

I am originally from the French part of Canada, was born there, but spent nearly all my early years in northern Maine, in a town called Madawaska (which means "Land of the Porcupine" in an old native language). I played snare drum in the junior high school marching band for a couple of years, but wasn't very inspired so gave up on music for the next 30 years, in the meantime thinking a lot about physics. After hosting latin dance parties at my house for several years and banging on the conga drums that were around after midnight, I finally decided I needed to learn to play this rich, invigorating music. A few trips to Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic definitely helped me fall in love with this music, as did a prolonged stay in Madrid, where I learned to speak Spanish. I've only been a student of the fabulous timbales for 2 years, and I've never had a teacher, except for Tito Puente through his book, so go easy! Playing with this band is a dream come true. I hope to retire on a cruise ship as part of the ship's latin band.