

WPG

THE WORLD PERCUSSION GROUP

Assembling the world's elite
Hitting your local percussion community

Directed by Maraca2



USA TOUR 2016 - WPG INFORMATION PACK

Maraca2 and the World Percussion Group Inspiration	2
World Percussion Group Tour Details	3
WPG Timeline, Audition Dates, Requirements and Fee Structure.....	4
Frequently Asked Questions	5
Terms & Conditions	6

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DEBUT USA TOUR 2016

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Maraca2 and the World Percussion Group Inspiration

Maraca2 are currently respected as one of the World's leading Percussion Ensembles.

Tim Palmer and Jason Huxtable met whilst studying at the Birmingham Conservatoire in England.



Whilst there, they attained the highest degree classifications, achieved distinction in the postgraduate course specialising in percussion duo and now teach at the conservatoire as tutors of percussion. In 2014, they were both bestowed with the honour of becoming honorary members of the institution.

Maraca2 perform regularly at percussion festivals and concert halls worldwide and have appeared as artists at many of the major percussion events including

an evening concert at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, 2013.

They have visited over 40 university departments around the world and through this activity have inspired hundreds of young percussionists to pursue a career within the percussive arts.

As one of Europe's most commercially supported ensembles, they are proud to endorse Sabian Cymbals, Innovative Percussion, Marimba One marimbas, REMO drumheads and Pearl Drums.

Maraca2 explain the World Percussion Group Project (WPG) and how its significance is vital to young professionals in the percussion industry.

"Having visited many universities, we regularly find students aspiring to become professional percussion soloists, ensemble players and educators. In an extremely competitive field, it is very difficult to realise such

ambitions without any clear understanding of how one might go about building a successful CV / resume.

Following our PASIC 2013 evening showcase concert, we started to discuss how we could develop the impact and international scope of Maraca2's educational projects, whilst helping young artists across the world fulfil their full potential and career aspirations.

In order to build a good reputation as an artist and educator, it is vital that those percussionists wishing to follow this route should demonstrate a great degree of experience (preferably at a young age)."

Thus the idea of WPG was created. Maraca2 will help such artists by providing them with the opportunity to work

with like-minded world class percussionists in a real life setting. Selected WPG members will deliver their own presentations, clinics, lessons, performances, and masterclasses and put together a touring ensemble that will deliver an extremely high quality 'mobile percussion festival' to the USA educational market.

"We are extremely excited about forming an ensemble selected from a pool of world class young professionals and bringing them to local percussion communities in the USA."

Are you interested in joining the WPG for our 2016 US Tour?



World Percussion Group 2016 USA Tour Details



Photo 1: Left, Maraca2 original 2006 Promotional Shot.

Photo 2: Right, Maraca2 photo shoot 2013 for Marimba One.

World Percussion Group 2016 USA Tour Details

Maraca2 will select a total of 18 members to form the inaugural World Percussion Group 2016. These 18 members will tour an estimated 16 universities in the USA and deliver clinics, masterclasses, lessons and performances. *Maraca2* currently have approximately 20 universities interested and it is envisaged that there will be two back to back tours, each with a group of 8 ensemble members, one specially selected WPG soloist and *Maraca2*.

The tour will happen in Spring 2016 and is between the months of February - April 2016.

The repertoire selected for the WPG will be prepared by *Maraca2* and will comprise of new works, arrangements and existing large scale works. The group will convene prior to the tour for an estimated one week training course. The rehearsal venue will be located in the USA where participants will prepare the final showcase concert and work alongside *Maraca2* to structure an effective clinic, which they will present on the tour.

Each WPG member will also present their own clinic at the training course, which will be recorded and posted on the official WPG website. These videos will be accessible to all

percussionists applying for the World Percussion Group.

The soloist selected for each leg of the tour will also have the option to deliver a solo clinic or solo recital and will perform as soloist with the World Percussion Group.

Maraca2 would like to thank the Percussive Arts Society for becoming Corporate Partners with the WPG as well as our sponsors: Innovative Percussion, REMO Drumheads, Marimba One, Sabian Cymbals and Pearl Drums.

