

## **GUY MENDILOW** Biography

**Musical Director / Composer**  
**Vocals / Overtone Singing**  
**Berimbau /Guitar**

A citizen of Israel, Great Britain and the United States, Mendilow spent his most formative years playing hopscotch between continents when his musician-turned-professor father was invited to a succession of teaching posts. From early childhood on, most aspects of Mendilow's life were a cultural, linguistic and musical mix. He grew up participating in late night song circles and living room concerts with local musicians in his different homes, whether in Jerusalem or Johannesburg and whether the songs were Israeli, South African, English or American.

At ten, Mendilow joined the renowned American Boychoir and kept traveling, touring internationally and domestically and performing some two hundred concerts a year in venues like Carnegie Hall. Mendilow has continued to immerse himself in new cultures, seeking opportunities to learn languages and collaborate with instrument builders and performers. To date, he has lived and performed in South Africa, Israel, Taiwan, Canada, Mexico, Brazil and the United States. He is fluent in four languages: English, Hebrew, Spanish and Portuguese.

Ladino music surrounded Mendilow as a boy growing up in Jerusalem, attending school in one of the larger surviving Ladino communities. "The songs were in the air," Mendilow recalls. Yet often he tuned them out because of dated orchestral arrangements and too-slick production.

"As soon as I started listening *through* the arrangements, to the songs themselves, I fell in love." It's a love affair that only grows deeper and deeper as Mendilow continues to research, listen and learn. Today, Mendilow's goals are to make this music known to broader audiences, regardless of those listeners' religion or ethnicity, "simply because good music ought to be known by everybody." Through the music, Mendilow also explores timely, universal questions of the ways we change and integrate when we land in new homes.

In addition to his concert performances, Guy Mendilow is an accomplished educator deeply committed and passionate about using musical improvisation as a tool for leadership and team building. Mendilow's innovative workshops, residencies and teacher trainings are used by cutting-edge international social justice and mediation organizations like **Seeds of Peace**, which mediates between Israelis and Palestinians and with teen leadership projects like the **Breakthrough Collaborative**, and social justice efforts like **Jaymes Fund for Social Justice**.

Guy presents at schools and conferences across the United States and Brazil on topics such as the use of musical improvisation to heighten leadership and team building. He has performed at Cornell University, Oberlin College, Hebrew Union College and at such conferences as the New Jersey Montessori Administrators Council Conference, and the Conference on Alternatives in Jewish Education at Duke University/University of Vermont.

Guy holds a Masters in Music and International Dalcroze Eurhythmics Certificate from the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, MA.

**Awards & Honors:**

**Boston's Best World Music Act — Boston Phoenix Best Music Poll 2005, 2011**

(readership: 670,000, circulation: 253,000)

**Winner, World Music Song Contest — Global Rhythm Magazine** (circulation: over 600,000)

**Winner, Director's Choice Award — Mid Atlantic Song Contest 2006**

**What They Are Saying:**

*"From the moment they began, the children were mesmerized. Guy Mendilow is not only a talented musician, but a gifted educator as well. He could read the group perfectly and knew exactly what the students needed next. The other musicians in the group were equally talented and the whole group together was one of the best performances I have experienced in over 26 years of education."*

**Tina Monroe, Principal, Indian Creek Elementary School, Cedar Rapids IA**

*"Guy has the ability to make an impact... he brings awe and excitement to the children.... I've had the pleasure of seeing Guy perform and like the children, have been inspired and intrigued by what he has to share both musically and culturally."*

**Mary Schofield, Bright Horizons Family Solutions World Headquarters, Watertown MA**

*"There's nothing that engages kids as much as showing your interest in them: that doesn't happen as a general rule. Guy's commitment grows out of a deep respect for the abilities, potential, and rights of kids"* **Montessori Corner, Plainsboro NJ**

\*\*\*\*\*

The Guy Mendilow Ensemble performs in theaters like the Shalin Liu Performance Center and Manhattan's Tribeca Performing Arts Center, festivals from the Chicago World Music Festival to Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, and is heard on such NPR/PBS programs as Woodsongs Old Time Radio Hour and Curious George.