

### **Geoffrey Whittall**

Geoffrey Whittall is pursuing his Ph.D. at York University. He became interested in ethnomusicology and popular music studies through his research and performances as a percussionist.

To help pay bills as a university student, Geoffrey moved between occasional performances with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra and performances with a Ukrainian-Canadian country wedding band. He then took a step in the direction of learning Latin and other world percussion traditions; a workshop with Sal Ferreras, Glen Velez, and Trichy Sankaran solidified Geoffrey's interest in learning more about performing world music, and led directly to learning about non-performance aspects of music.

Geoffrey has taught percussion and a wide variety of music courses at Grande Prairie Regional College since 1990. In 2008, while chairperson of the College's Fine Arts Department, he started doing research for his dissertation at the Calgary folk music, the Canmore folk music, and the Edmonton folk music Festivals. This continued on until the summer of 2011, at which point he also became a volunteer on the "Green Team" at the Edmonton Folk Music Festival, a role he returned to in 2012 (the photo opposite was taken during a "plate return" shift in 2012). Volunteering was a part of his research into the creation and reception of value at those folk fests; thousands of volunteers work at the bigger festivals, often returning year after year.

While working at York University on a Ph.D. in Musicology and Ethnomusicology, Geoffrey has focused largely on Canadian and popular musics and rhythm. In his research, he has explored ideas about rhythm, folk festivals, Celtic music in Canada, traditional ethnic musics in Canada, and Ukrainian music culture in Grande Prairie. He has also conducted research on micro-temporal variations in soul and the early funk music of James Brown.

Geoffrey has presented papers at conferences of the Society for Ethnomusicology and the International Association for the Study of Popular Music (American chapter). He has contributed articles to the Revised New Grove Dictionary of Music and the New Grove Dictionary of American Music (forth-

coming), and film reviews to the journal *The World of Music*. Currently, he is working on editing a book tentatively entitled *Grassland Sounds* with Gillian Turnbull and Gordon Ross.



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