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Jazz drummer Max has played with all the best

By **MARK ANDREWS**

Is there any jazz legend Max Roach hasn't played with in the past 40 years?

The 64-year-old drummer, who visits the Vancouver East Cultural Centre for two nights next Sunday and Monday, has a resume that reads like a Who's Who of music: Miles Davis, Clifford Brown, Thelonious Monk, Bud Powell, Cecil Taylor, Charlie Parker, Coleman Hawkins...



MAX ROACH

Equally at home with a bebop combo or, as on his Survivors album, a string quartet, Roach is a master of versatility. He does, however, prefer to work with small groups in which the drums have a distinct voice. He often eschews piano, explaining that the instrument "can sometimes lock you into static harmonic and rhythmic attitudes."

Appearing with Roach for the VECC dates are trumpeter Cecil Bridgewater, saxophonist Odean Pope and bassist Tyrone Brown.

Both shows begin at 8 p.m.

Also next Sunday, at the Granville Island Arts Club, another kind of drummer can be heard.

Andy Narell, 33, learned to play the steel drums from Trinidadian immigrants in his native New York City. Steel drums — made from oil barrels that are hammered, fired and tuned into melodic instruments — were developed in Trinidad in the 1930s.

Narell has popularized the instrument in the U.S., leading bands on five album dates and appearing on several movie soundtracks (48 Hours, Cocoon, Ghostbusters).

His approach is less steeped in the Afro-Latin roots of the instrument, and more geared to pop and R&B.

Appearing with Narell at the 7:30 p.m. concert are American guitarist Steve Erquiaga, Jamaican bassist Keith Jones and Dutch drummer Paul Van Wageningen.

Meanwhile, the New Orchestra Workshop's spring concert series moves into week three at the French Cultural Centre this weekend, with the Michael Blake Quartet (Thursday), Lunar Adventures (Friday) and the Graham Ord Trio (Friday). All concerts begin at 8:30 p.m.