



UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music  
Department of Ethnomusicology

Summer Sessions 2009  
Instructor Biographies

**Charley Harrison** (ETHNOMU 50AB - Jazz in American Culture)

Composer, arranger and guitarist Charley Harrison is the director of the UCLA Jazz Orchestra, and also the Associate Director and guitarist for the Chicago Jazz Orchestra. Charley's recently released CD, *Keeping My Composure*, received critical acclaim, and appeared on the JazzWeek radio charts for 13 consecutive weeks. Also an active film/TV composer, Charley's recent scoring highlights include writer/director Don Goodman's dramedy, *Lavinia's Heist* (which premiered at the famed Cannes Film Festival); and writer/director Steven Gary Banks' comedy *Head Rush*. Charley's compositions and arrangements have been performed by some of the biggest names in jazz including: Kenny Burrell, Clark Terry, Freddy Cole, Kurt Elling, Joe Williams, and Cedar Walton. A graduate of Northwestern University (MM, Composition; BM, Jazz Arranging), Charley has also attended Boston's prestigious Berklee School of Music. For more information go to: [www.myspace.com/charleyharrison.com](http://www.myspace.com/charleyharrison.com)

**Birgitta Johnson** (ETHNOMU M119 - Cultural History of Rap)

Birgitta Johnson has a Ph.D. in ethnomusicology from UCLA, specializing in African American music and culture. Her dissertation "Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing: Music and Worship in African American Megachurches of Los Angeles, California," examines musical preferences and adaptation in three urban megachurch congregations. Her academic and performance interests include soul/nu-soul, gospel music, praise and worship music, hip-hop, and Afro-Cuban music. In addition, Birgitta plays piano, violin, West African and Afro-Cuban percussion. She has performed with master conguero Francisco Aguabella, and recorded with the Gospel Music Worship of America Mass Choir (*GMWA Live in Kansas City 2004* and *GMWA The Tampa Experience*) and the Faithful Central Bible Church Mass Choir (*Live from Faithful Central Zion Rejoice!*). She has been a visiting lecturer for the Claremont Colleges (Pomona, Pitzer, and Scripps) for the past year.

**Abhiman Kaushal** (ETHNOMU 161 – Music of India)

Abhiman Kaushal is an outstanding tabla artist who is much sought after for his sensitive accompaniment and intense solo playing. He represents the Farukkabad and Lucknow styles of tabla. Having been initiated into the art by his father R. B. Kaushal, who was a disciple of the legendary Ustad Amir Hussain Khan, Abhiman later continued his training under the famous Ustad Sheikh Dawood of Hyderabad, India, and the Ustad's senior most disciple, Pandit B. Nandkumar. Abhiman has accompanied most of the leading musicians, singers and dancers of North Indian classical music. He has toured around the world performing in prestigious venues. He has numerous recordings and world music collaborations. He has recorded a soundtrack for National Geographic's *Man Eaters of North India*, for Zoolander movie and has performed for MTV's Aerosmith icon show in front of a live audience. Recently he was the solo featured musician for the acclaimed electronic dance drama *Ramayana 2k3* which won rave reviews in Los Angeles and New York City.