



Aaron Redner

fiddle, acoustic and electric mandolins & vocals

Aaron grew up in a musical household. A diverse array of music was a part of his environment throughout childhood. Aaron started playing the guitar at a young age and then switched to the piano. Formal lessons were rejected and sports took over his interest. Violin training began at the age of 10 but soon ended. Serious study of music didn't begin until Aaron turned 16. Since that time, performance degrees were earned from the University of California at Irvine and the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. Aaron bounced around the country until settling down in his beloved California where he met and joined Hot Buttered Rum. He enjoys the fact that the band gives him a medium to explore many genres of music. His hopes his music and songwriting will help open hearts and minds across the world.

Aaron feels blessed to have shared the stage with many of his musical heroes including: Bela Fleck, Chris Thile, Darol Anger, Peter Rowan, Tony Rice, Mike Marshall, and many more.



Bryan Horne

double bass & vocals

Bryan began his musical adventure at age 10 with the cello. He grew up listening to mostly rock 'n' roll groups like Men at Work, Rush, Yes, and Led Zeppelin. It was in the Tamalpais High School Orchestra that he first met Aaron Redner, future fiddler for Hot Buttered Rum.

In college, Bryan began playing electric bass in the jamband Oversoul. While playing in Oversoul, Bryan became more interested in acoustic music; he eventually transitioned from electric to acoustic bass and never turned back. His musical influences include Old and In the Way, Edgar Meyer, Phil Lesh, Stanley Clarke, and Gonzalo Rubalcaba. Coming back to the Bay Area after college, Bryan played in some musical groups with the members of Oversoul, eventually connecting with Nat Keefe and Erik Yates.



Erik Yates

banjos, guitars, woodwinds & vocals

Erik spent his musical youth trying nearly every instrument and style he came across. Growing up in the auditory carnival that is northern California meant that this included just about everything: piano lessons, saxophone quartets, garage bands and folk songs had all weaseled their way into his life by the time he hit high school. College in Portland, OR brought new musical horizons, including studies with composers Vince McDermott and Joe Waters, flutist Nancy Teskey, editor John Callahan and poet Vern Rutsala. It also brought him new conspirators (including classmate Nat Keefe) and a new project, Hot Buttered Rum, which would soon gleefully take over his life.

After graduation and enough time in the non-profit and teaching worlds to know that playing music was the world's only sensible job, Erik hit the road with HBR to change the world "one bar at a time." The group has become a platform for all his various trades, musical and otherwise. It pushes his banjo and guitar picking and his songwriting, which he now combines with his knack for wind instruments (flute and saxophones) to give HBR its unique musical palate. Erik has appeared with songwriters Peter Rowan, Tim and Nikki Bluhm, and banjoist Bill Evans (also his teacher). When not on the road with HBR, Erik can be found playing around the Bay Area in support of other local artists or with one of his many side projects.



Matt Butler

drums, percussion & vocals

Matt Butler is the founder and conductor of The Everyone Orchestra, a revolving cast of stellar musicians he brings together for concerts, festival superjams, and special events. He brings EO's barrier-busting improvisational vision to HBR performances, often conducting from behind the drum-set and sometimes even sneaking out in front with his signature cue cards.

In his EO capacities, Matt has conducted a growing legion of musicians including members of HBR, the Grateful Dead, Phish, moe., String Cheese Incident, ALO, Tea Leaf Green, Club d'Elf, and Steve Kimock, Darol Anger, Futureman, Jimmy Herring, Adrian Belew, Taj Mahal, That One Guy, Maria Muldaur, Tuvan throat singers, live painters, dancers, chanters, choirs, hula-hoopers, fire-spinners, jugglers, stilt-walkers, storytellers, pranksters, a presidential candidate and so many more.

For more than eight years, Matt was the drummer for West Coast jamband Jambay logging more than 1,200 performances. Jambay also worked with Ken Kesey as the pit band for his play *Twister*.

Matt also is a producer and composer. He has recorded two CDs, *The Redwood Project*, a benefit CD to help protect California's ancient redwood ecosystem featured in the Grateful Dead *Almanac* and *Good Options*, featuring numerous guest performances. Matt recently wrote "Little Bug," one of 4 new kids' tunes that can be found on the Discovery Kids™ Digital MP3 Boombox.

Matt and EO have performed numerous concerts for non-profit organizations, coordinated donation drives for the needy, and brought EO's brand of participatory performance to student groups, schools, hospitals, an orphanage and more..



Nat Keefe

guitar & vocals

Nat's panoramic songwriting skills and baritone vocals play a defining role in HBR's sound. Inspired at an early age by musical parents, Nat began playing guitar at age 11 and electric and acoustic bass at 16. The next year, guitar teacher Tony Khalife pushed Nat to study tabla - the north Indian drums. The rhythm section of the high school jazz band formed a rock band called STEW, in which Nat played bass. When Nat turned 18, his uncle Rodney Bolloni took him to Las Vegas for a crash course in the art of songcraft; Nat still cites his uncle as one of his biggest influences.

Instead of returning to sophomore year of college, Nat traveled to Nepal and India. Hiking and climbing in the Himalayas, Nat found that his passion is writing songs and singing for people. Nat returned to Lewis & Clark College, met Erik Yates, and formed the Foggy Notion Boyz, a stringband dedicated to the almighty Yeehaw

Factor. Wild weekends with the Foggy Notion complemented with long hours of study as Nat earned a degree in Composition and Ethnomusicology under teachers such as Joe Waters, Nora Beck, Vincent McDermott, Gil Seeley, Obo Addy, and Dan Balmer.

In two trips to Ghana, West Africa, Nat has studied polyrhythmic drumming, 14-key xylophone, and palmwine guitar. A grant allowed him to travel there and produce a CD of field recordings (*GHANA Boko Paa*), a CD of original compositions (*Music for Ordinary Motion*), a short paper about the development of highlife music, and a short film (*Dances and Music of the Awudome Villages*).

The last three years Nat has produced a multi-media variety show in San Francisco, the Nat Keefe Concert Carnival. The Concert Carnival has featured burlesque dance, film, circus arts, trick dogs, hula hoop, body percussion, tap dancing, and all sorts of music, and has become a Bay Area holiday tradition.