outkast, Donnie, Lil Benny, Jas Funk, Sugar Bear, Go-Go Mickey KRS-One and Raphael Saddiq. Currently, he gives drum lessons, co-manages Be’la Dona and scores music for film.

### John “JB” Buchanan

JB is a product of the DC Public Schools Instrumental Music Program. By the 7th grade, he could read music, play the flute and trombone, and had learned to play jazz. He performed with the DC Youth Orchestra Program, first on French horn and then on trombone. Later, he studied composition in college and led his own soul band, “The Magnificent Seven,” the crossover group, “Melting Pot,” and jazz combo, “Coatis Mundi” at the University of Notre Dame. He first heard the Soul Searchers at Byrne Manor in 1970 and sat in with the band after rehearsal in Horace Brock’s basement. He was invited to join the band playing trombone after he graduated from college in 1971. He gradually added the keyboards to his repertoire and played electric piano and synthesizer. He wrote or co-wrote most of the songs on their first three albums: “We the People” (1972), “Salt of the Earth” (1974) and “Bustin’ Loose” (1978).

### Kenneth Carroll

Kenneth Carroll, a native Washingtonian, is a writer, educator, and youth development professional. He was a featured writer in the *Washington Post Magazine* article that chronicled the history of Washington, DC from 1968 to 1998. He is a freelance music reviewer, among his credits are *ONE Magazine*, *The Source*, *Black Arts Bulletin*, *Seeingblack.com*, and the *Washington Post*. He taught literature and media at Duke Ellington School of the Arts and is past director of DC WritersCorps, Inc. His children attend DC Public Schools and his wife is a member of Black Women’s Playwrights.

## PRESENTERS

### **Stanley Cooper**

Stanley Cooper started playing guitar at age 13, inspired by the sounds of Jimi Hendrix, Ernie Isley and George Benson. He joined his first go-go band, Prophecy Band & Show in the early 1980s. Deeply immersed in all things go-go during his tenure with Prophecy, his guitar influences included Andre “Whiteboy” Johnson (Rare Essence) and Chuck Brown. As his technical facility grew, he began to perform with R&B, Funk, and Smooth Jazz bands, bringing influences from those genres back to go-go. His next go-go endeavor was with CJ’s Uptown Crew. CJ, former saxophonist with EU, Redds & the Boys, and Little Benny & the Masters, fostered and encouraged his development as a complete musician (songwriting, background and lead vocals, and keyboards/guitar synthesizer). His motto was “Don’t call the hall, I do it all!” Today he has his own group, 76 Degrees West, which fuses all musical styles with a go-go flavor. He made a promise to himself long ago that no matter how far he went as a musician, he would always have a place for go-go.

### **Melvin Deal**

Melvin Deal has been instructing African dance and drumming in Washington, DC for over 30 years. He is founder of the African Heritage Dancers and Drummers. His commitment to uplifting the Ward 7 & 8 communities is outstanding. African Heritage Dancers and Drummers gives many young people an opportunity to learn culture, heritage, and discipline while being exposed to new and exciting things and has earned a renowned reputation for excellence, locally, nationally and internationally. Deal is a native Washingtonian, who began his dance career at the Northeast Academy of Dance in Washington, DC in 1959. Receiving a Bachelor’s Degree in 1965 from Howard University, Mr. Deal devoted his time and talents to the positive development of youth in the community. He founded the African Heritage Center in 1973.

### **Gregory “Sugar Bear” Elliott**

Sugar Bear is a founding member of and front man for EU (Experience Unlimited), one of the original Washington DC go-go bands. He and his fellow band members were all students at Ballou High School. The band chose the name Experience... *(continued on page 3)*

## PRESENTERS

(Gregory “Sugar Bear” Elliot continued)

due to their respect for the Jimi Hendrix Experience and Unlimited because they did not want to limit the range of their music. Their early regional hits included “EU Freeze,” “Rock Your Butt,” and “Knock ‘Em Out Sugar Ray.” Although they are best known for their Grammy-nominated, massive worldwide hit Da-Butt from Spike Lee’s “School Daze” soundtrack, EU has also scored hits with Salt & Papa (Shake Your Thang), with rap innovator Kurtis Blow (Party Time), and on their own with “Buck Wild” and “Taste of Your Love.” Sugar Bear has appeared in a local TV commercial for an insurance company, and teaches special education at TC Williams.

