

L.A. Caribbean Ensemble



3940 Laurel Canyon Blvd. #695 · Studio City, CA 91604-3709
·310-403-8937· Management@PanoutMusicGroup.com

Promo Shot...



Southern California Premier Event Band – where Urban meets Island...

www.LaCaribbeanEnsemble.com

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Welcome...

I'm Jason Lee Bruns, L.A. percussionist & drummer, arranger & composer, producer & bandleader. Welcome to my band the **L.A. Caribbean Ensemble™** (affectionately know by the acronym "lace"). We have been around for 10-years in some form or another and take great pride in NOW being known as:

Southern California's Premier Event Band - where Urban meets Island...

Most of our clients come from glowing referrals by others who have enjoyed our music at their event. Always an evolving and growing enterprise, we have a new website, CD, video, and photographs, to reflect our unparalleled level of musical performance and entertainment.

As leader of the group, my travels and studies in Cuba, Brazil, and Trinidad (birthplace of the steel drum), my experience as a former member of the Miami University Steel Band, as well as my work as the founder & director of the World Music Program at North Hollywood's Campbell Hall, have infused our style and inspired our productions.

I am passionate about our ensemble and deeply honored to work with the high-caliber musicians that have become, over time, the core of this group. This team of incomparable players makes it all possible! Please visit our web sight, AND LISTEN within to see for yourself...

Sincerely,

Jason Lee Bruns -
founder & musical director

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Who we are...

The **L.A. Caribbean Ensemble™** is Southern California's premier event band - where Urban meets Island... This group's combination of steel drums, Latin percussion, electric bass, drum set and rich vocals transcends the typical steel band. These stellar musicians give a unique Latin-Caribbean sound to their versions of reggae classics, island favorites, jazz standards, and timeless pop hits. Performing throughout Southern California and abroad at select upscale venues, private parties, and music festivals; its no wonder this ensemble has been dubbed the acronym "LACE! "

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Meet the Band...

Jason Lee Bruns – lead pan & percussion:

Jason Lee Bruns (b. October, 3, 1979, Coldwater, Ohio) is an American percussionist, drummer and producer. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Music from Miami University and a Master's degree in Jazz Studies from the University of Southern California as well as certificates from the Mangueira Samba School in Brazil and the International Folklore Laboratory in Havana, Cuba. As a performer he is a former member of the Wild Ginger Philharmonic and has shared the stage with Stevie Wonder, Sean "P-Diddy" Combs, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Rev. Al Sharpton and has played in the house bands for Lewis Price (The Temptations) and Neil Sedaka. Other venues include Los Angeles' Disney Hall, the House of Blue and the former La Ve Lee Jazz Club. As a producer he has released several CD's on the Panout Music Group label, a company he founded in 2005. These include the "JLB Jazz Collective with Jason Gamer", "Tapas" and "The Egrem Session" which was recorded at the famous Egrem Studio in Havana Cuba (Buena Vista Social Club) available at iTunes, Amazon and CDBaby. Jason is the musical director and founder of the "JLB Jazz Collective and the "LA Caribbean Ensemble". He has held an artist residency for the City of Los Angeles and is the founder of the World Music program at Campbell Hall in North Hollywood, CA; a program that includes two steel drum orchestras, a Brazilian percussion ensemble and a salsa percussion band. He is a member of the Percussive Arts Society and has been published as an author in their academic journal "Percussive Notes." Jason specializes in Jazz, R&B, Pop, and Afro-Latin drum set playing. He also plays the soprano steel drum and is a specialist in Brazilian & Cuban Percussion genres. His drum set playing is known for his ability to play many parts at once simulating the texture and deep tribal groove of a large multi-person percussion ensemble. You can hear samples of his playing at: www.JasonLeeBruns.com.

Dan Savell – double pan:

Dan Savell began playing steel drums ten years ago while at Fullerton College (in Southern California) and immediately took to the instrument. While at Fullerton College, he played with Big Bamboo Steel Band and performed with renowned pan greats Ken Philmore, Robert Greenidge, and Boogsie Sharpe. He began doing solo steel drum performances soon after. In 1996, Dan transferred to California Institute of the Arts in Valencia and studied with percussion maestro John Bergamo. There he studied improvisation with trumpeter Leo Smith and guitarist Larry Koonse. Dan has visited Trinidad twice, performing with "Phase II" and "Desperadoes" Steelbands in Panorama, the annual competition that occurs during Carnival. Dan graduated from Cal Arts in 1998 with his Bachelors degree in Percussion. Since then he has become a full-time professional steel drum player, performing regularly at private and public events. Because of his expertise, he was hired as the steel drum consultant on the hit NBC TV show, "The Office". Dan is also the owner of L.A. Percussion Rentals. Visit his website at: www.DanSavell.com.

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John Twiford – vocals:

John Twiford is a half Brazilian half Nebraskan singer from Olney, MD living in Sherman Oaks, CA. John is an accomplished vocalist with styles ranging from Bossa Nova to Calypso, and Stevie Wonder to Robert Plant. He studied voice at the University of Maryland's Clarice Smith School for the Performing Arts and has played in numerous bands in the Washington DC area as well as the greater Los Angeles area. John has recently been selected for the "role of a life time" co-starring as Judas alongside Ted Neely (Jesus) in the national tour of Jesus Christ Superstar.

Tim Archer – electric bass:

Tim was born and raised just outside of Portland, Oregon. He began playing music at a young age, beginning with the trumpet at age 12. During high school, he began playing the electric and upright basses while continuing his trumpet studies, winning several awards and becoming part of several honor bands, including multiple all state and all northwest groups. Tim chose to attend the University of Southern California, where he studied bass with the great John Clayton and received his degree in Jazz Performance. He plays all genres of music from rock to pop to jazz to latin to R&B. He has performed with everyone from Robbin Ford to Ashley Tisdale to Macy Gray. He resides in Los Angeles, California.

Jeff Friedl – drum set:

Originally from Tucson, Arizona, Jeff Friedl is a studio and touring drummer currently based in Los Angeles. Since his arrival in California, Jeff has had the opportunity to record, perform with, and tour with artists such as: ASHES DIVIDE (Billy Howerdel of A Perfect Circle), PUSCIFER (Maynard James Keenan of Tool), DEVO, Shane Alexander, Zack Hexum, and many more... Most recently, Jeff played drums for Puscifer's debut concerts at The Palms Hotel in Las Vegas and has just finished a major tour in North America on Linkin Park's Projekt Revolution Tour with ASHES DIVIDE.

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