

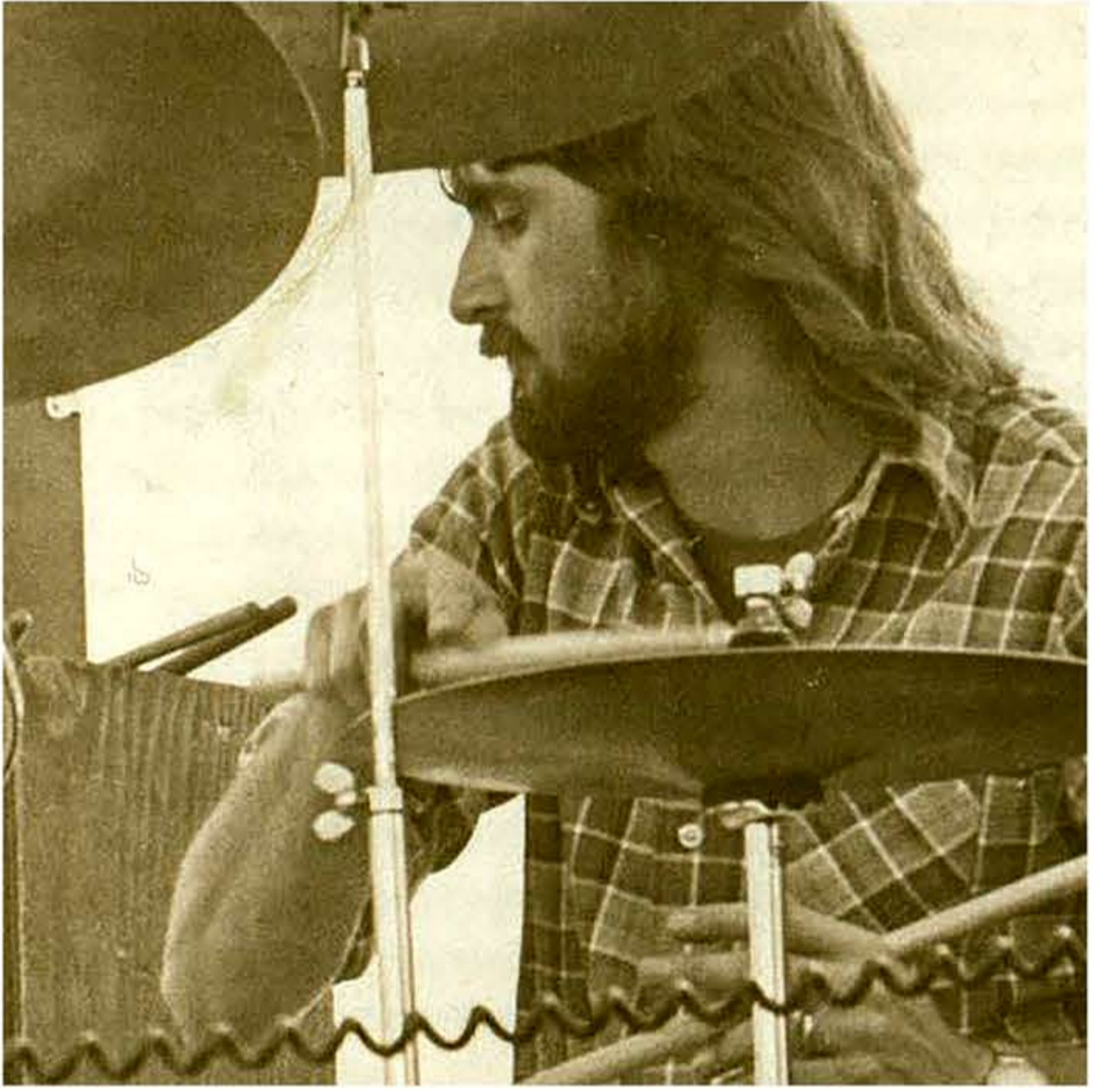


Musicians of the Midnight Sun

Thank you for visiting the Musicians of the Midnight Sun website. Even though these blogs are being posted many weeks after the launch of the Musicians of the Midnight Sun website, my hope is that they will remain as a document along with the website itself with the intention to give a little bit more of a personal story of my relationships with these featured artists.

John Telgen

There are a couple of musicians who were very influential to me when I was starting out, one of them is *John Telgen* or *JT*. I first got to hear *John* playing drums when I was sneaking into bars for the Saturday afternoon jam sessions at 15 years old. In a couple of years, I was playing 6 nights a week with him in the band “Friends” with *Sandy Wilson* and *Terry Mercer*. I was incredibly fortunate to be playing with him at such a young age. His fluid yet solid playing was instrumental in achieving my own sense of groove and feel. Playing 6 nights a week, there was more of an improvisational approach to our playing to keep the music interesting and challenging.



John Telgen, early 1970s, Yellowknife, NT. (photo courtesy Debbie Telgen)

On our time off, *JT* and I would catch music on his cable TV, on his stereo or in his 1967 Bronco, tearing around out on the ice, eating mint Oreo cookies and listening to incredible Jazz/Fusion on the tape deck. I was really hungry for music when I started out, looking for players such as *JT* to feed me what they were listening to and would be knocking on their door to turn me on to more. Not a bad way to grow up.



“Friends”, L-R Pat Braden, The late great Terry Mercer, Sandy Wilson, John Telgen, Yellowknife, NT. 1979

It was so good to finally sit down with *JT* and to hear his stories of his own early days of playing music in Ontario in the mid to late 1960s. I end up swooning when someone takes me back to that time in Toronto when all of this incredible new music was exploding not only from Canadian bands but from the American bands touring north of the border. Again, it was a time I missed out on and thankful that I could get a hit from that time from players like *JT* who lived through it as young musicians.