### David ‘32’ Ellis

David Ellis’ role in go-go has been the hype man/rapper for several popular go-go groups. As the “hype man,” he was responsible for putting the A1 sauce on the steak: He brought excitement to the go-go performance. He started his career 28 years ago as an original member of the Junkyard Band. He recorded vocals on popular Junkyard tunes such as “The Word” and “Sardines.” Working with Def Jam Records, he was able to perform at the world-renowned Apollo Theater and the Capital Center many times. He has performed on shows with Run DMC, the Beastie Boys, Salt-n-Pepa and Heavy D. After leaving the Junkyard Band, he became an original member of the Northeast Groovers and played in the Washington metropolitan area for many years. He also played with Rare Essence for 10 years and, in 2010, he left the band to join DA’ Mixx Band.

### Thomas Sayers Ellis

Thomas was born and raised in Washington, D.C. His first, full collection, *The Maverick Room*, was published by Graywolf Press in 2005, for which he received a Mrs. Giles Whiting Writers’ Award and the 2006 John C. Zacharis First Book Award. He co-founded The Dark Room Collective in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1988, and earned an MFA from Brown University in 1995. He is an assistant professor of creative writing at Sarah Lawrence College and a faculty member of The Lesley University low-residency MFA Program in Cambridge, Mass. In 2011, he curated the first photographic exhibit of go-go music titled. “(Un)Lock It: the Percussive People in the Go-Go Pocket.”

## PRESENTERS

### **Donnell “D-Floyd” Floyd**

Donnell Floyd fell in love with the saxophone as a 10th grader at Duke Ellington School of the Arts. That is also when he joined the infamous Rare Essence (RE) where he recorded songs with such greats as Doug E. Fresh, Heavy D and Redman. Floyd is famously known for such classics as “Work the Walls”, “Lock It” and “Overnight Scenario”. In 2001 he began a decade with Familiar Faces (formerly 911), performing with national recording artists greats, such as Montell Jordan, Tony Terry, Fantasia, Marsha Ambrosius, and R. Kelly. With over two decades of experience under his belt, he grabbed the attention of the legendary “Godfather of Go-Go,” Chuck Brown, and was invited to join the stage with his band, becoming a marquee performer at venues nationally and internationally.

### **Natalie Hopkinson**

Natalie Hopkinson is the author of *Go-Go Live: The Musical Life & Death of a Chocolate City*, published last year on Duke University Press. She first came to Washington to attend Howard University, where she earned a degree in political science in 1998. She worked for many years as a writer, editor and culture critic--first for the *Washington Post* and then on the team of editors that launched the web magazine *The Root*. Go-go music was the subject of her 2007 doctoral thesis at the University of Maryland-College Park, which combined research methods in journalism, public communication, American studies and ethnomusicology. She has written about education and culture for the *New York Times*, *The Atlantic* website, *Essence* magazine and is currently a fellow of the Interactivity Foundation and leading its Future of the Arts & Society project.

## PRESENTERS

### **William “Ju Ju” House**

JuJu House is a multigenerational musician; you could say it’s in his blood—from his grandfather, his father and he’s passed it on to his son. He first picked up drumsticks when he was six years old in order to play drums at his dad’s church, and he’s been playing ever since. He first played with the Peacemakers, one of the early go-go groups that not many people remember. He practiced and played so intently that he developed his own unique style. As a result, he had the opportunity to perform internationally with go-go bands, as well as Chaka Khan, David Sanborn, George Benson and many others. Through the years, he has loved go-go. He admits to being a purist; he likes the old go-go sound and would love to see it resurge.

### **Kip Lornell**

Dr. Kip Lornell, co-author of *The Beat! Go-Go Music from Washington D.C.* (University of Mississippi Press, 2009) has a Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology (American Music) from the University of Memphis, and an M.A. in Folklore, University of North Carolina--Chapel Hill. Lornell dedicates about one-third of his GWU course “Musical Cultures of Black Americans” to the music of Washington, DC.

