

Dave Longfellow Bio 2016

Accomplished musician, clinician, and educator, Dave Longfellow, is distinguished by success as a performer, composer, and arranger of steel band music. Recognized for his hard work and dedication to the art form by his colleagues, he is an exceptional teacher and mentor.

Longfellow began playing steel pans at the age of ten in his hometown of Morgantown, West Virginia and went on to perform with some of the most visible personalities in the steel drum world including: Andy Narell, Ken “Professor” Philmore, Ray Holman, Robert Greenidge, Liam Teague, Duvonne Stewart, Jit Samaroo, and many others. He traveled to Trinidad and Tobago to play with the world famous BP Renegades Steel Orchestra at 16 years-old during the 2000 carnival season and returned in 2004 to study abroad at the University of the West Indies and perform with the Renegades again. Longfellow recently returned from Trinidad where he performed with birdsong and Renegades steel orchestras for the 2013 and 2015 Panorama seasons.



In 2001, Longfellow started his own quintet focused on the performance of progressive Latin jazz. His group, The Dave Longfellow Ensemble (also known as The DLE), is dedicated to creating new musical expressions involving steel pans, and to spreading the beauty and versatility of these instruments to new audiences. The DLE has recorded two CD's, *The DLE: Vol. 1* (2005) and their self-titled release, *The Dave Longfellow Ensemble* (2009).

As a composer and clinician, Longfellow travels throughout the country for events at various high schools, universities, and festivals. He was recently commissioned for two premier steel band compositions at Lone Star College (*Just In Time*) and San Jacinto State College (*The History of the Steel Pan*) in 2015.

Longfellow received his B.M and M.M. from West Virginia University where he served as co-director and arranger for the WVU Steel Band from 2002 to 2006. He currently serves as Director of the Rhythm Project and Director of the Virginia International PANFest at the Virginia Arts Festival, is Executive Director of the Ellie Mannette Festival of Steel, and is a part-time member of the Virginia Symphony Orchestra.

SHORT BIO

DAVE LONGFELLOW, *Rhythm Project* Director, is distinguished by success as a performer, composer, and arranger of steel band music. He is also Director of the Virginia International PANFest at the Virginia Arts Festival, Executive Director of the Ellie Mannette Festival of Steel, and is a part-time member of the Virginia Symphony. Longfellow began playing steel pans at the age of ten in his hometown of Morgantown, West Virginia and has gone on to perform with some of the most visible personalities in the steel drum world including: Andy Narell, Ken "Professor" Philmore, Ray Holman, Robert Greenidge, Liam Teague, Pan Ramajay, and many others. He traveled to Trinidad & Tobago to perform with the world-famous BP Renegades Steel Orchestra at 16 years-old and has returned four times since to study and perform with other Trinidadian steel bands. Longfellow received his B.M and M.M. of Music from West Virginia University where he studied with legendary pan-pioneer Dr. Elliot "Ellie" Mannette.