A graduate of the Eastman School of Music (MM ’09) and Whitworth University (BA ‘05), drummer Chris Teal is the co-Director of the Institute for Creative Music. In addition to his active career as a performer, Teal strives to build new opportunities for students to experience the arts from his home base of Rochester, NY and beyond.  Along with other Teaching Artists from the Institute for Creative Music, Teal has presented clinics at the University of Rochester, Whitworth University, the University of Montana, Eastern Washington University, Monroe Community College, and middle schools and high schools in New York, Arizona, Washington, Montana, Idaho, and Pennsylvania.

Emerging in 2009, Teal’s band Quintopus has been an outlet for original creative music.  Signing to ears&eyes Records in 2010, Quintopus’ debut album Voyage to Ornoc “…incorporates so many influences into a brew that is steeped in traditions but also has a shot of rock-n-roll sensibility” (Jazz@Rochester.com.) Turning a corner into electric experimentalism in 2011, the group plans to release their second album in 2014.