



[www.davekemp.info](http://www.davekemp.info)

## David James Kemp

Vibraphone, Percussion & Drums

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Dave Kemp is a diverse musician whose career combines live performance, recording sessions and musical direction across many musical styles and ensembles. This has included touring across Australia as on stage percussionist for The Lion King Musical, with internationally renowned artists such as Neil Finn, Diana Krall, Jerry Lewis, Bernadette Robinson, David Campbell, Patrizio Buanne and as Musical Director for The Story of Cloudland touring show.

Initially studying orchestral percussion at the Qld Conservatorium in 1999, he soon came to the attention of the Qld Symphony Orchestra, where he has remained a regular section percussionist ever since. Increasingly drawn to jazz, Dave received an Arts Qld Professional Development grant in 2006 for a summer jazz intensive course at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, USA. There he studied vibraphone with masters Ed Saindon and Dave Samuels resulting in being selected to perform at The Berklee Percussion Festival 2006.

When Dave returned to Australia he wrote, developed and taught the first ever curriculum for vibraphone as a jazz major study instrument at the Qld Conservatorium of Music as well as in Percussion Pedagogy. In 2008 Dave was also appointed Percussion Lecturer at the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane. 2012 saw a move to Sydney to accept an offer to undertake a research masters degree at the Sydney Conservatorium alongside screen music studies at the Australian Film Television and Radio School. In early 2014 Dave was hired for the Australian tour of The Lion King Musical.

Returning to Queensland in 2015 after Lion King finished, the debut album of the Dave Kemp Group "Transitions" was released and awarded a highly commended position in the Qld Music Awards which saw Dave touring the group down the east coast of Australia. Also this year Dave took on the role of Musical Director for the touring production "The Story of Cloudland - Not So Strictly Ballroom" along with setting up a home based composition, production and recording studio under the name of Full Motion Music. He also reunited with old musical alliances to form the Afro-Soul group The Francis Wolves and live funk/hip hop group Soul Mechanics who toured relentlessly throughout 2016 including a full week of shows at The Woodford Folk Festival.

Throughout 2017 the Soul Mechanics collaborated with rapper Mark Wedge aka Master Wolf and released the EP "Explorations with Master Wolf" in 2018 which was totally recorded and mixed by Dave at his Wandering Ear Studio. Dave also played all of the instruments on the recording except bass and guitar. The EP was a finalist for a Qld Music Award in the Hip Hop/Rap category. Also in 2018 Dave performed regularly with the Camerata Orchestra with artists such as Neil Finn, The Whitlams and Katie Noonan.

In 2019, Dave was a percussionist for the incredible Australian Ballet production of "Alice in Wonderland" before traveling to Istanbul to undertake private lessons with Bünyamin Olguncan on Darbuka and other authentic Turkish percussion. On this trip he



also attended the North Sea Jazz Festival participating in masterclasses and impromptu performances. Since its inception in 2019, Dave has also been a regular performer at the amazing local Gold Coast venue The Dust Temple playing vibes with Kristin Berardi, Sean Foran, Rafael Karlen, Pete Neville Jazz Experience and leading his own Dave Kemp Group.

So far, early 2020 saw Dave touring with up and coming electro pop and current Triple J favourite Karamilk playing drums and electronic percussion. Another highlight was some Queensland regional touring with violinist extraordinaire Ian Cooper. Since the lockdown, Dave has been busy as a remote session musician for Paris based composer Leo McFadden, recorded improvised vibes solos for various Hip Hop and EDM productions and arranging the music of Donna Power for her Experience Wellbeing song writing retreats.



Dave is a dynamic and in demand performer with some highlights being:

- On stage percussionist for Lion King Musical tour of Australia
- Percussionist for Neil Finn, Dianna Krall, Jerry Lewis, Katie Noonan, The Whitlams, David Campbell, Bernadette Robinson and Patricia Buanne
- Melbourne Theatre Company production Songs For Nobodies & Pennsylvania Avenue
- Playing congas with James Morrison for his Latin Jazz project
- Percussionist for Brisbane Festival production “Maria de Buenos Aries” alongside Argentinean bandoneon virtuoso Santiago Polimeni
- Playing vibes / keyboards with the Frank Zappa Big Band at the Woodford Folk Festival
- Featured with the percussion group Isorhythmos throughout 2011 as resident ensemble of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra’s Meet the Orchestra concert series.

- Toured with country music stars Melinda Schneider, Adam Harvey, Catherine Britt and Graeme Connors for the Queensland Music Festival.
- Australian premiere of Israeli composer Lior Navok’s “V5 for Vibraphone and String Quartet” and the Tim Garland (Chick Corea’s arranger) penned composition “A Fantasy on Two Themes by Chick Corea” for the Qld Conservatorium’s Concert Series.
- Other notable ensembles and artists he has performed and recorded with are Tommy Emmanuel, Elision, Topology, Isorhythmos, Misinterpretato/Trichotomy, Seventh Chapter, Rohan Somasekaran, Fronz Arp, Elly Angel, Paul Bonetti, Ben Stewart, Qld Philharmonic Orchestra and Ingrid James.

