The Bert Seager Trio is a chamber-jazz trio featuring piano, upright bass, and hand percussion that plays all original music. They bring their audiences into unexpected sonic landscapes not usually associated with improvised jazz music. The joyful expression of their musical intimacy, the shimmering transparency of the sound, and the sense that these musicians are as much involved in listening as in playing makes for compelling and memorable performances.

The group is led by **Bert Seager,** an American jazz pianist, composer, band director, recording artist, and educator. He teaches on the college faculty at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Massachusetts in the Jazz and Contemporary Improvisation Departments. Bert has led performances in international jazz festivals in Canada, Peru, Bulgaria, Jordan, Ecuador, Israel, and in Japan 15 times.

**Ehud Ettun’s** imaginative and conversant upright bass playing, along with **Yshai Afterman’s** virtuosic and scintillating tambourines and frame drums create transparent sonic landscapes that are perfectly suited to Bert’s exquisite pianism, providing the drive and foundation, for the richly nuanced harmonic palette of his original compositions.

As a composer, Bert is a three-time recipient of a prestigious MacDowell Colony Fellowship, an artists residency program in Peterborough, New Hampshire. He has recorded 15 compact discs which have all been released internationally to critical acclaim. Cadence Magazine says Bert’s music is filled with “effervescent optimism.” And the Boston Globe wrote that his “kind of exuberance makes the jazz world go round.”

The Trio offers engaging master music classes, lectures for audiences of non-musicians, as well as participatory improvisation workshop/demonstrations. These are designed to further the understanding of the musical process and more importantly, to illuminate the metaphor of improvisation as an expression of freedom within agreed-upon constraints. Bert's compositions, their group improvisations and teaching all reflect both an inward and outward-looking view of life and music. Participants sing, dance, drum, and play all while gaining a deeper understand of how to listen and be aware -- essential elements in getting along in the world.

Israeli double bass player **Ehud Ettun** has performed at venues ranging from New York's Blue Note to Washington's Kennedy Center to Boston's Symphony Hall and has collaborated with artists such as Danilo Perez, Fred Hersh, Eli Degibri, Anat Cohen, Ferenc Nemeth, Donny McCaslin, Frank London and others.

A compelling new voice on the world music scene, Israeli percussionist **Yshai Afterman** draws on Indian, Turkish, Persian and Arabic traditions, blending them with modern innovations into a highly technical, melodic and rhythmic style. Yshai is endorsed by Cooperman Frame Drums (USA), Hands On Drums Percussion (Germany) and Kandu Cajons (Israel).