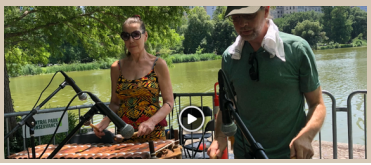
Sound Bridges

Blending West African music with jazz





About Sound Bridges

Founded in 2019, Sound Bridges is a New York–based collective blending traditional West African Mande balafon music with jazz, blues, and groove-driven styles. Centered on the balafon, an ancient wooden xylophone central to Mande traditions, the ensemble's original compositions weave intricate rhythms, vibrant melodies, and improvisational interplay, creating a dynamic, cross-cultural sound that engages audiences of all ages. Ideal for outdoor, family-friendly settings, Sound Bridges' concerts deliver feel-good performances that get audiences moving, listening, and connecting.

Artists / Lineup

- Andy Algire (USA) – Balafon, Percussion
- Irene Koloseus (Austria) – Balafon
- Tony Romano (USA) – Jazz Guitar
- Rade Bema (Madagascar) – Electric Bass, Guitar
- Niko Diarra-Koloseus (USA) – Drum Set & Percussion
- Aboubacar Diabate (Ivory Coast) – Djembe & West African Percussion

Awards & Commissions

- NYFA Fellowship in Music Composition, 2025
- Commissioned work, Carnegie Concert Series, Nyack Public Library, 2025
- SU-CASA programs: West African drumming and balafon workshops, Vandalia OAC, Narrows OAC, Brooklyn, NY
- Puffin Foundation Grantee, 2022, New Music USA Development Fund, 2022
- City Artist Corps Grant, 2021

Media / Listen

- Harlem Meer Festival: https://youtu.be/cjyAyaDFQwI?si=Sl9zrULeZcD2r1gZ
- Music in the Gardens, Riverdale: https://youtu.be/5R1J5YPyvnw?si=EJXsOOAif02p1GwB

Quotes



- *“Amazing performance! We were transported by the heartfelt performance.”* – Andre Tulet
- “*The high artistic quality of this group is a presenter’s dream… captivated audiences of all ages.”* – Susan Goldbetter, Circuit Productions
- *“Our seniors enjoyed this free performance immensely… critical for maintaining sound minds and spirits.”* – Maria Nigido, Sephardic Multi Services Senior Center
- *“Had a terrific time! Great vibes and terrific music on a lovely East River evening!”* – Suzanne Barraza

Selected Performances

- Concert Tour 2026- Outdoor Summer Concert Series (Watertown, Ma, South Hadley, MA, Warwick, NY, Tarrytown, NY, Riverdale, NY)
- Harlem Meer Festival, Central Park, NYC
- Music in the Gardens Summer Series, Riverdale, East River Roundabout, NYC
- Carnegie Concert Series, Nyack Public Library
- Brooklyn Senior Center Concert Tour (2022–2025)
- Barbes, live -music venue, Brooklyn, NY
- New Lots Library, NYC, Workshops & Performances

Technical / Outdoor Notes

Instruments: Multiple balafons, guitar, bass, drums, djembe, and West African percussion. Fully adaptable for outdoor stages and festivals. Minimal technical support: balafon mics/DIs, bass DI, guitar amp DI, basic drum/percussion mics.



Contact

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Website Sound Bridges – e-mail - Instagram