

FREE PLANET RADIO



Free Planet Radio is the shared vision of three multi-instrumentalists exploring the infinite and seamless relationships between musical cultures through the universal language of sound.

“World music supergroup.” —*Mountain XPress*

An evening with **FREE PLANET RADIO** offers a richly unique aural experience which includes the exotic sliding string sounds of the Indian Dotar dancing around a pulsing Jazz Bass accented by the shimmering jingles of an Egyptian Riq Tambourine. Free Planet Radio weaves Middle Eastern, Indian, and North African melodic and rhythmic structures and blends them expertly with the subtleties and harmonic vocabulary of Western classical music, underscored with the improvisatory element of Jazz.

Free Planet Radio consists of Chris Rosser, exploring melody on a variety of Indian and Turkish stringed instruments, guitar, piano and melodica; River Guerguerian on an extensive array of global percussion instruments including Middle Eastern frame drums and doumbek,

Latin American cajon, and Western drum set; and multi-Grammy award-winning bassist Eliot Wadopian on electric and string basses, leaping effortlessly between rhythm and melody.

These artists emerged from three of the country's finest conservatories, and each has established himself in concert halls and studios, appearing on over 200 recordings and in 30 countries. Their immense individual talents have garnered worldwide recognition in performances from Carnegie Hall to the Hong Kong World Music Festival; from the Kennedy Center to the Madrid International Jazz Festival. These versatile musicians now unite their expansive talents, instruments, harmonies and rhythms to create their shared world vision; a phenomenal blending and harmony of global traditions in music.

Chris Rosser

River Guerguerian

Eliot Wadopian

“Music like this is good for us—it’s healthy to find a piece of art to lose yourself in. Five big fat stars all around.”

—CHRIS COOPER, *Smoky Mountain News*

“Free Planet Radio is the freshest group out there right now.” —MICHAEL LIPSEY, Aaron Copland School of Music

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www.freeplanetradio.com

CHRIS ROSSER

- Bachelor of Music from the University of Miami School of Music.
- Received numerous grants including a NC Arts Council songwriter/composer fellowship and a WNC Regional artist grant.
- Studied Hindustani classical music and the sarod with world renowned Indian musician Ali Akbar Khan in San Rafael, CA.
- Opened shows for folk and pop luminaries such as Nickel Creek, John Mayer and David Wilcox and currently tours as keyboardist for Turkish Sufi musician, Omar Faruk Tekbilek.
- Released two solo recordings, *The Holy Fool* (2000) and *Archaeology* (1998) as well as produced and recorded over 40 recordings for other artists in his Hollow Reed Studio.

ELIOT WADOPIAN

- Studied Berklee College of Music.
- Grammy Award winner in 1993 and 2006 as Bassist with Paul Winter Consort.
- Adjunct instructor of bass at several Western North Carolina colleges and Universities since 1980.
- Performances in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Central America, and islands in the Pacific, Mediterranean and Indian Oceans.
- Orchestral Bassist with multiple mid-atlantic symphonies, and performed with Dizzy Gillespie, Judy Collins, and Glen Velez.

RIVER GUERGUERIAN

- Bachelor of Music from the Manhattan School of Music Conservatory.
- Received grants for compositions performed at Lincoln Center Out of Doors, CUNY, Brubeck Institute Festival in CA, and SUNY Purchase.
- Performed and/or recorded with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Chuck Berry, Ziggy Marley/Gipsy Kings, Tan Dun, and Omar Faruk Tekbilek.
- Performed at International Music Festivals in Berlin, New York, Moscow, Rome, San Francisco, Edinburgh, Barcelona, and Istanbul
- Conducts rhythm and sound exploration workshops throughout the country including Montclair State University, University of the Pacific, and Columbia University.



HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS AND LECTURE/DEMONSTRATIONS AVAILABLE

“Understanding World Music:” from theory to rhythm, and integrating it with Western music.

Individual Workshops/Coaching/Lessons for Percussion, Bass, Keyboard, Stringed Instruments, and Composition

“Music that is beautiful, complex, diverse and played by masters of their instruments.”

—CAROL MALLET-RIFKIN, *Asheville Citizen-Times*

“When I first received the CD I listened to it 20 times in a row. I find the music very joyful and uplifting.”

—OMAR FARUK TEKBILEK, Master Turkish Musician

