

Peter O'Brien, Drums

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Peter O'Brien was born in Flushing, Queens, New York. The son of drummer Bill O'Brien, Peter began playing the drums as soon as he could sit up at the set, playing along with recordings of Miles Davis, John Coltrane and all the greats of jazz. Formal studies with his father began at the age of five.

Peter attended St. Andrew Avellino grammar school and at age seven tried out for and was accepted into the school orchestra, which consisted of seventh and eighth graders. He then received a music scholarship from Power Memorial Academy High School. Peter studied privately with **Charlie Perry** from age 13 through 17. In 1976, at age 16, Peter attended a drum clinic held by Charlie at Hofstra University. The last week of the clinic featured studies with **Jack DeJohnette**, whose interest in Peter led to recommendations to **John Ambercrombie**, **Bill Connors** and **Miroslav Vitous**. After graduating high school, Peter decided to forgo college and dove headfirst into the New York City jazz scene garnering the attention of drummers **Jo Jones Jr.**, **Al Foster**, **Jimmy Lovelace**, and **Michael Carvin** (with whom Peter studied in 1978-79).

After a period of sitting in at jam sessions and gigging around the city, Peter went on the road with various showbands touring the US. In 1982, he toured the US with **Brother Jack McDuff** and, from 1984-1985, performed all over the US and Canada with the **Edgar Winter Band**. The band featured the legendary singer **Jerry LaCroix** (original lead singer for **White Trash**) and is the only band to perform the jazz-inflected fusion material from Edgar's first groundbreaking record "**Entrance**" (Epic), as well as his rock and blues music. During this time, Peter also performed several dates with **Roy Buchanan**, including a sold-out show at the Beacon Theatre with **Johnny Winter**, **Buddy Guy** and **Junior Wells**. From 1986-1987, Peter toured Europe with **Mark McMillan** (songwriter for Chaka Khan).

In early 1988, Peter moved from NYC to Woodstock, New York, and soon began working with **John Hall**. In 1989, Peter became a member of Hall's band **Orleans** (*Still The One*, *Dance With Me*). Peter has appeared on seven CD's (four with Orleans, three with Hall), three tours of Japan (two with Orleans, one with Hall), and countless US tours and dates (including Woodstock '94) and was the subject of a feature article published in *Modern Drummer's Rhythm and News* (Japan). Peter toured and recorded with Orleans through 2004. Peter also freelanced throughout this period and did other major tours with Dr. Lonnie Smith (Spain 1992), Rory Block (US and Europe 1996-7) and Tracy Nelson (US 1998).

Peter joined saxophonist Eric Person's band, **Eric Person and Meta-Four** in February of 2001. Eric, Peter and band mates John Esposito (piano) and Kenny Davis (bass) performed at the **Guimaraes Jazz Festival** in Portugal in November 2002, and "Live at Big Sur" was released in 2003 from their 2001 performance at the Big Sur Jazz Festival.. Peter is also a member of the **John Esposito Trio** with **Ira Coleman** on bass. Ira and Peter are featured on Esposito's 2003 release "Down Blue Marlin Road" and saxophonist **Jeff Marx's 2003 CD "Treading Air, Breathing Fire"**. During this period Peter also appeared on the 2004 Esposito Quintet record "The Blue People" with Eric Person, trumpeter Greg Glassman, and Kenny Davis.

Peter continued touring and recording with Eric Person and Meta-Four through 2007 with extensive U.S. tours in 05,06 and 07. Along with performances at major clubs and festivals throughout the U.S., the band gave master classes at many of the top colleges and universities in the country. Peter appeared on two additional CD's with Eric; Reflections and Rhythm Edge released in 2005 and 2007 respectively.

Peter has been a member of pianist, composer Peggy Stern's Estrella Trio since 2005 and is on the 2006 release, Estrella Trio. Performances include Club Kitano in NYC, The Deer Head Inn and The Homer Jazz Festival in Homer Alaska as well as yearly appearances at the Wall St. Jazz Festival in Kingston, NY (2005-2010).

