

GUY MENDILOW BAND

Inventive World Music & Outreach

Voted Boston's Best World Music Act — Best Music Poll 2005 — *Boston Phoenix*
Winner, World Music Song Contest 2005 — *Global Rhythm Magazine*
Semi-Finalist, International Songwriting Competition 2006
Top 20 Finalist, Unisong International Songwriting Contest 2006
Winner, Director's Choice Award — Mid Atlantic Song Contest 2006

"Mendilow is no dilettante - he learned the music of these countries by living and working there - so when he sings about a massacre by paramilitaries in Chiapas, he knows what he's talking about."

— *Boston Phoenix*

"The glory of what [Mendilow] does is finding a common ground among different cultures. And that's what makes his music so exciting."

— *Jewish Advocate*

"This is, to folk, what Bela Fleck is to Foggy Mountain Breakdown. This is unusual and exciting."

— *Philadelphia Folk Song Society*



Through inventive arrangements and wildly creative instrumentation, the Guy Mendilow Band transports audiences on a vibrant journey to the places Mendilow has called home — from Israel and South Africa to Mexico, Brazil and the United States — as well as a few destinations that exist only in the group's imagination.

A bow, made with car tire wire, a branch and a gourd transforms into a full drum kit in Mendilow's hands, as he playfully re-invents age-old instruments. Alongside lush vocal harmonies, woodwinds and strings, the five members of the Guy Mendilow Band create intricate textures with berimbaus, percussion, jaw harps that would make beat-boxers' jaws drop, an electrified thumb piano and Mendilow's award-winning overtone singing. Ancient Sephardic romanceros meld with Brazilian bossa and Middle Eastern inflections. Audiences are captivated by the rare sounds drawn from the musical languages with which Mendilow has grown up, tickled by the group's down-to-earth humour, and moved by compositions and arrangements that convey experiences shared despite peoples' differences.

The group's message is coming through loud and clear. The Guy Mendilow Band performs in theaters such as **New York's Tribeca Performing Arts Center** and at some of the nation's most established festivals like **Musikfest** and the **Philadelphia Folk Festival**. Mendilow's innovative workshops, residencies and teacher trainings, focusing on improvisation as a tool for communication, have led to ongoing collaborations with cutting-edge international social justice organizations like **Seeds of Peace** and to invitations to present at schools and conferences across the United States and Brazil.

The Guy Mendilow Band is currently hard at work on its third album, to be released in early 2008.

Photo by Lisa Schaffer

