



# Free Planet Radio

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[www.freeplanetradio.com](http://www.freeplanetradio.com)

For over a decade, **Free Planet Radio** has been bringing its exciting and innovative world-jazz-classical music blend to both concert stages and classrooms. Based in Asheville NC, this musical partnership began with a clear mission statement as "the shared vision of three multi-instrumentalists exploring the infinite and seamless relationships between musical cultures through the universal language of sound."

**Free Planet Radio** performances expertly weave the improvisatory element of jazz, and the subtleties and harmonic vocabulary of Western classical music, with Middle Eastern, Indian and North African melodic and rhythmic structures. Performing mostly original compositions, even while playing extremely complex melodies and time signatures, the trio always maintains a sense of accessibility, spontaneity and easy engagement with the audience.

Emerging from three of the country's finest music schools, Free Planet Radio consists of two-time Grammy winner **Eliot Wadopian** leaping effortlessly between rhythm and melody on electric and string basses; **River Guerguerian** on an extensive array of global percussion instruments including Middle Eastern frame drums and doumbek, the Indian kanjira, African shakers, and Western drum set; and **Chris Rosser** exploring melody on the 17-stringed Indian dotar, Turkish cumbus oud, guitar, piano and melodica.

## **Selected Venues these Artists have performed individually:**

Carnegie Hall  
Sydney Opera House  
Lincoln Center  
Edinburgh International Arts Festival, Scotland  
Hong Kong International Arts Festival  
Moscow New Music Festival  
Los Angeles Sacred Music Festival  
Madrid International Jazz Festival  
Miyazaki International Music Festival, Symphony Hall Tokyo, Japan  
Red Sea Jazz Festival, Eilat Israel  
Spivey Hall, Atlanta, GA  
Geraldine R. Dodge Poetry Festival, Duke Farm, NJ  
Kennedy Center, Washington DC

## **Discography:**

The Unraveling (2008)  
New Bedouin Dance (2004)

## **Soundtrack:**

Anywhere USA , Sundance Film Festival Award winner

## **Workshops & Residencies:**

University of Massachusetts - Amherst, MA  
Greenville Fine Arts Center, Greenville SC  
Joyful Noise Music & Arts Camp, Weaverville NC  
University of California, Sacramento, CA  
European Frame Drummers Meeting, Barcelona, Spain  
Aaron Copland School of Music, CUNY  
Western Carolina University, NC  
University of Lecce, Italy  
University North Carolina - Asheville  
Montclair State University, NJ  
University of the Pacific, Stockton, CA  
University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Winston-Salem  
Mentone Men's Conference, GA (w/ Robert Bly)  
Elysian Fields Yoga Center, St. Simons Island, GA  
Columbia University-NY  
Southern Utah Songwriting School

## **Quotes**

*"Voted Best World Music group in Western North Carolina 2013"* - **Mountain XPress**

*"Best Music performance of 2008"*

- Otis Taylor Jr., **The State, Columbia, South Carolina**

*"For music that is beautiful, complex, diverse and played by masters of their instruments, look no further than the trio of Chris Rosser, River Guerguerian and Eliot Wadopian.*

-Carol Mallett-Rifkin, **Asheville Citizen-Times**

*"Music like this is good for us- it's healthy to find a piece of art to lose yourself in.... Go find this album and get lost in the world for a while. It's a nice place. 5 big fat stars all around."*

- Chris Cooper ,**Smoky Mountain news**

*"World music supergroup"* - **Mountain XPress**

*"Free Planet Radio is the freshest group out there right now. It is a perfect blend of all things good"*

-Michael Lipsey, **Professor of Percussion  
Aaron Copland School of Music- CUNY**

*Free Planet Radio grooves the mind, body and spirit ... while simultaneously liberating the airwaves.*

- DJ Frederick, Producer & Host - **WNEC 91.7 Henniker, NH**

*"When I first received the CD I listened to it 20 times in a row, I found the music very joyful and uplifting"*

- **Omar Faruk Tekbilek (Master Turkish Musician)**

*"Unlike other world music groups, Free Planet Radio's musical expertise, demonstrated by its unique fusion of musical styles as well as its often intimidating and complex time signatures, draws from multiple cultures."*

- Karen Balmes, **The State Hornet, Sacramento California**

*"The Unraveling is an enthralling new CD showcasing some of the nicest acoustic world world beat blends coming out of the many aromatic sonic flavors of Eastern and Middle Eastern origin. Grab this perfectly balanced mixture of jazz, ethnic, chamber music and a dash of funkiness. I can't live without it. An absolute stunner"*

- Gene Berger, **Horizon Records, Greenville, SC**