

JASON LEE BRUNS

Jason Lee Bruns (b. October, 3, 1979, Coldwater, Ohio) is an American percussionist, drummer, producer, and educator specializing in Pop, Rock, Funk, R&B, Jazz, Brazilian, and Afro-Latin drum set styles. His playing is known for his ability to sound like five drummers at once, fierce leadership from behind the kit, solid and driving grooves, and subtle melodic fills that confidently lead the band. He is also a well-trained classical percussionist, plays the soprano steel pan, and is a specialist in Brazilian & Cuban percussion instruments and genres - all of which influence his drum set playing to sound unique.

As either a drummer and/or percussionist Jason has been in the house bands for Beck, Lewis Price (The Temptations), Neil Sedaka, Liane Carroll (2x BBC Jazz Award Winner) and the L.A. Master Coral. Jason has performed at L.A.'s top venues including Disney Hall, House of Blues, Herb Alpert's Vibrato, Vitello's, and Catalina Jazz Club on the Sunset Strip.

As a producer and band leader Jason has released six self-produced CD's on his own label (Panout Music Group) most recently "Live at Catalina Jazz Club" preceded by "45 RPM", "with Jason Gamer", "The Egrem Session" recorded at the famous Egrem Studio in Havana Cuba (i.e. Buena Vista Social Club), "L.A.C.E." by the L.A. Caribbean Ensemble, his demo reel "Tapas", and the single "Where I'm Going".

Jason holds a Bachelors of Music and a minor in composition from Miami University (Ohio) and a Masters in Jazz Studies from the University of Southern California, as well as performer's certificates from the Mangueira Samba School in Brazil and the International Folklore Laboratory in Havana, Cuba. Jason is also an AVID "Certified ProTools Instructor" and holds a Master's Certificate in audio production from Berklee Music. He studied in order under Don Donnett, Ray Weiner, John Taylor, Cliff Bowerman, Dr. Bill Albin, Aaron Serfaty, Peter Erskine, and Terri Lyne Carrington.

Jason has held an artist residency for the City of L.A. ("L.A.'s Best"), taught for USC "Jazz Reach", and is the founder of both

the World Music and Recording Arts programs at Campbell Hall's new Arts and Education Center in North Hollywood, CA. These programs include two Steel Drum Orchestras, Brazilian Bateria, Salsa Band, West African Drumming, and a State-of-the-Art industry standard recording facility.

As an author Jason's method on teaching rhythmic notation was published by the Percussive Arts Society's academic journal "Percussive Notes". He is a member of the American Federation of Musicians (Local 47), BMI, the Percussive Arts Society, and the Recording Academy (Grammy's/NARAS). His music is available on iTunes, Amazon and CDBaby, and is heard on Pandora Radio, Spotify, and 300+ terrestrial FM radio shows nationwide.

The Jason Lee Bruns Collective soared up the American Jazz charts, with Live at Catalina's Jazz Club peaking at #8 on the CMJ Top 40 Jazz Chart, cementing their place among the likes of major label artists such as Chick Corea (Concord Music Group), Trombone Shorty (Verve), Preservation Hall Jazz Band (Legacy), and Joey DeFrancesco (Highnote) alike.

"I know I know normally when you see the word collective afixed to a band name you immediately get a bad taste in your mouth, but this time it actually tastes pretty good. There is some good variety here with both the vocal, percussion, and horn elements. Play and enjoy and repeat. Sounds Like: Dave Mathews Band vocals with Real Jazz percussion and horns Recommended."

~Daniel Witter, KAMP Tucson, AZ.

"I had just listened to the first couple of cuts and knew it was a good album. Now I have finished listening to it and must correct myself.....this is a GREAT album! FIVE STARS!!! You all totally rock! Congrats on quite an accomplishment!"

~Carl Stewart, KRTU San Antonio, TX.





“...Bruns is not only a talented drummer, but also a skilled composer and arranger and he deftly demonstrates this on this live album. His adaptations of selections by Coltrane, Thelonious Monk, Antonio Carlos Jobim as well as others invite the listener to return again and again.”

~Paul Wilson, Audiophile Review Magazine

“...a rhythmic colourist who works beyond his drums set; ...His polyrhythmic inventions come from a head full of sounds. His capacity to be creative is truly impressive and Mr. Bruns is melodic to boot. This comes from the maturity of not simply having being born of Elvin Jones, but also Max Roach and Roy Haynes; and of course a propensity to invent and create magical structures and cycles. ...”

~Raul da Gama, Jazz da Gama

“These are thoroughgoing professionals who not only understand jazz and the Latin mode but also are such gifted musicians that each one is a soloist on his own right.”

~Grady Harp, Amazon.com (5 stars), Hall of Fame, Top 50 Reviewer, Vine Voice

“It’s a mélange to die for. The vocalists singing and scatting in English and Portuguese, solos from the horns, great drumming from Bruns and the ensemble in full swing. No wonder it was a packed house. Thank god for this CD.”

~Lance Liddle, Bebop Spoken Here (UK)

“With an affinity for Latin/Arfo-Caribe sounds leading the way, whether rocking or jazzing or mixing up both, Bruns delivers a party groove that is so on the natch that he makes covers his own with an undetectable ease. This set is a gasser and it’s loaded with the vibe of making you wish you were there at this live recording. Hot stuff throughout.”

~Chris Spector, Midwest Record

“Recorded live at the Catalina Jazz Club, this album showcases the solid talents of the players.”

~Don Seven, LMNOP Magazine

“This CD cooks and any Jazz buff will love every song. For his CD [Jason Lee Bruns] he gathered 7 outstanding players to support him in this effort. The results are spectacular, providing the listener with fresh, new sounds and rhythms that bring new life into some evergreens that might need some refreshing.”

~Robert Nicosia, Music Man Review

“Bruns is a highly adept drummer and percussionist who can easily sound like two or three players at once. Ultra-precise and amazingly peripatetic, standing clearly out amid an octet that’s equally on the mark, the guy embraces the small big band format with vigor, nuance, and aplomb.”

~Mark S. Tucker, FAME Review

“Drummer Jason Lee Bruns leads a fine Jazz Collective...The program is composed of great contemporary jazz, and Latin selections and come alive in this vibrant set recorded at the Catalina Jazz Club in Hollywood. Bruns gives it punch, makes it inviting and easy to embrace.”

~D. Oscar Groomes, O’s Place Jazz Magazine

“Jason’s super drumming style, as well as the high energy he’s assembled on these 9 songs from the show will stay high on your playlists – particularly if you’re in a “road trip” frame of mind.”

~Rotcod Zzaj, Improvijazzation Nation

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