

# DR. JONATHAN McCASLIN - B.Mus, M.Mus, DMA

## *Jazz Drummer, Composer and Educator*

- **EDUCATION**

2007 – 2015	Doctor of Musical Arts (Performance, Jazz Studies) University of Toronto (Toronto, ON)
2000 – 2002	Master of Music (Jazz Performance) McGill University (Montreal, QC)
1995 – 1999	Bachelor of Music (Jazz Performance) McGill University (Montreal, QC)

- **RESIDENCIES AND INDEPENDENT STUDY PROJECTS**

2016	Jazz composition studies with Dave Restivo (Toronto, ON) funded by the Calgary Musician's Association <i>Richard Cowie Memorial Scholarship Fund</i>
2012	Vibraphone studies with Allan Molnar (New York City) funded by the Canada Council for the Arts
2010	TD Winter Jazz Residency (Banff Centre)
2006	KoSa Afro-Cuban Drumming Workshop (Havana, Cuba) funded by the Alberta Foundation for the Arts
2006	Jazz Orchestra Workshop (Banff Centre)
2004	Self-directed composition and arranging residency funded by Le Conseil des Arts et des Lettres du Quebec (Montreal, PQ)
2004	Drum set studies with Matt Wilson (New York City) funded by the Canada Council for the Arts
1999	Fall Career Development Residency (Banff Centre)
1997	Banff International Jazz Workshop

- **RECORDINGS (as a leader)**

2013	Trio3 YVR
2012	Sunalta
2006	CBC Saskatchewan Gallery Session
2002	McCallum's Island

- **SELECTED RECORDINGS (as a sideman)**

2017	Rubim DeToledo	"The Gap"
2013	Rubim DeToledo	"The Bridge"
2011	Art Pepper+11 Tribute Project (CBC Saskatchewan)	
2006	Barrage	"Dig a Little Deeper"
2004	Barrage	"The Vagabond Tales"
2003	Montreal Jazz Big Band	"Passion Afro-Cubaine"
2003	Johanne Desforges featuring Jeff Johnston	"Quiet Times"
2001	Johanne Desforges	"White Nights"
1999	McGill University Jazz Orchestra	"Sang Froid"

- **PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE (selected highlights)**

- Freelance jazz drummer and sideman with Canadian and Internationally recognized jazz artists including:

PJ Perry	Phil Dwyer	Brad Turner	Kirk MacDonald
David Braid	Campbell Ryga	Jason Marsalis	Tommy Banks
Mulgrew Miller	Brian Lynch	Dick Oatts	Luis Bonilla
Terrell Stafford	Pat LaBarbera	Hugh Fraser	Don Thompson
Ralph Bowen	George Colligan	Sean Jones	Oliver Jones
Ross Taggart	Wycliffe Gordon	Chucho Valdez	Kelly Jefferson
Hendrik Meurkens	Sheila Jordan	Charlie Biddle	Hadley Caliman
Peter Bernstein	Harold Mabern	Jeff Johnston	Steve Amirault
Kevin Dean	Andre White	Mike Downes	Jodi Proznick

- Performances as a **leader** at major Canadian jazz clubs and festivals including:

Montreal International Jazz Festival	Edmonton Jazz Festival
Saskatchewan Jazz Festival	Yardbird Suite (Edmonton, AB)
Beatniq Jazz & Social Club (Calgary, AB)	The Cellar (Vancouver, BC)
Regina Jazz Society	The Bassment (Saskatoon, SK)
The Rex Hotel (Toronto, ON)	Upstairs (Montreal, PQ)

- 2018 – Present **Tim Tamashiro *When You're Smiling* Quartet**
- 2012 – Present **Calgary Creative Arts Ensemble** (co-leader and drummer)

- 2011 – Present      **Decidedly Jazz Danceworks** (drummer/percussionist)
  - 2020      Beautiful Noise
  - 2019      Lovestruck
  - 2019      Better Get Hit in Your Soul: The Life and Music of Charles Mingus \*Revisited\*
  - 2017      The New Vaudevillians
  - 2015      Ziriguidum
  - 2014      The Year of the Horse: The Completely Fictional Tales of Josephine Baker
  - 2013      Better Git Hit in Your Soul: The Life and Music of Charles Mingus
  - 2011      Wilds
- 2004 – 2006      **Barrage**      Musical stage production touring North America, Europe and Asia
- 2000 – 2004      **Johannes Desforges Quartet**      Weekly performances at Biddles Jazz Club (Montreal, PQ)
- 2000      **Saskatchewan Express**      Tour of Western Canada

- **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

- Private teaching studio
- Clinician      Calgary Public and Catholic School Boards  
Prairielands Summer Jazz Workshop (Regina, SK)
- Guest Lecturer      University of Calgary  
Grant MacEwan University  
University of Saskatchewan  
University of Regina  
Brandon University  
Mount Royal Conservatory
- Adjudicator      Optimist Band Festival (Regina, SK)  
Brandon Jazz Festival  
Moose Jaw International Band Festival  
Jazz Works (Edmonton, AB)  
Unifest (Saskatoon, SK)  
Springfest (Regina, SK)

- **VOLUNTEER WORK**

- 2019 - Present                      **Theatre 1308**                      (Calgary, AB)  
  
Curator of ongoing jazz series featuring local Calgary jazz artists with an emphasis on original music <https://www.theatre1308.com/>
- 2015 – Present                      **BuckingJam Palace**                      (Calgary, AB)  
  
Consultant for booking artist performers and logistical support for yearly jazz concert season <https://buckingjampalace.com/>
- 2015 - Present                      **Western Canadian Music Awards – Breakout West**  
  
Juror for *Best Jazz Recording* category
- 2014                                      **JUNO AWARDS**  
  
Juror for *Traditional Jazz Album of the Year* category

- **PUBLICATIONS**

- 2009 – Present                      ***Four on the Floor*** – on-line jazz drumming blog  
<http://www.jonmccaslinjazzdrummer.blogspot.com/>
- 2015                                      ***Melodic Jazz Drumming*** - Doctoral Thesis  
University of Toronto  
<http://hdl.handle.net/1807/69408>

## **ARTISTIC STATEMENT**

I am a jazz drummer and “rhythm is my business”. My principal instrument is the drum set as well as being a vibraphonist, percussionist and jazz composer/arranger who composes original music. I am a performer, educator and recording artist. My creative activities as a mid-career artist afford me professional opportunities across Canada. I believe in the importance of pursuing my own projects as well as collaborating with other Albertan, Canadian and international jazz artists. My artistic goal is to develop a distinct and unique voice as a contemporary jazz drummer and composer. I wish to develop my craft and share my creative journey with other jazz artists, fostering musical collaborations and creating relationships while always contributing, animating and investing in my community.