

OTHERWORLD

Bio

The contemporary jazz quartet Otherworld blends jazz, classical, and Middle Eastern influences in original compositions with an emphasis on improvisation, played on a mix of acoustic and electric instruments. Otherworld is pianist Jeffrey Chappell, guitarist Jake Kohlhas, bassist Chris Taylor, and percussionist Jake Marinari.

Otherworld has performed at jazz clubs, colleges, and music festivals, and has reached an international audience with radio broadcasts and livestream concerts. Their first two albums, “Otherworld” and “The Realm”, received Global Music Awards.

When the pandemic interrupted Otherworld’s live performance schedule, Chappell and Taylor started writing music together on Zoom, meeting once weekly to create works that communicate love and healing in reaction to tragedy. The result is their third album, “Breathing Room”, which was released on March 29, 2024.

Otherworld’s albums are available on Amazon Music, Spotify, iTunes, YouTube, Bandcamp, and Soundcloud. For more information about Otherworld, please visit <http://www.otherworldjazz.com/> . Contact Otherworld at otherworldjazz@gmail.com

Pianist Jeffrey Chappell has performed throughout the United States and internationally with major symphony orchestras and at venues including Carnegie Hall. He has appeared at jazz festivals such as the East Coast Jazz Festival and Key West International. A recording artist, award-winning composer, and bestselling author, he is Professor Emeritus at Goucher College where he was Director of Jazz Studies and is on the faculty of Levine Music in Washington, D.C. He studied with Leon Fleisher, Rudolf Serkin, Eleanor Sokoloff, and Jane Allen. His mother played Chopin and his father played boogie-woogie. jeffreychappell.com

Guitarist Jake Kohlhas is a Baltimore-based guitarist, composer, and educator. He graduated from Goucher College, where he currently teaches, with a B.A. in Jazz Studies. His professional projects include the hip-hop/jazz/fusion collective J. Pope And The HearNow and contemporary jazz quartet Otherworld. In 2019 he led various jazz trios as part of the “Emerging Artist Series” at The Bar Next Door in NYC. With J. Pope And The HearNow he has performed on the main stage at Baltimore’s Artscape, the Millennium Stage at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC, and at the BSO in Baltimore. While he spends most of his time playing and thinking about the guitar, he also enjoys cooking and is a passionate basketball fan.

Bassist Chris Taylor is a Baltimore-based electric bassist whose passion for music is driven by performance and composition. With a BA in Psychology from Goucher College, Chris has served as a volunteer music mentor and private instructor for youth and adults both locally and abroad, including with organizations such as the Yo Academy of Baltimore, MD, the ArtSinitiative in Riverdale, MD, the Park School of Baltimore, and the Open Music School in Berlin, Germany. Furthermore, he has performed, recorded, and toured with music groups in North America, most notably with the American singer-songwriter Bosley, funk and soul artist Joe Keyes and The Late Bloomer Band, and the contemporary jazz quartet Otherworld.

Percussionist Jake Marinari is the founder of Charm City Music School and also serves on the faculty of Goucher College as a drum set instructor. Jake earned a Bachelor of Music as a scholarship student at Goucher College, where he was awarded the Robert Hall Louis Prize for extraordinary achievement in music. He has recorded multiple award-winning albums and performed throughout North America and Europe with the soul musician, Bosley, and the contemporary jazz quartet, Otherworld. He studied frame drum and darbuka with the world-renowned percussionist Yshai Afterman in Israel, guitar with Pete Smyer and Jake Kohlhas, saxophone with Richard Orr and Lamont Caldwell, piano with Jeffrey Chappell, and drumset with Ed Nardi, Nick Wight, Wes Crawford, Dr. N. Scott Robinson, Mark Moshayev, Daniel Glass, and Frank Russo.