

## ABOUT JOHNNY CONGA:

Johnny Conga, a Volcano Percussion endorser, has been performing for 50 years, as a Multi-Percussion Specialist in the Art of Afro-Cuban/Caribbean drumming and Latin Jazz music

Creator of the **A Hand to Drum Productions/Online Learning** course to provide online instruction on the Conga drum

The syllabus includes the Cuban method of learning how to play the Conga drums and the multitude of rhythms and styles of Cuban, African, Puerto Rican, Caribbean, and Brazilian music. What is taught is up to 100 Afro-Cuban/Caribbean rhythms and modern styles in a variety of music genres.

Part of what I teach is **Cognitive Discovery** -A new way of learning how to learn, and program yourself with the drum. Some of the curriculum of what I teach are:

Hand balancing and Hand exercises which includes rudimentary exercises

Sound development and hand technique

The use of the 5 points of the hand- Heel/Palm/Fulcrum/Inner Knuckles/Tip of fingers

Counting and reading for Conga drum

The Clave and concepts in Clave

Notation for Conga drumming

Odd time playing-5 7 9

CongaRobics™ for advanced players

Also included in the learning is how to play are Timbales, Bongos and assorted African and Brazilian percussion

Folkloric Drum performance ensemble with 3 or more drummers

## TEACHING INSTITUTIONS

Adjunct faculty at Shoreline Community College initiating the first Latin Percussion course in any community colleges in Seattle.

Substitute instructor at Cornish College of the Arts for the Latin ensemble taught by Jovino Santos Neto

Bellevue Community College Jazz Orchestra-workshop on Latin rhythms

Puget Sound Community College- Latin percussion workshop for Jazz ensemble with Dr. Chris Stover

Olympia Community College, Olympia WA.-substitute Instructor for percussion class  
University of Washington-workshop on Afro-Cuban drumming and music with Professor Michael Smolker

Former instructor at Music Works Northwest - Bellevue, WA

Associate Professor at the University of Miami-Dept of Perc.-1990-92 under the auspices of Professor Fred Wickstrom

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## **PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE/AFFILIATIONS**

### **Dance Companies and Performance**

Olatunji Drummers and Dancers-New York City 1965

Chuck Davis Afro-American Dance Co-New York City 1966-68 72

New York City Ballet Co.-1972

Miami City Ballet Co.-Miami,Fla.-1994-2002

Drummin-Tania Leon-Miami/Hamburg Germany-1997

P.A.C. E.(performing arts and cultural education) Artist for Dade County, Florida 1995

Recognized by State of Florida as Folklorist -1997

17 International world tours - Sergio Mendes, Gloria Gaynor, Cerrone, and others

53 years of performance in America and to over 50 countries around the world.

### **Affiliations**

Grammy Voting Member Pacific Northwest chapter/Governor and

Latin-Representative 2007-2011

Member BMI as composer/arranger

Member National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences-N.A.R.A.S.

Member Percussive Arts Society

Endorsed by Volcano Percussion

### **CD RELEASES**

**Johnny Conga & Caribe + Roots of Rhythm** - First CD released 1994 on Skyward records. [Http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/congajohnny](http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/congajohnny)

**Breaking Skin** - released 2009

**Oye!** - released 2012 - Winner of Golden Ear Award, Earshot Jazz Organization/Seattle

**Encounters of the Latin Jazz Kind - Live!** - released 2014

**In Another Time and Place** - released 2015

### **RECORDED PERFORMANCES**

#### **Session Musician**

## **Producers**

George S Clinton- Cheech and Chong- Trevor Lawrence-John Arrias- Pete Moore(The Miracles), John Robinson, Ken Mansfield, Paul Dunlop, Steve and Nat Kipner.(short list).

Recordings on Columbia-ABC-Polygram-Island-Roxbury-Skyward-Infinity-Cuni and many others. Over 300 recordings for CDs, radio, television and movies

## **EDUCATION**

**Dr. Billy Taylor Jazzmobile-IS 201-New York City** - Djimbe and drum set with Ritchie "Pablo" Landrum and Charlie Persip.

**East 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Music School Settlement**

**Johnny Colon School of Music New York City** - Timbales and bongos with Manny Oquendo and Nicky Marrero.

**Studied with Ubaldo Nieto**, drummer for the Machito Orchestra

**Los Angeles Community College 1976-78** Liberal Arts program

References upon request.