

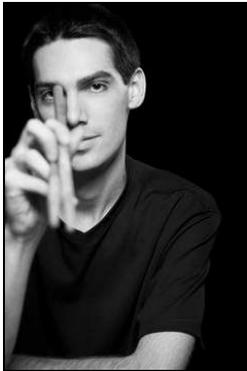
NEWS FROM PLANET KNIFFEN

Jazz fusion group News From Planet Kniffen arose out of Darryl Kniffen's desire for complete creative musical freedom. Thus, Kniffen and his group of all-star musicians recorded nine instrumental tracks in an effort to create "a musical world...of beauty, complexity, and mystery." The result is their debut album, *Dreamland*, which released on April 27, 2018. Jazziz Magazine writes *Dreamland* "displays a range of inspirations and emotions across an evocative nine-song set." One LA Music Critic writes *Dreamland* "is a delectable jazz mix that is both uplifting, upbeat and relaxing." *Dreamland* made it to #5 on the Billboard Contemporary Jazz Album chart and #13 on the Billboard Jazz Album chart.

News From Planet Kniffen emerged in 2014 when Kniffen began composing tunes for a jazz/fusion sextet in his Wilmington VT ski house. Kniffen then assembled a group of stellar musicians he was regularly playing with from VT, NY and MA. News From Planet Kniffen includes Franz Robert on piano, Dylan Canterbury on trumpet, Shaun McCarthy on guitar, Matt Steckler on alto sax, and Jason Schwartz on bass. In the past three years, the group has performed at Rockwood Music Hall, Vermont Jazz Center, Easthampton Jazz Festival and continues to perform nationwide.

Heavy grooves, soaring melodies, and dreamy soundscapes make News From Planet Kniffen's debut album *Dreamland* a wonderfully rich musical experience. In *Dreamland*, the listener is invited to embark on a musical journey through mystery, passion, tranquility, and hope. Darryl Kniffen describes the debut effort as "an opportunity to enter a musical world. A world of beauty, complexity, and mystery." NFPK has created a new sound with *Dreamland* that is distinct and exciting. The opening track "Blackness" has a raw, powerful energy and groove that just won't quit. The second track "Peace Journey" dances through exciting, celebratory peaks and reflective, peaceful valleys. The singular ballad "Midnight Drive" is dreamy, hypnotic and spiritual in nature. The high-energy "Tick Tock" captures the fast-paced, frenetic energy of life through clock-like ostinatos and wild flights of improvisation.

"When taken as a whole, Kniffen's music achieves a naturally balanced panorama that carefully juxtaposes, danceable grooves with dreamy landscapes, intense bebop-influenced instrumental outbursts with mind-calming pads. Kniffen's music is a manifestation of joy and deep reflection and it deserves to be heard." -Eugene Uman, Vermont Jazz Center



About Darryl Kniffen

Darryl Kniffen is an exceptionally creative, passionate, and innovative drummer/educator/composer. His creativity is apparent in all aspects of life, from creating original instruments from recycled materials with his students, to composing inventive pieces that push the boundaries of jazz and rock. Darryl is one of today's most innovative music educators. He takes pride in designing music learning experiences that help students achieve their own personal musical goals and become life-long music participants.

Students in Darryl's classroom can be seen creating music videos, composing innovative pieces with electronic and acoustic instruments, and performing a variety of music from classical to hip hop. In September of 2016, Darryl was named Outstanding Teacher of The Year from the University of Vermont for his work at Arlington Memorial High School.

As a live performer, Kniffen has performed alongside numerous artists including Chilean vocalist Natalia Bernal, Emmy award-winning guitarist/composer Freddi Shehadi, jazz trumpeter Richard Boulger and Saturday Night Live saxophonist Alex Foster.

Today, Darryl continues to explore uncharted territory with his unique compositions and innovative drumming. Whether performing solo, with guest musicians, or with his sextet News From Planet Kniffen, Darryl takes the audience on a wild adventure.