



Bret Cohen

East Village

New York, NY 10009

BretCohen@BretCohen.com

<http://BretCohen.com>

215.300.5750

Mission: I have devoted my life to expressing truly heartfelt, healing music.

Instruments: conga, cajon, bougarabou, djembe, bells, shakers, kanjira, dholak, davul, daff, riq, clave, cascara, voice, body percussion, vocal drums...

Genres: world beat, avante garde, jazz, new age, folk, chant...

Education: Daud Chabwera- 4 years world rhythms and concepts, Marcy Francis- 2 years vocal training, Byard Lancaster- 5 years jazz improvisation and other concepts, Chuck Joseph- 5 years world rhythms and concepts, Bobby Crowder- 5 years African rhythms and concepts - attained level of master drummer

Professional Collaborations and Recordings: Khan Jamal, Byard Lancaster, Matt Davis, La Troupe Makandal, Frisner Augustine, Devadas, Ambika Cooper, Radha Gopinath Das Marinelli, Elliott Levin, Sun Ra Arkestra, Marshall Allen, Charlie Ellerbe, Moses Livingston and the Ragamuffins, Bobby Zankel, Rufus Harley, Skip Burton, Clemente Chucky Joseph, Rick Iannacone, KYL/Dancers, Jon Swana...

Venues: The Today Show, Great Adventure, Zanzibar Blue, Fordham University, Odunde Festival, Integral Yoga, The Trocadero, The African American Museum, The Painted Bride, Temple University, University of the Arts, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Queens Museum of Art, B.B. King's...

Discography: Swimming Through Air[2004]- Bongobop(independent release), Soul Unity[2006] - Thunderbird Service(Heavenly Sweetness/ released in France and Japan), Spirit Jazz[2007] - Thunderbird Service(Heavenly Sweetness/ released in France and Japan), Old and New Songs[2008] – Bret Andrew(independent release), Singing In Tongues[2009] – Bret Cohen, Waves of Time[2010] – No Mud No Lotus (Flutistic / BMI), Four Corners: Chant Music[2011] – Bret Cohen (True Sight Records)

Teaching: Gladwyne Montessori School, Pennwood West Elementary School, Aldan Magnet School, Bell Avenue Elementary School, 10+ years of private lessons

Dance Accompaniment: Temple University, Joffrey, Ballet Hispanico, University of the Arts, Drexel University, Master Jay Moves studio, Community Education Center, Peridance, Marymount Manhattan, Chi Movement...

Current Employment: 2008-present: Temple University Boyer School of Dance, freelance

References:

Kun-yang Lin
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Kunyanglin@Yahoo.com
<http://www.kunyanglin.org>

Jennifer L. Conley
410.294.0911

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<http://temple-news.com/tag/dance-usa-philadelphia>

June 8, 2009

Jennifer Conley
520 East 14th Street, #22
New York, NY 10009

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I write a letter of recommendation for Bret Cohen, a talented musician, composer, and singer/songwriter. For the past year, I have worked closely with Bret as an accompanist for my Graham technique classes at Temple University in Philadelphia. I am grateful for Bret's daily contributions to my classes; in addition to my own fulfillment, I have witnessed his level of artistry inspire and motivate students to dance to their fullest level of expression.

My previous experience as a performer with the Martha Graham Dance Company combined with my current experience as an instructor and choreographer has led me to grow accustomed to a certain caliber of musical accompaniment. With very little prompting, I expect an accompanist to respond to my direction with accurate tempos, precise rhythmic articulations, and dynamics that resonate with specific movement qualities. Bret always met these expectations and his supportive presence exceeded my expectations. Additionally, playing for Graham class requires a certain dramatic intelligence that is often difficult for musicians to tap into; Bret not only has this sensitivity but he is also able to engage dancers in a transformational journey of motion and emotion.

Bret is a valuable and adored member of the performing arts community in Philadelphia and I have no doubt that he will bring great joy and inspiration to the performing arts community of New York City as well. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to speak in person, my contact information is listed below.

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. Conley
(410) 294-0911
jlctree@yahoo.com

Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers

www.kunyanglin.org

June 15, 2009

Re: Bret Cohen

To Whom It May Concern:

I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Bret Andrew Cohen for over one year, both at Temple University and at CHI Movement Arts Center, the home of my Company, Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers (www.kunyanglin.org).

At Temple, where I am Associate Professor of Dance, Bret was a regular accompanist for several of my Modern Technique classes. The Dance Dept. faculty has a choice of accompanists, but I always asked for Bret. His skill, dedication, sensitivity, flexibility and commitment are unequalled. He also brings a beautiful, soothing energy to every class, which complements my approach to movement thereby greatly enhancing the experience for our students.

Bret also is the regular accompanist for my weekly technique classes at CHI Movement Arts Center, where he also has offered, and we hope will continue to offer when he is in Philadelphia, a glorious chanting and meditation workshop for the public.

I am confident that anyone who chooses to employ Bret will be graced by his many talents and professionalism. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Very truly yours,

Kun-Yang Lin
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