



**The Mickey Hart Band**  
**Irving Plaza; Thursday, May 11**

Appreciation of Mickey Hart's ever-evolving polyrhythmic ethnomusicological explorations is not limited to dreadlocked leftovers from the Grateful Dead's lengthy "Drums/Space" interludes. Didja get that? Go ahead and read it again 'cuz the point can't be made strongly enough. Hart is recognized by scholars and music lovers alike for his continual contributions to the spread of world-music styles beyond their borders of origin. His own albums, whether under the moniker Mickey Hart's Mystery Box, Planet Drum, or (check this history!) Rhythm Devils, are often the culmination of his most recent adventures, bearing such apt titles as Rolling Thunder, Supralingua ("beyond words"), and his most recent, Spirit Into Sound.

His live shows always tap into the same source. In the concert setting, Hart creates an environment in which numerous cultures—represented by the most primitive of instruments (like the didgeridoo) and the most modern of technology (like his own sampler software invention R.A.M.U., the Random Access Musical Universe), can coexist on one stage. Moreover, the way Hart sets it up, these diverse sounds blend together so naturally that they seem to have always belonged together.

Touring now as the Mickey Hart Band, which features Grateful Dead vocalist-keyboardist Vince Welnick, the tone will take on a much larger rock role, but don't discount the history of Hart's cross-cultural musical mingling. Hart will be occupying a smaller stage in a smaller venue than he normally does, so the atmosphere should be a bit more intimate (or intensely crowded, depending on how you look at it). Regardless, Hart's performance should be as satisfying as it's always been, full of life and energy.

**Robin A. Rothman**  
**Time Out New York**  
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