

Matt Aiken

drummer
percussionist
composer
bandleader

Matt Aiken's *DETOUR*

Drawing upon 1970's cop show chase scenes, modern day rush hour and the unexpected changes in the road, momentum is the focus. The sudden surprises that come along are welcomed by this highly flexible unit of improvisers. Driven by the fluid yet pressurized force of the rhythm section, space is created to explore new territory. Enjoy the ride wherever the music may take you.

Jenny Scheinman - violin
Khabu Young - guitar
Drew Waters - bass
Matt Aiken - drum set, percussion and composition

BIO

Matt Aiken is a drum set player, composer and teacher living in New York City.

A native of Portland, Oregon, Aiken graduated with a Bachelor of Music in Percussion Performance from the University of Oregon. He went on to study at the Eastman School of Music receiving a Masters in Jazz and Contemporary Media. During this time he studied with Ralph Alessi, Mike Cain, Fred Sturm and John Beck and performed with Joe Henderson, Bob Mintzer and Kenny Werner.

Aiken has toured and recorded internationally as a freelance drum set player and has performed with such artists as Peter Epstein, J. A. Granelli, Haale, Adam Levy, Ben Monder and Steve Swell. He has played in many New York City venues including Birdland, CBGB's Gallery, The Living Room, Tonic and Town Hall as well as the JVC and Williamsburg Jazz Festivals. Matt has performed and composed music for experimental theater projects at LaMaMa ETC and PS. 122 and has toured to Albania and Macedonia with the Bond Street Theatre Company (NYC) and Theatre Svete (Bulgaria).

As a composer and bandleader, Matt has performed his music at the Lincoln Center Out of Doors Festival, Central Park Band Shell, Cornelia St. Cafe, Joyce SOHO, The Knitting Factory, Makor, Merce Cunningham Studio, Tribeca Performing Arts Center and The Fringe Festival in Toronto, Canada. He has received four Meet The Composer Grants for his commissioned works for the Tiffany Mills Company and Amy Kail Dance.

Aiken is a member of the summer jazz faculty at the American Festival for the Arts in Houston, Texas and Eastern Washington University in Spokane, Washington. He has given master classes at universities around the country and has been the artist in residence at the New World School of the Arts in Miami, Florida. In New York City, Matt teaches drum set, percussion and ensembles in private schools.

PRESS

"The music created by Matt Aiken, cleverly picks up conversation and repeats it. Sounds of a cafe, a street and subway filter in."
The New York Sun 2003

"...shimmering music..."
New York Times 2001

"The riotously sustained phrases of groove and horseplay in Root 30 are powered by the tight jangle of Matt Aiken's musicians"
Village Voice 2001

"The star of the opener, "Root 30", was the musical score (composed and performed live by Matt Aiken's Detour) which bubbles with inventiveness. Lazy, jazzy melodies are intermixed with perky percussion and a wonderful assortment of delicate electronic tones and acoustical sounds".
Back Stage 2000

"...the sepulchral electronic tones with which the Matt Aiken Ensemble opened with beautifully set the stage"
Attitude Magazine 1999

"...the Matt Aiken Ensemble was a rare bonus..."
Village Voice 1996