

Master-drummer David Jones

drummer / percussionist

“a vast palette of improvised music that swamps the senses with its inventiveness, unfamiliarity and sheer beauty.” (Herald Sun, 4 June, 2006)

David is often described as being one of the most innovative and musical drummers in the world, a true virtuoso musician.

In the hands (and feet) of David Jones, the drum kit comes alive as a mini-orchestra, vaudeville act, rhythmic explosion and hypnotic trance-inducer, all in one. Using sticks, brushes, mallets, fingers, elbows, violin bow, dish-mops, toys, brooms... and any percussion he can lay his hands on(!), David creates a universe of sounds, textures and rhythms that take you through different cultures, ages, moods and styles.

He has played and recorded with many great artists and bands, across all genres, including

James Morrison, John Farnham, Bryn Terfel, Time for Three, Bramwell Tovey, Keith Lockhart, John Williams, John Denver, Marcia Hines, Allan Zavod, Don Burrows, Buddy DeFranco, Kate Ceberano, Tommy Emmanuel, Debra Byrne, Rhonda Birchmore, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Ben Sidran, Larry Adler, Pyramid, Don McLean, Crossfire, AtmaSphere, MSO, SSO, WDR Big Band (Köln), Wycliffe Gordon, Wayne Bergeron, Chong Lim, David Campbell, David Hobson, Bill Watrous, Tony Gould, Dragon, Emily Remler, Mike Garson, Eartha Kitt, Ute Lemper, Stylus, Bliss (UK), Elaine Paige, Petula Clark ...

David endorses

DW Drums Meinl Cymbals
Evans Heads Vic Firth Sticks and Brushes

Awards and Prizes

- Winner **Melbourne Prize for Music, 2010**
- Winner **Instrumental Work of the Year**, APRA Classical Music Awards 2009. *The River Meets the Sea* composed by David Jones, Tony Gould and Imogen Manins
- Fine Arts Aria nomination for **Best World Music Album** in 2008 for *Colours of the Drum*
- A two year **Australia Arts Council Fellowship** awarded in 2002

Teaching

- **Honorary Fellow** and guest lecturer at Victorian College of the Arts (VCA-MCM) ongoing since 2013
- **Lecturer in Ensemble and Drums**, James Morrison Academy (JMA) ongoing since 2015
- **Head Jazz Drum Dept** at Sydney Conservatorium of Music 1985 – 1992
- School and tertiary workshops and private tuition
- Major Australian and international Drum festivals since 1981

Career Highlights

- 2017 – MSO commissioned Joe Chindamo to write a Drum Concerto for David, world premiere March 2018
- 2015 – Creator and curator **Peace Lounge** concert series in association with VCA-MCM
- **Drumkit Concerto** (Essay for Drumkit and Small Orchestra) written exclusively for David by renowned Japanese composer **Toshi Watanabe**. World premier performance in September 2006 in Japan, and October in Melbourne, 2006. Concerto released on CD by Warner Brothers, Japan in 2007
- **Concerto with String Orchestra** (Cinaed) – composed in 2015 by Joe Chindamo for David and violinist Zoe Black
- Creation, production and presentation of **Drum Solo concerts** – Colours of the Drum, Spirited Percussion, Drumscales and Drum Space
- First solo album, **Colours of the Drum**, released by ABC Classics in early 2008
- **Drumscales DVD** released 2012
- **Meditations on Love** concerts and recording (released by ABC Classics)
- Regular invited artist with the **Symphony Orchestras of Melbourne** (MSO), **Sydney** (SSO), **Adelaide** (ASO), **Darwin** (DSO) and **Tasmania** (TSO), **Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa** (OEK) in Japan
- **Concerto for Sax and Drumkit** by New Zealand composer Psathas in 2006 with MSO, and in 2010 with Auckland SO
- **David Jones and Friends** concerts, (including support for Rick Wakeman in 2006)
- Three years in **James Morrison's Sextet**, touring Australia and Asia
- **Pyramid** – headline act Montreaux Jazz Festival 1983 “revelation of the festival”
- **Soundbath Experience** with Carmen Warrington
- Released 8 meditation CDs (with Carmen Warrington) commissioned by ABC Music – “**Meditations for Life**” series 2010-11

...[David's performance] was nothing less than a spiritual experience...to be truly transported by the power of the drum when it comes from a place of such deep intention as it does with David Jones

Michael Shrieve, original drummer for Santana

You have achieved what I thought was unachievable on the drum kit - very high level of musicality, dense but dynamic phrasing that one does not get tired of, with seemingly perfect time and the objective clearly on the music, not the ego.

Ed Mann, percussionist on 50 of Frank Zappa's albums

David Jones is, in my opinion, one of the greatest, most natural, musicians on the planet. His musicianship is mesmerising and captivating - I've always felt he was in a class of his own.

Tommy Emmanuel, international artist

His name is David Jones and he is from Australia... this cat has chops we all envy, but what sets him apart is how he uses them

Danny Seraphine (original drummer for Chicago)