

the Acoustic Groove Experience

What do Tony Kaltenberg, Michael Manring, and Jarrod Kaplan have in common? Besides being way less attractive than Shakira, they stand out as **exceptional innovators** of their hand-made craft at a time when so much music blends into the realm of formula and in-distinction. Together they create music that is both completely new and yet somehow familiar. The band can best be described as an acoustic based effervescent power trio for the 21st century.

Hailed by many as the world's leading solo **bassist**, Michael Manring has been pushing back the boundaries of what's possible on the bass guitar for over four decades. He has honed his skills on hundreds of recordings as a session musician and thousands of concerts throughout the world. Always adventurous, Michael has worked with a surprisingly diverse collection of musicians from New Age keyboardist Suzanne Ciani to avant-improv guitar innovator Henry Kaiser to celebrated folk troubadour John Gorka to electro-pop pioneer Thomas Dolby. His long-term collaboration and close friendship with the late acoustic guitar genius **Michael Hedges** led to a lengthy stint as **house bassist for Windham Hill Records**; a label for which he also worked as a solo artist. He has garnered two **Gold Records**, **Grammy and Bammie nominations**, a Berklee School of Music Distinguished Alumni Award and numerous Bass Player Magazine Reader's Poll Awards including 1994 Bassist of the Year. **"Forget his astounding technique, musicality and absolute command of his instruments; ...The enlightenment comes most from feeling the joy Michael feels to be playing...his brand of transcendental chops and musical understanding...is all in the service of the final outcome, the joy of making music."** (Tom Darter, *Keyboard Magazine*).

Jarrold Kaplan has earned a great deal of notoriety as the **percussionist** for Seattle based acoustic groups, Trillian Green, Devachan, Hanuman, and Taarka. He is known for his very lively and multi-genred approach so much that whenever he shows up at a music festival, he inevitably ends up as the session percussionist for many bands of all types. Jarrod has performed and **recorded with many renowned acts** including: **The String Cheese Incident**, Keller Williams, The Fareed Haque Group, The Motet, The Tony Furtado Band, Artis the Spoonman, **The California Guitar Trio w/ Tony Levin**, David Jacobs-Strain, among many, many others. If you've ever been to a music festival in the western United States, you've probably seen

him perform, or at least felt his beat coming from somewhere in the distance.

Tony Kaltenberg has been one of the most distinctive sounding **acoustic guitarists** and composers on the circuit. His **mesmerizing percussive style** has been highlighted on radio and television programs as well as performances worldwide, such as the Northwest Folklife Festival in Seattle, The Oregon Country Fair, the Dresden Guitar Festival, and intimate venues in the U.S. and Europe. He has worked with a number of musicians on both shores including: **Joe Craven, Laura Kemp, Alex Kelly, Carsten Hormes, Wolfgang Stute, Matthias Philipzen, Matthias Brodowy**. The sounds he coaxes from the guitar range from sweet, warm finger-styles, to deep, percussive string slaps, from long mystical threads, to rhythmic explosions. His tunes exquisitely blend familiarity with something totally new and remind us that musically he is first and foremost a composer.

While the core of the *Acoustic Groove Experience* is TK on guitar, Michael Manring on fretless bass, and Jarrod Kaplan on percussion, guests sometimes include **Joe Craven** (David Grisman Quintet, Jerry Garcia, Allison Brown ...) on mandolin and fiddle, and **Alex Kelley** on cello.