

The **WHEE3TRIO** is led by drummer Andy Wheelock who is joined by some of the Front Ranges most accomplished, exciting, and in demand musicians. Venezuelan bassist, **Gonzalo Teppa** and Colorado pianist, **Walter Gorra** join Michigan native, now Wyoming resident Wheelock, for a unique and exciting exploration of Jazz infused with Afro-Latin, West African, and pop flavors. Each member brings their own highly regarded experiences as band leaders and composers, but when the three joined forces for this project, the joy of friendship and total trust allowed the music to take on a life all its own. First inspired by Wheelocks study of the Ghanaian Gyl (a wooden xylophone made up of 14 keys, gourd resonators and tuned to roughly a pentatonic scale), the concept for this project began to take shape when Wheelock began exploring playing his Gyl along with live looping and guitar pedals.

The groups debut record, *In The Wheelhouse*, features world renown guitarist, **Gilad Hekselman**, and was named an “Essential album” by Paris Move “for having taken us on a journey into a world that left us deeply moved.”

Andy Wheelock

.....an artist who will likely continue to amaze us for a long time—without too much artifice, but with precision.... – PARIS MOVE

An infectious drummer/percussionist bent toward modern jazz through the lense of “world music”, Andy Wheelock was raised on classic rock, jam bands, and afro-latin Jazz. Along with notable works alongside Ben Markley, Steve Nelson, Gonzalo Teppa, and Jordan Vanhemert, Wheelock has issued his own well-regarded albums such as 2021’s *View From Here* with Ernie Watts and 2024’s *In The Wheelhouse* with Gilad Hekselman. Wheelock has had the honor of sharing the stage with Bill O’Connell, Steve Nelson, Adam Birnbaum, Terrel Stafford, Craig Handy, Jorge Alabe, Ernie Watts, SK Kakraba, Jorge Glem, Bobby Shew, Chuchito Valdés, Joel Frahm, Henry Linarez, Bob Bowman, Ivan Trevino, and William Moersch.

Born in Michigan, Wheelock began drumming in church at 3 under the tutelage of his dad. As a kid, Wheelock honed his craft performing with local bands while learning other instruments in school. Wheelock attended Central Michigan University studying classical percussion and earned a MM and DMA in Jazz from the University of Illinois. Wheelock has studied under Joel Spencer, William Moersch, Andy Spencer, Ricardo Flores, Jeff Hamilton, SK Kakraba, Billy Hart, Keith Hall, Jorge Alabe, Michael Spiro and Richie Gajete.

Wheelocks love of world music has inspired him from early on with Afro-Latin Jazz, odd meters of Serbian folk music, Samba and Candomblé of Brazil, Batá drumming, Sabar drumming, Mbira music, and the Gyl of Ghana. In his teaching, arranging, composing, and performance, Wheelock strives to do all in a way that reflects his deep respect of the people and cultures from where this music comes.

Currently serving as the Director of Jazz Studies and Percussion Area Coordinator at the University of Wyoming, Wheelock is a vested member of the front range music scene and has helped to create a thriving music scene in Laramie, Wyoming. Wheelock endorses Vic Firth, Istanbul Agop Cymbals, Gretsch Drums, Remo drumheads, and Latin Percussion.

Gonzalo Teppa began to study music at eight years old at the Vicente Emilio Sojo Conservatory in his home state of Lara, Venezuela. Mr. Teppa studied with Carmen Alvarado, who chose him as soloist for the Choir of the State of Lara in Venezuela. Mr. Teppa began to study the Double Bass with Luis Guillermo Pérez and in June of 1995 traveled to Spain to study for the summer with the renowned teacher Ludwig Streicher in the city of Santander. In the fall of 1995, he returned to Caracas where he continued and finished his double bass studies at the Simon Bolivar Conservatory with Nestor Blanco. From 1991 to 1995, he was a member of the Symphony Orchestra of the State of Lara in Venezuela. In September of 1995, he joined the Simon Bolivar Symphony Orchestra, with which he played with for seven years. The maestro José Antonio Abreu who created “El Sistema” guided these orchestras.

In 2002, he traveled to the USA to study at the University of Colorado at Boulder, where he obtained his degree under the guidance of Mr. Paul Erhard. Mr. Teppa worked as a Teacher’s Assistant while completing his Master’s degree at the University of Colorado. In 2007, he finished his Master’s Degree in Jazz studies and bass performance with Professor Mark Simon. Mr. Teppa also played with the Boulder Philharmonic while at CU. In 2012, Teppa returned to the Simón Bolívar Orchestra in Caracas Venezuela and worked with the great conductor Gustavo Dudamel, with whom he travelled to Colombia (2013-2014) and Brazil.

