

ABOUT BARBARA BORDEN

Barbara Borden brings new meaning to the word drummer by combining her musicality, spontaneity, wisdom and humor with the power of the drum. As a carrier of the drum, Borden's deep connection to the Great Heartbeat of Life expresses the spectrum from ancient ritualistic to modern drumming. Her pulsing, polyrhythmic artistry combines heaven and earth revealing an original and innovative drumming style that moves and entertains. In performance and on recordings, her listeners are captivated as stories and images unfold through her unmistakable full round sound---her beauty in the beat.

Borden began drumming at age ten. Her life-long passion for music and the percussive arts has taken her along the following musical avenues: Partner in Cloud 9 Music with Sheilah Glover---Borden composed and produced her own music on the following recordings: *Beauty in the Beat* (1996), *All Hearts Beating* (1991); Borden & Glover's *Lady of the Serpent Skirt* (1990), *Portraits of Passion* (1992). **Borden's solo album, *Beauty in the Beat***, is a blend of forty acoustic drums and percussion instruments from around the world with Borden playing them all. Each thoughtfully composed piece contains its own brand of melody, harmony and rhythm that create worlds of beauty in her beat.

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A veteran of the Bay Area jazz and women's music scene, Ms. Borden's versatility and appreciation for diverse musical forms has led her to record and perform with the following artists: Alive!---eight years---(*Alive!*, *Call it Jazz*, *City Life*); Rhiannon (*Toward Home*); Terry Garthwaite (*Moving Day*); Nicholas, Glover, & Wray (*Nicholas, Glover, & Wray & NGW Live*). She has also performed with: Layne Redmond, Arthur Hull, Airto Moreira, Suru Eke, Babatunde Olatunje, Linda Tillery, James Twyman, Kitka, Mimi Fox, Frank Martin, Paquito d'Rivera, The Women's Philharmonic, Oberlin Dance Company, and The Borden Twins (her sisters), to mention a few.

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Borden enjoys artistic collaborations with many artists: dancers, authors, storytellers, actors, poets, painters and healers. Some of these artists have included: Vicki Noble, Christina Baldwin, Ann Linnea, Arisika Razak, Anna Halprin, Ruth Zaporah, Nina Wise, China Galland, Deena Metzger, Rachel Bagby, Naomi Newman, and Laura Simms.

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Ms. Borden has been in the vanguard of presenting drumming in solo performance as well as in combination with other art forms. In her performance piece, *All Hearts Beating*, she invited the audience to participate in percussion and vocal improvisation to which they responded enthusiastically. Borden continues to perform her one-woman autobiographical percussion play, *She Dares to Drum*.

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Ms. Borden is very active in the educational aspects of drumming, facilitating drum circles and councils, workshops/clinics, retreats, private sessions and mentor programs.

Borden has coached the Redwoods Drummers for the past six years---ages spanning seventy to ninety-five years old.

Borden has been awarded grants from: Marin Arts Council twice---first to bring drumming to elementary schools and second to train people in facilitating drum/story circles for elders and youth; Institute of Noetic Science---exchange program with The Redwoods Drummers and an orphanage in Nigeria; Sillins Foundation---development of *She Dares to Drum*; Fresh Pond Trust to fund The Redwoods Drummers.

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The healing power of music has always been important to Borden. Borden feels that our fast-paced, fragmented world is in dire need of a more integrated and holistic approach to life. She has developed her own healing arts practice for individuals and groups combining drumming, vocal sounds, toning, percussion instruments and other expressive art forms. These sounds, vibrations and rhythms combine with Borden's awareness and sensitivity to realign, harmonize and relax people at a cellular and psycho-spiritual level. Borden has had various healers as mentors: Deena Metzger, Anna Halprin, Suki Munsel and African healer Augustine Kandemwa, who initiated her in Zimbabwe in 2001.

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Ms. Borden is an ordained Minister, Beat-Keeper and Sound Spirit Healer with The Association for the Integration of the Whole Person. She is the founding director of HOLI, The Heart of Life Institute---an organization dedicated to encouraging joy, vitality and celebration through drumming and music. In August, 2000, Borden enlisted the help of artist/drum-maker B.J. Quintana and All One Tribe Drums owner Feeny Lipscomb to bring forth *The Heart Drum*. Made in Taos, NM and funded by Borden's community, this large heart-shaped ceremonial drum with a big, deep sound is a true transformational instrument. The powerful vibrations coming from this drum help to harmonize, unify and keep the heart of individuals, groups and communities alive and thriving, reminding us that we are all part of the Great Heartbeat of Life.

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Peace, happiness and vitality have been important themes in Borden's life. In 1994, she was part of a group of ten women artists who traveled through Croatia and Serbia on a peace mission. She was deeply moved by the positive response to drumming and art from people faced with the great hardships of war. At the onset of the second Gulf War,

Borden felt she had to do something to maintain peace in her own heart so she began drumming each week in downtown Mill Valley, CA---her place of residence. Alone, playing her African djembe with a sign nearby that read, "Peace in Every Heartbeat," she drummed every Sunday from noon to 1:00 p.m. rain or shine. Later she moved to another location to continue this vigil since it seemed she was disturbing the peace for some of the Mill Valley residents!

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Barbara knows that her life-long involvement with music and drumming has been and continues to be uplifting to her body, mind and spirit. She believes

that drumming, singing, and movement are essential ingredients for a healthier, more peaceful and joyful world.

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