

Dave

Dave considers his investment in SharDave to be its unique sound that is also enticing, and takes the listener on a musical and, at times, emotional journey. SharDave presents to Dave, as a percussionist, the opportunity to use his experience in playing Afro-Cuban rhythms. Dave's long history of playing in world music styles and his proficiency in African rhythm, Cuban and Flamenco music has been developed through his membership in numerous bands with a world-music flavour. In addition to his partnership in SharDave, he also plays as a percussionist in a Gypsy Rumba flamenco band, Karavana Flamenca, playing various instruments—timbales, cajon, congas and bongos. Dave recently played with Karavana Flamenca at the January 2022 community festival, *Free Music in the Glade @ Inverloch* and featured at the day-long event, *Spain at the Grove*, in Gippsland, Victoria. Dave was also featured on percussion with Karavana Flamenca in concert at the iconic Victorian venue, Archies Creek Hotel, and on their most recently released album *Decir Amigo* (Spanish for *Say Friend*).

Since deciding to learn the drum kit at the age of 19, Dave has had a long and quite varied journey with music. Playing in pub bands in Melbourne helped him create his passion for rhythm and groove, playing rock and a little funk in such bands as L.T. Bully and Vogon Poetry. This eventually gravitated toward African grooves and rhythms. A three-month stint in West Africa set the scene for a more World Music based journey. He studied the Djembe drum under tutorship of Melbourne-based teachers and also in The Gambia with master drummer, King Marong.

Moving from Melbourne to Gippsland he then joined a band called The Dirt Floor, playing a self-styled genre of music called World Folk Fusion. The band recorded two albums, *The Dirt Floor* and *Fire and Light*. The Dirt Floor enabled Dave to incorporate African Rhythms into the more conventional drum kit, using the djembe, bongos and congas, playing alongside electric violin, bass and guitar.

The opportunity to play in a Cuban style band, The Boolarra Social Club (BSC), steered him down another musical avenue, incorporating Latin rhythms into his already impressive percussive repertoire. BSC hit the big stage at the Museum of Old and New Art (MONA) in Hobart. They also performed concerts in creative enclaves in Gippsland and the Bass Coast, such as Archies Creek, Meeniyan and Tarwin Lower. Dave's drumming featured as part of the *2020 Inverloch Jazz Festival*, with BSC as the headline act. It also featured as prominent in the *Cygnets Folk Festival*. BSC was also procured to play at iconic venues such as Devil's Corner Winery on Tasmania's East Coast and Paynesville Wine Bar in Victoria's East.

Dave's talents also extend to playing in New Orleans style roving jazz band, Invy Horn Jam, and with the more classical Latrobe Community Concert Band.