

# ZAMBONJA

Zambonja is a 12-piece band playing a variety of music from around the world. We combine solo live drums, along with a fully animated band of up to a dozen musician cartoon characters who perform on a screen beside the drum set. We play a mixture of rhythm-heavy, very danceable music from around the world, with an emphasis on percussion and audience participation of all ages.

Zambonja is the culmination of a lifetime of music and travel by Grammy-nominated percussionist (Brothers of the Baladi), and award-winning journalist and educational animator, Mark Giles.



Zambonja rehearses in their basement studio

Mark had been developing this solo production in 2019 at Akadi West African Food, an excellent restaurant in Portland, Oregon. Then covid hit so he took the project back to development and made it even bigger, with the full-size band he always imagined he could produce. He can perform live shows for schools and colleges, clubs, casinos, resorts, and cruises, where he can present a captivating and informative production to suit any audience. Zambonja can also produce custom animations and characters for weddings, conventions, and special events.

Unfortunately, in this day and age, to put a real human twelve-piece band together is an economically unsustainable and logistic nightmare. With this 2D band, Zambonja can conduct a very full sound with all the colors of a full orchestra, yet cost much less to produce.



This is the first time on the planet that this has been attempted! No, really! Even Adobe, who developed the animation software, is impressed. Bands like Pink Floyd & Gorillaz have played a few songs with animation, but a whole band playing for a couple of hour sets is totally unprecedented. Adobe were so impressed that they have commissioned Mark to produce a drummer character for their new Puppet Maker software. Zambonja will later be developing a live playable cartoon drummer with legendary drummers Stewart Copeland, Graham Lear (Santana) and Pat Mastelotto (King Crimson).

Suffice it to say, it has been an incredible amount of work. He must be crazy to do this, but Mark has a vision to adapt all kinds of interactive solo performances with the animated band, which we now know works as well as we had imagined. The educational potential for the band is immeasurable!

Zambonja is actually a solo human production, though a two or three-piece, with added live percussionists, is the preferred lineup.

We are seeking bookings! Our ideal gig would be a regular house band situation (where we can leave the drum kit at the venue) and play a couple of nights a week, developing songs and animations custom-made for the venue. We would love to collaborate with a theater, musical, or drag group as the backing band for singers and performers.

Please "follow" Zambonja on Bandcamp, Facebook, Youtube, Instagram, Twitter and Twitch. Thank you so much!!

*Zambonja is a made-up word, mixing the names of countries that Mark grew up in; Zambia, Nigeria, Kenya, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Jamaica.*

# ZAMBONJA



Jennifer on Percussion  
*Kenya*



Mark Giles; Animator, producer, drummer,  
Grammy nominated percussionist & designer



