

Tom Dowden

Tom received his Masters in Music Education from the University of Northern Colorado, in the Jazz department directed by Gene Aiken, and has spent his musical career as an educator, performer, arranger and composer. He taught band and choir for many years in Manitoba at the Jr. and Sr. High School levels. He has also directed Vocal Jazz Ensembles as well as concert and jazz bands at the University of Manitoba, the University of Northern Colorado and Tiffin University in Tiffin, Ohio.

Tom's Vocal Jazz experience began in the early 80's while enrolled in the Jazz and Commercial Music Program at Vancouver Community College, where he both sang in and played for vocal jazz ensembles in and around Vancouver.

He has performed around the globe, including working as a pianist/singer on a cruise ship in Europe, and singing and playing with jazz bands & combos, R & B bands, and blues & rock bands across Canada and the US. He has also spent many years playing in the percussion section of various community concert bands and orchestras.

His compositions and arrangements include works for the Nova Scotia Youth Orchestra and the Winnipeg Singers, as well as instrumental and vocal jazz arrangements for many high schools and universities; including the University of Manitoba, Tiffin University, and Glenlawn, J.H. Bruns, Windsor Park, River East and Transcona Collegiates.

Tom has spent the last several years working as an adjudicator and clinician, teaching piano, guitar and voice in his private studio, and maintaining a busy performance schedule as a soloist and also with his bands; Rave On - A Buddy Holly Tribute, Chameleon - a 7 piece R & B Band, and The Tom Cats - a four piece Classic Rock Band. A lot of his time is now spent living in Japan, where he is establishing himself as a vocalist/instrumentalist in Tokyo's vibrant jazz scene.