Will Clipman

percussionist ● poet ● performing & recording artist ● maskmaker ● storyteller ● educator

Will Clipman began playing his father's drums and his mother's piano at the age of three. He played his first professional gig at fourteen, and has since then mastered a pan-global palette of over one hundred percussion instruments in addition to the traditional drumset. Will is a six-time GRAMMY® Nominee, a three-time Native American Music Award Winner, a Canadian Aboriginal Music Award Winner, a New Age Reporter Music Award Winner, and a two-time TAMMIE Award Winner; and has been inducted into the Tucson Musicians Museum for his contributions to the musical community in his hometown. Will has recorded over sixty albums, including over thirty for Canyon Records, where he is regarded as the house percussionist. In addition to his solo work, Will performs with R. Carlos Nakai, William Eaton, Solvei & ZumaSOL, Amber Norgaard, Gabriel Ayala, and Coyote Jump, among many other internationally-acclaimed artists and ensembles. Will's solo CD Pathfinder earned a GRAMMY® Nomination for Best New Age Album. His Planet of Percussion® performance and workshop provides a hands-on tour of world music rhythm and polyrhythm.

A poet since the age of six, Will has published a book of his original poetry entitled Dog Light (Wesleyan University Press) and his work has appeared in numerous anthologies and literary journals. His writing has been honored with the Whiffen Poetry Prize, the Academy of American Poets Margaret Sterling Award, the Tucson/Pima Arts Council Poetry Fellowship, and the Arizona Commission on the Arts Award of Merit for Poetry. His poem The Quiet Power is the official Dedicatory Poem of the Tucson Main Library.

Will is also an accomplished maskmaker and storyteller. His Myths & Masks® performance and workshop combines his original mask art, mythopoetic storytelling, and multicultural world music, and is now available as a DVD. Will has provided over two hundred workshops, lecture-demonstrations, master classes, full-length artist-in-residencies, and self-realization events to elementary, middle, and high schools, colleges and universities, art galleries, libraries, adult prisons, juvenile detention facilities, senior centers, hospitals, parks and recreation programs, retreat centers, spas and resorts. His service to the community as an arts educator has been honored with the Arizona Commission on the Arts Decade of Distinguished Service Award and two Governor's Arts Award Nominations.

Will holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Syracuse University, and a Master of Fine Arts Degree from the University of Arizona.