Paul on Keyboards  
*South Africa*



Ken on Trombone  
*Morocco*



Renée on Saxes - *Musical Director*  
*Missouri*



Thor on Trumpet  
*Iceland*



David on Guitar  
*NYC*



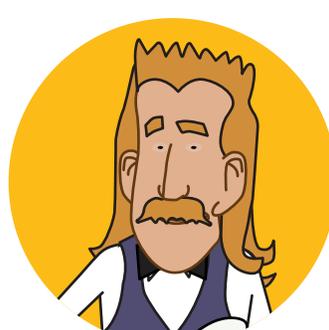
JB on Guitar  
*Atlanta GA*



Jeff on Guitar  
*Jacksonville, Fla*



Nando on Percussion  
*Cuba*



Andy on Bass  
*Atlanta, Georgia*

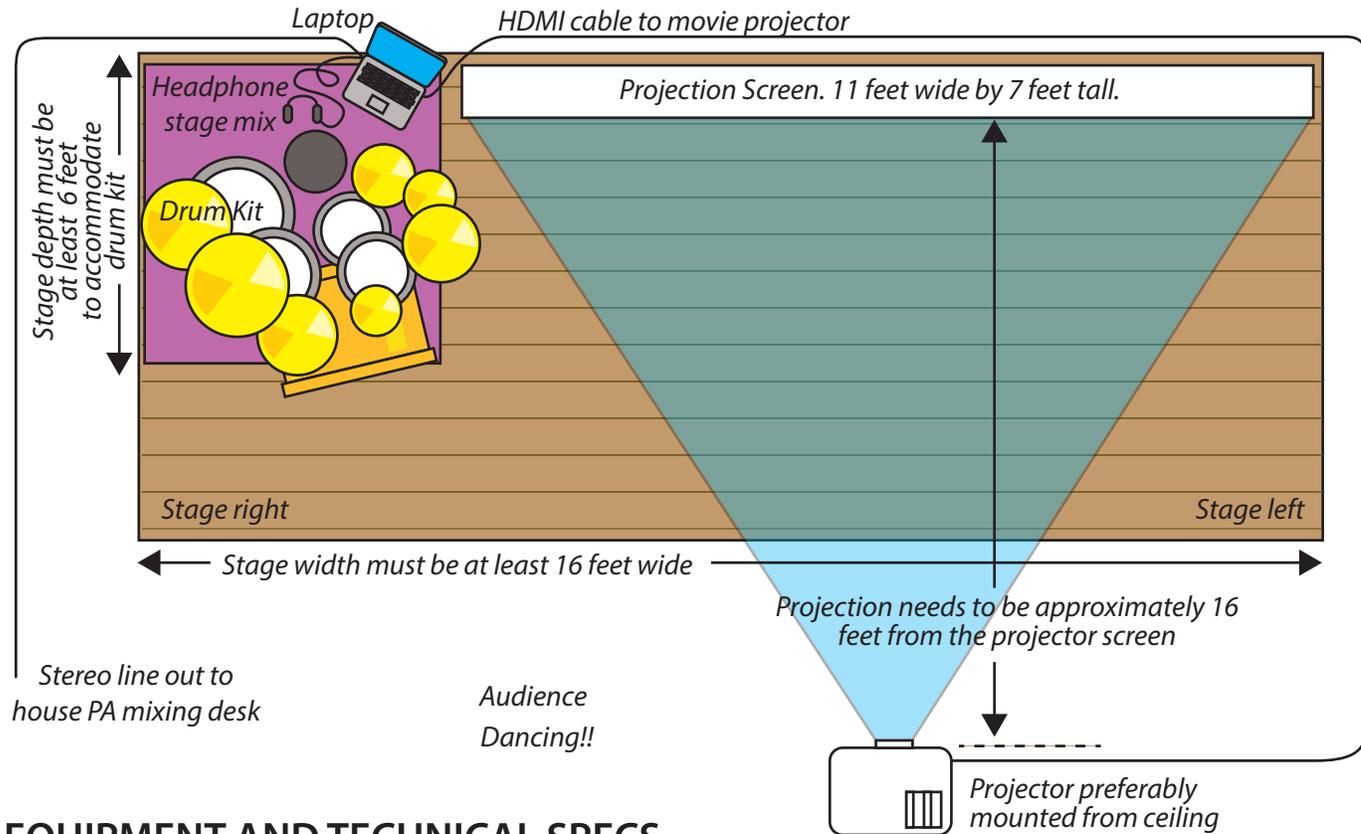


Estephan on Percussion  
*Germany*

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## STAGE REQUIREMENTS

Zambonja requires a very specific stage set up because we use a movie projector to show most of the band, which must be presented center and stage left, and the drum kit must be stage right in order for the illusion to work properly. The band on the screen and the live drummer interact during the performance, so it is crucial that they appear full sized together on the stage, side by side, in this configuration.



## EQUIPMENT AND TECHNICAL SPECS

Zambonja has all the technical gear we need to present our show, however, most ideally we like the house to mic the drums and drummer vocals, and then we provide a pre-recorded stereo feed for the rest of the band from a laptop. We would prefer not to have to bring our PA, which is only really a stage monitor system. As the solo performer and live drummer, Mark will have his own headphone feed. No need for any stage monitoring unless we include another live percussionist.

## LIGHTING

Zambonja has our own animated light show. If the house has lights available to isolate the drum kit and drummer, that would be great. Be aware that the presentation is predominantly on screen, so a controlled lighting environment (such as a theater) is preferred. Outdoor gigs during daylight are impossible as all the characters would melt in the sun. No, in truth, we need dusk at the minimum to perform outside.

We use the following relatively simple light color combinations for each song:

Yellow and Red

Cyan and Aqua/Teal

Blue and Purples/Pink

We generally use two colors per song, alternating between verses, bridges and choruses.

However, It is important to note that the projector screen needs to be totally unlit so that the illusion of the band as the main focus is maintained.

Whenever possible, Zambonja would prefer that the house lights remain off during our performance.

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## THE MUSIC

Zambonja plays music from all over the world in two one-hour sets. We start off with a small opening act of three players performing more simplified arrangements of world music. They play along to visual information about each country, the composer and their culture. A more subdued and educational presentation.

Then for the main event, the whole 12 piece band performs from a remote tropical venue somewhere exotic...



### Set 1 - Zambonja Trios (1 hour)

In groups of three, Zambonja performs in beautiful locations around the world, with trivia and facts about the culture, the music and natural history of each country.

This is a quieter warm up act ideally suited to background music during dinner, or for a more subdued venue.

Hatari	Henri Mancini, from the movie Hatari, 1963
Shakara	Fela Kuti, 1975
Laz	Ancient Turkish, 700BC
Breaking Down the Door	Santana, 2019
Jungle Book Overture	George Bruns, 1963
Naivasha at Nlne	Zambonja, 1997
I Scare Myself	Daniel Ivan Hicks, 1960
No Fish Today	Kid Creole and the Coconuts, 1981
Trust in Me	Robert and Richard Sherman, 1967
Little Light of Mine	Eric Serra, 1997
Roo Tango	Marcos Gileumes, 1991
Tuyo	Rodrigo Amarante, 2017
Slave to the Rhythm	Grace Jones, 1981
Ran Kan Kan	Tito Puente, 1951



### Set 2 - Full 12 piece band (1 hour)

The full band performs from an exotic tropical club. Music to be danced to or ruminated over dinner and drinks. Get the audience tapping toes, or better still, on the dance floor and having a good time!

Papa Ré	Santana 1979
Sway	Gimigel, Beltran Ruiz, 1953
Green Earrings	Steely Dan, 1976
Clevor Trevor	Ian Dury, 1974
No One To Depend On	Santana 1972
Perhaps, Perhaps, Perhaps	Beltran Ruiz, 1956
Laz	Ancient Turkish (?) 700BC
Ran Kan Kan	Tito Puente, 1953
In These Shoes	McCarty, 1994
Turn It On	Genesis, 1983





## WHAT THE PRESS HAVE SAID

It is early days yet for Zambonja's media.

So far we have had very positive feedback from those who have seen our production.

Portland Parks and Rec said "This sounds amazing!"

Tony Gonzalez of Son De Cuba said "Oh man!"

A CD Baby representative says "This is sooo Cool".

Adobe said "This is groundbreaking stuff. Very innovative!"

Adobe was so impressed they commissioned me to produce a drummer puppet.

Furthermore, I have caught the ear and eye of some legendary drummers who I will be collaborating with, including Stewart Copeland of The Police, Graham Lear of Santana and Pat Mastelotto of King Crimson, to name a few.

