

Mediaportal Report

03/09/2009

▶ **Music master to play in Narooma**

Eurobodalla Shire Independent, 03/09/09, General News, Page 37

By: None

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02/09/2009

▶ **Master drummer in town**

Narooma News, 02/09/09, General News, Page 23

By: None

Clip Ref: **00056456509**

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Music master to play in Narooma

GARY France is a master percussionist.

A native of Syracuse, New York, USA, he came to Australia in 1987 as the inaugural lecturer in percussion at the Western Australia Conservatorium of Music, and is now Associate Professor and Co-ordinator of Percussion in the ANU School of Music in Canberra. He has had a major influence on the profile of percussion playing in Australia.

As a performer, he is at home on the concert stage, in the orchestra pit, a circus band, a jazz club, a Western Swing band, or folk festivals. He has performed with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra, the West Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestras, the Dallas Brass, the Australian Chamber Orchestra and the Canberra Symphony Orchestra.

As a jazz drummer, his list of musical credits includes James Morrison, Richie Cole, Nat Adderley, Dale Barlow, and numerous others. Gary was well known as the founder and artistic director of the 18-piece Perth Jazz Orchestra as well as drummer

with the nationally acclaimed western swing group Dude Ranch featuring Lucky Oceans. He has also developed Kiddicussion, an interactive music educational experience for children of all ages.

Gary France's ensemble DRUMatiX gave a concert in Narooma in 2007 to an enthusiastic reception - they were, one might say, a great hit.

DRUMatiX returns to the South Coast this month, with four talented percussionists from the Canberra School of Music and an array of instruments including marimba. They will give a concert, one of the Montague Choristers Visiting Artists series, in the Narooma High School auditorium on Saturday, September 12, at 2.30pm. This concert promises to be an exciting and an interesting experience, with a fascinating selection of music from several countries.

Tickets will be available at the door, at the Purple Possum Narooma, and The Pineapple Shop Bermagui - adults \$20, concessions \$15, and school



Gary France

students free. Inquiries 44737541 or 6493 3047. They will play again at the same time on the Sunday for the Sapphire Coast Music Society in the hall at Wolumla.



Master drummer in town

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BEATING DRUMS: Master percussionist Gary France is returning to Narooma with his ensemble DRMatIX.

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