In the Jazz genre, Teppa played with such Jazz luminaries as: Wynton Marsalis, Jeff “Tain” Watts, Bobby Shew, Matt Wilson, Ed Simon, Chris Potter, Tom Harrell, Ron Miles, Art Lande, Slide Hampton, Don Byron, Jeremy Pelt, Otmaro Ruíz, Joel Frahm, Ben Goldberg, Rob Sudduth, Ches Smith, Shamie Royston, Kenny Wolleson, Mira Melford. Carla Kihlstedt, Ira Sullivan, Conrad Herwig, Jiggs Whigham, Nelson Rangel, Chip Stephens, Pat Bianchi, Luis Quintero, Calixto Oviedo, Natalie Cressman, Alison Miller, Peter Stolzman, Paul Romaine, Eric Gunnison, Keith Oxman, John Von Ohlen, Brad Goode, John Gunther, Jeff Jenkins, Aruan Ortiz, Kate McGarry, among others

Walter Gorra is an award-winning pianist, composer and arranger based out of the New York/New Jersey metro area. Walter graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder Magna Cum Laude and High Honors in May 2017 with the following three degrees – MS Structural engineering, BM Jazz Piano and BS Civil Engineering. He then pursued a master’s degree in Jazz Composition and Arranging at William Paterson University in New Jersey, graduating in May 2019.

In 2016, Walter led his Colorado quartet in a two-month residency at the Denver jazz club – Nocturne Jazz and Supper Club; performing his original music and arrangements. After completing this residency, he and his group, the Walter Gorra Quartet, dove into the studio to record Walter’s debut album “In Due Time” which was released August 1, 2018. “In Due Time” was nominated for the 17th annual Independent Music Awards (The IMAs) as “Best Jazz Instrumental Album” and in September of 2018 was selected as CD of the month by KUVU Jazz in Denver, CO. In Walter’s own words “music is a way to express oneself in a way that is often more powerful than words. Through my compositions and my playing I can describe people, places and experiences in the best way that I can. My debut album, ‘In Due Time,’ is really a snapshot of many of the events and people that have influenced me as a musician and as a person.”

In 2015, Walter was one of 30 young artists selected by KUVU during their 30th Anniversary year, as part of their “30 Under 30” campaign given them the spotlight and opportunity to have their audience become acquainted with them and their music. In February of 2015, Walter received a grant from the Boettcher Foundation to present and play with NEA Jazz Master Paquito D’Rivera in a

master class and concert. The group, "The Walter Gorra Septet" played with Paquito D'Rivera at the KUVO radio studios in Denver, at the University of Colorado Boulder during a masterclass, and at the Mount Vernon Country Club in Denver.

Walter has worked with Billy Childs, Rufus Reid, Pete McGuinness, Ingrid Jensen, Dave Douglas, Bill Charlap, and Harold Mabern, to name a few. Walter has performed with various ensembles at Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola-Jazz at Lincoln Center, Ravinia Festival, Monterey Jazz Festival, the Jazz Aspen Snowmass Festival, the Puerto Rico Heineken Jazz Festival, the Telluride Jazz Festival with the Telluride All-Stars and at the Five Points Festival in Denver. His compositions have won first rate awards. "Jazongo," the third cut on "In Due Time" earned a 2014 ASCAP Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer's Award. In 2018 his original composition "Bandwidth" was the Downbeat Student Music Awards Graduate Winner. In the performance category, he collaborated with the Mariela Versola Quartet winning the Latin Group – Graduate College 2019 Downbeat Student Music Award. Most recently, Walter was one of 15 Fellows invited to participate in the 2019 Ravinia's Steans Music Institute, Program for Jazz. All 15 fellows write original music in the program and they rehearse with a variety of individuals, learning how to perform well with changing personnel. He has been invited back for upcoming performances as part of a selection of 5 Alumni Fellows. A 2011 Boettcher Scholar, he owes special thanks to the Boettcher Foundation. The Boettcher Foundation has a long history of contributions to Colorado and today continues to invest in the state's "minds and mortar" through its Scholarship Program for Colorado high school seniors.