WORLD PERCUSSION GROUP TIMELINE



<p><i>November 2014</i> PASIC - 20 meetings commence with USA university professors to secure hosts for WPG.</p>	<p><i>October 2015</i> Final 32 Selected for Skype Interview</p>
<p><i>March 2015</i> Universities to confirm funding and dates for the tour to be scheduled.</p>	<p><i>October 2015</i> 16 WPG Members Confirmed, Tour repertoire available for preparation.</p>
<p><i>April 2015</i> Website to be finalised and online audition applications commence, audition materials available.</p>	<p><i>November 2015</i> WPG PASIC Trade stand. (Soloists application deadline).</p>
<p><i>October 2015</i> WPG audition deadline and final audition videos submitted to join the ensemble. (Ensemble Deadline)</p>	<p><i>December 2015</i> Soloists confirmed for WPG Tour 2016. (Solo Deadline).</p>

WPG Timeline, Audition Dates and Requirements

When registering for the World Percussion Group you will have two options on our new site. The first, will be to apply as a soloist. This is a totally free choice audition and should last between 10-15 minutes. This can feature any percussion instruments from Marimba, Vibraphone, Snare Drum (Orchestral or Marching), Drum Set, Timpani, Ethnic Percussion or a mix of everything if you are a multi-percussionist. Solo auditions will run from April to December and you can upload your video whenever you are ready. You will also be asked to present a short video outlining a possible clinic topic that you would like to deliver. A solo recital is an alternative option.

If you are applying as an ensemble member, you will be able to register

in April 2015 and download the audition pack. This will consist of some *Maraca2* repertoire and also involve performing alongside backing tracks. Each ensemble member must display on their audition video a high level of virtuosity, a strong internalisation of pulse and subdivision. They must also include a short outline of the clinic that they wish to present on the tour. The deadline for uploading videos is October 2015.

Course Fee Structure

If you are accepted as a soloist on the WPG Tour your week long training course, food per diem, accommodation and internal travel will all be paid for via way of a full scholarship supported by *Maraca2*.

In addition if you are accepted into the ensemble and are asked to become the principal, you will also

have full scholarship support including internal travel, accommodation and a food per diem. WPG principals will also be entrusted with further performance and logistical opportunities and responsibilities.

All other WPG members will be required to cover a portion of expenses totalling a fee of \$3000 US dollars. This will include all your accommodation, food per diem and tour travel.

All ensemble members, principals and soloists will be solely responsible for funding their trip to and from the training camp location. We advise booking long term return flights as a cheaper option than two single one-way fares.

World Percussion Group Frequently Asked Questions



How many members of the World Percussion Group will be selected?

There will be 8 members of the WPG selected for each leg of the tour. In addition there will be a soloist for each leg. Therefore a total of 18 Percussionists (2 Soloists and 16 Ensemble Players) will be selected over the estimated 16 University visits.

I am from outside the USA and Europe. Does this mean I can still apply for WPG?

YES! We only ask that you check if you are eligible to travel on a tourist ESTA visa to the USA or can obtain a required VISA for a period of around 6 weeks. All artists are responsible for researching their eligibility to travel in the USA.

I am from China. How will this affect my application?

Maraca2 recognise that social media and internet is somewhat restricted in some countries. For this reason, we have an agent in China (Bahui International) who will collect DVD auditions and send them to *Maraca2*. Bahui will handle all mainland China applications. <http://www.bahuichina.com/>

If I am selected for the WPG, when do I have to pay my course and tour fee?

All ensemble training course and tour fees will be due in full by Monday 16th November 2015.

If I am on a scholarship, will I still be financially responsible for getting myself to and from the USA training camp?

Yes. You will need to pay for your flights to the training camp and flights back to your place of residence from the last destination on the tour.

When will I be able to apply and download the audition pack to join the WPG?

You will be able to apply around April 2015, when you can log on to our website, apply online and fill in your details. You will then be able to download the audition materials (if you are applying as an ensemble member) and submit your final video by October 2015.

How long will the USA Tour last?

Leg 1 (group 1) of the tour will likely begin around mid February 2016 when we will hold the first training camp. The tour will then last until the 3rd week of March 2016. The training course for Leg 2 (group 2) will likely take place during the 4th week of March, with the tour concluding at the end of April 2016.

Are there any benefits to those unsuccessful in the application process?

Absolutely! We are keen to make this a valuable experience for all applicants and will record all 16 clinics, solo recitals and the final concert. All applicants will have access to this on our website. In addition all applicants will receive a written report and feedback from your audition video given by *Maraca2*.

Am I able to apply as both a soloist and ensemble player?

Yes. It is possible to apply online for both positions. There will be a 10% discount on the total fee payable for multiple applications.

How many Scholarships will be offered?

There will be a total of 4 scholarships offered by *Maraca2*. 2 principal ensemble players and 2 soloists.

Am I right in saying there will be 2 groups selected for the WPG Tour?

Yes, this is correct. *Maraca2* acknowledge that it may not be possible for some artists to travel away from home for so long. (Estimated 5-6 weeks each group). Therefore, there will be two groups selected over the two months, each with 8 ensemble members, a soloist and *Maraca2*.

