

Steven Finkelstein

With over 30 album credits and over three decades of performances, Steve has played percussion for Mariah Carey, Ray Charles, Dave Valentine, Mary Wilson, Donna Summer, Selena, Carter Burwell, Celine Dion, Mary Wilson, Randy Brecker, Jonathan Butler, Joyce Simms, Felicia Collins and others. He is a founding member of Funk Filharmonik and Transmorpheus. Currently Steve gigs with Circus Mind and plays the tri-state area with The Joni Project at venues including The Iridium, City Winery, The Town Crier, Cohoes Music Hall, Daryl's House, The Patchogue Theater and The Great South Bay Music Festival, and has played in other NYC venues such as The Blue Note, Lincoln Center Outdoors and The Bitter End, as well as Blues Alley in D.C., Club Paradiso in Amsterdam and The Hammersmith Odeon in London.

Steve studied drumming at Legon University in Ghana, and in Senegal, west Africa. In 1999 he was voted Best Percussionist on Long Island by the Long Island Voice. He has a B.S. in Forest Biology from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse and a M.S. in Environmental Education and Interpretation from George Williams College. He volunteers for The Coltrane Home and serves on the Advisory Board of The Friends of Hempstead Plains Preserve. With decades of experience as a high school and college environmental science teacher, National Park Ranger, resident naturalist, environmental Arts-in-Education consultant and lead teacher at Usdan Camp for the Arts, Steve especially enjoys combining the arts and science through nature study and sharing that passion with people of all ages and backgrounds.