### **Maurice Shorter (aka Moe Shorter)**

A native Washingtonian, Maurice Shorter is the go-to guy for all things go-go. Shorter is chairman of the GoGo Coalition and serves on the board of the Washington Area Music Association (WAMA). It was as a student at Howard University that his long and fruitful go-go career took off. After getting Junkyard Band to perform on campus, he would later become their manager. He also managed Little Benny, EU and O.P. Tribe. In addition to managing bands, he was also an entertainment entrepreneur: he developed Street Records, a record label, 1Moe Show, an event production company, and owned a successful retail store in Southeast that only catered to go-go music. Maurice is also a public servant. He served as a commissioner with the DC Commission on Arts and Humanities for 12 years, as well as a mayoral appointee on numerous boards and task forces. Shorter currently works as an Accountant/Budget Analyst for DC Public Schools.

## PRESENTERS

### **Charles Stephenson**

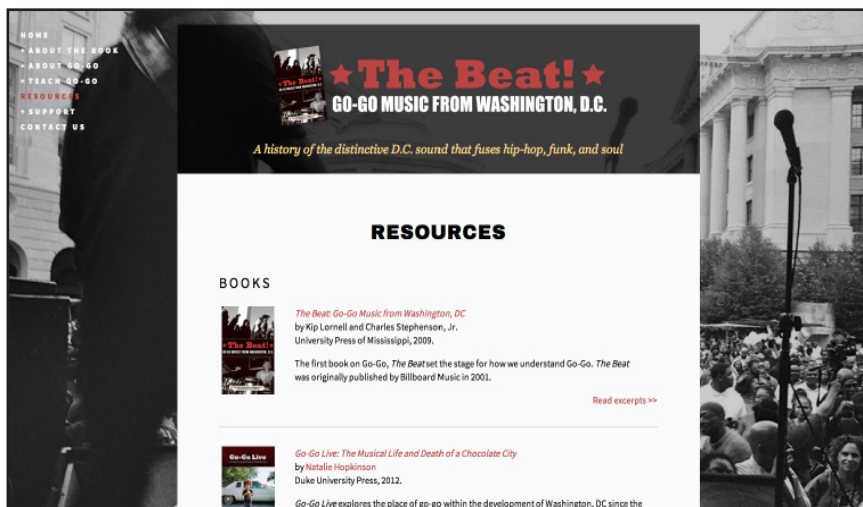
Charles Stephenson, co-author of *The Beat! Go-Go Music from Washington D.C.*, is a cultural and political activist. For over twenty-five years, he has been identified with the evolution of go-go music in Washington, D.C. As the manager of EU he witnessed the ascent of go-go music. As a producer and manager, he interacted with all the popular go-go acts in Washington, D.C., which included Chuck Brown and the Soul Searchers, Rare Essence and the Junkyard Band. He emerged as a respected advocate and promoter of go-go music in a time when various political leaders were critical of the music and the “element” associated with the genre. In 1971, he co-founded the Malcolm X Day Celebration in Washington, D.C., which has been recognized nationally for being the longest (25 years) and largest to celebrate the legacy of Malcolm X (El Hajj Malik El Shabazz), the slain human rights leader.

### **Sweet Cherie**

Sweet Cherie began playing piano at the age of five, classically trained by the late Mamie Ronca. She attended the Duke Ellington School of the Arts under the direction of saxophonist Davey Yarborough. At Ellington, she competed in several piano and violin competitions. Upon graduation, she was crowned Miss D.C. National Teenager (sponsored by Wynton Marsalis) and received a two-year scholarship to Oklahoma City University. She also attended Virginia Commonwealth University and graduated cum laude at Howard University, receiving a BA in Jazz Studies, under the tutelage of Bob Hallihan and Geri Allen. She is the bandleader of Be’la Dona, an all-female band that plays a new go-go sound called “sensual crank.” She has performed with Chuck Brown, EU, Raheem Devaughn, Sir Elton John, Erykah Badu and many more. She has won two Washington Area Music Awards (WAMA) with Be’la Dona and three for best instrumentalist.



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In the spring of 2013 we will post classroom lessons (including the ones used today) and teacher interviews on the **thebeatisgogo.com** website.

Please use the contact form on the website if you have a lesson to share or are willing to be interviewed about how and/or why you teach go-go.

We also list the people who have contributed to this effort on the website and welcome additional tax deductible donations so that we can offer more teacher seminars and resources on go-go.