As a WPG member I will be expected to deliver a clinic. What is the target audience of these clinics?

Yes, this is also correct. Your clinic proposal can be directed towards either high school level OR university level. There will be plenty of interaction with both high schools and universities on the tour so we will place your session accordingly within the two day residencies. The topic is totally free choice and open to the unique specialisms of the artists themselves.

World Percussion Group

Terms & Conditions

General Conditions:

- 1.1** The World Percussion group USA Tour will take place between February and April 2016. All applicants must be available between these times. If you are still in education, please be sure to check with your school or employer as to whether this will be possible.
- 1.2** The official language of the WPG is English. All participants must be able to speak a relatively high level of English to enable the successful delivery of clinic presentations.
- 1.3** The WPG application process is open to percussionists of all nationalities who are between the ages of 18-32 at the time of application. * Please check if you are eligible to travel under a tourist VISA to the USA prior to application.

Applications:

- 2.0** A 10% discount will be due on all application fees fully completed by Tuesday June 30th 2015.
- 2.1** A non-refundable application fee of \$80 will be due online when auditions open. Should members apply for both a solo and ensemble position, a non-refundable fee of \$144 will be due. (This includes a multiple application 10% discount).
- 2.2** All applicants must provide the following:
- (a) a brief resume describing education, performing experience and achievements.
 - (b) high resolution photo (copyright free).
 - (c) upload video audition (Solo Audition 10-15 Minutes Maximum on Marimba / Vibraphone / Snare Drum / Drum Kit / Timpani / Ethnic). Soloists may choose as many or as little instruments as they like. (Ensemble Audition - Set Material).
- 2.3** 32 finalists will be selected for online interview.
- 2.4** Ensemble applicants who are successful must pay a non-refundable course fee and portion of expenses totaling \$3000 by Monday 16th November 2015. This can be done on the website www.worldpercussiongroup.com. Please note that those on scholarships (principals or soloists will not need to pay this fee).
- 2.5** Maraca2 reserves the right to withdraw its invitation to join the WPG and alter any elements of the above terms and conditions.
- 2.6** Maraca2 reserves the right to replace artists for any reason (for example, illness, unprofessional behaviour).

WPG Conditions:

- 2.7** All tour materials will be available for download by December 2015 allowing selected artists around 3 months to learn repertoire for the tour.
- 2.8** All selected artists give permission for WPG to use their promotional material, recorded footage of clinics and concerts for the promotion and benefit of WPG, PAS (Percussive Arts Society), WPG unsuccessful applicants and tour sponsors.
- 2.9** All WPG members, soloists and principals will receive a daily food per diem of \$20 plus breakfast and will be accommodated in a hotel or guest house booked by Maraca2. Maraca2 are not liable to cover any costs above this daily food allocation. Hotel and guest house accommodation is non-negotiable and is at the full discretion of Maraca2.
- 3.0** All WPG members, soloists and principals are responsible for their own travel expenses to and from the USA. If you are a resident of the USA you will need to cover any expenses incurred to attend the training camp.
- 3.1** All WPG members, soloists and principals are responsible for arranging their own travel insurance and travel eligibility documentation valid for travel around the USA for the relevant dates. Refunds cannot be given if entry into the USA is refused.
- 3.2** Maraca2 reserve the right to assign WPG members for **either** leg of the 2016 tour.
- 3.3** Modes of transport around the US will be arranged by Maraca2. These forms of transport are non-negotiable.
- 3.4** WPG members will be selected by Maraca2. Our decision is final.
- 3.5** Successful applicants will be expected to demonstrate a high level of professionalism when touring as part of the WPG. A 'World Percussion Group' code of practice will be published on our website. Non-adherence to these standards can result in termination of a member's activity. Any fees paid by this member will not be refunded.
- 3.6** Precise dates and schedules are subject to change.
- 3.7** All applicants must have a valid passport for the duration of the tour (We strongly advise at least 6 months left on your passport).
- 3.8** WPG members will be working with heavy instruments and equipment. Touring may expose all members to risk of physical and / or emotional injury. Maraca2 and WPG may not be found responsible for claims arising to personal injury, property damage, distress or physical injury.
- 3.9** If members apply for both solo and ensemble positions and are successful in both, the artist can choose which position that they wish to take. It is not possible to accept multiple roles within the ensemble.
- 4.0** Should the selected artists be endorsed by any companies, it is not a guarantee that those instruments will be available on the tour. Instrumentation is provided by each university and all WPG members and soloists will be required to use this equipment.
- 4.0** Maraca2 will not be held liable for any damages to equipment or facilities during the tour.