Peter's long association with John Esposito continues to date with appearances on John's latest CD releases: Book of Five Rings (2009), Orisha (2010) and on saxophonist Mitch Kessler's two CD's on John's SunJump Records label; Erratica, and Erlkonig. Other CD's on SunJump that feature Peter are Bloom of Creation, Jayna Nelson; and Earthship, Sangeeta Michael Berardi. Peter also will be on the documentary and recording abouta Sangeeta by filmmaker Burril Crohn and SunJump Records

2014-15 has been a very busy time for Peter as he has returned to touring with Orleans (including dates playing with Paul Barrere and Fred Tachette fro Little Feat) as well as continued work with both John Esposito (quintet recording featuring Greg Glassman, Stacy Dillard, and Ira Coleman) and Christine Spero (Spero plays Nyro project revisiting Laura Nyro's music to much critical acclaim from both live performances at Mountain Jam, The Cutting Room(nyc) & others and new CD) and many others

In addition to his busy performance schedule, Peter teaches at home and at Bard College and freelances as a studio session player. He has played on national jingles for **Continental Airlines, AT&T, Macy's** and **Burger King**. He has also worked as a clinician at **Bard College, SUNY New Paltz, and Western Connecticut University**.

Discography:

Year Recorded Artist Title Label -Release Date

1991 - Orleans *Orleans Live* Pony Canyon
1991 - Peter Tomlinson *Momentum* Compose
1992 - Lloyd Donnelly *Lloyd Donnelly* 7 Records
1992 - James Finn *Talking With Angels* TWIA)
1993 - John Hall *On A Distant Star* Pioneer LDC
1993 - Artie Traum *Letters From Joubee* Shanachie
1993 - Jay Ungar & Molly Mason *Brother's Keeper Soundtrack* London (Nominated For An Academy Award) 1993 - Betty McDonald, *Standard Elegance* MacDee Records
1994 - Various Artists *Vineyard Sounds* Pioneer LDC
1994 - Various Artists *Where Woodstock Lives* Pioneer LDC
1994 - Orleans *Analog Men* Pioneer LDC
1994 - Various Artists *Woodstock Holidays* Pioneer LDC
1994 - Lunch Meat *Lunch Meat*
1996 - Sangeeta Michael Berardi *Earthship* Sunjump -2008 1996 - Sangeeta Michael Berardi *Calling Coltrane* Sunjump - 2012
1996 - Orleans *Ride* BMG 1997 - John Esposito *A Book Of Five Rings* Sunjump - 2008
1998 - John Hall *Recovered* Siren Songs
1999 - John Hall *Love Doesn't Ask* Siren Songs 1999 - Jayna Nelson *Bloom Of Creation* Sunjump - 2009
1999 - Gaye Adegbalola *Bitter Sweet Blues* Alligator - 1999
2000 - Jonell Mosser *So Like Joy* Siren Songs
2000 - Mike DeMicco As The Sun Sets *Blue Forest*
2000 - Joe Piket *Nine Times Framed*
2001 - Jim Barbaro *Smashville*
2002 - Orleans *Still The One Live* Major Records Label
2003 - John Esposito *Down Blue Marlin Road* Sunjump - 2006
2003 - John Esposito *The Blue People* Sunjump - 2006
2003 - Eric Person Meta - *Four Live at Big Sur* Distinction - 2003
2003 - Jeff Marx *Treading Air..... Breathing Fire* Soluna - 2004 2009 - Mitch Kessler *Erratica* Sunjump - 2009
2010 - John Esposito *Orisha* Sunjump - 2010
2010 - Mitch Kessler *Der Erbkönig* Sunjump - 2011

Gigs With:

Mose Allison

Hubert Laws

Warren Bernhardt

Pete Levin

Walter Bishop Jr.

Mike Manieri

Rory Block

Brother Jack McDuff

Nick Brignola

J. R. Montrose

Brubeck Brothers

Jonell Mosser

Roy Buchanan

Bobby Messano

Ira Coleman

Tracy Nelson

Murali Coryell

John Sebastian

Rick Danko

Garth Hudson

Robbie Dupree

David "Fathead" Newman

Jay Collins

Orleans

Kenny Davis

Eric Person

Jack DeJohnette

Lee Shaw

Kenny Drew Jr.

Dr. Lonnie Smith

Duane Eubanks

Harvey S.

John Hall

Bobby Watson

Bruce Katz

Edgar Winter Band

Dave Kikoski

Pete Yellin

Ingrid Jenson

Steve Wilson

Festivals:

Guimaraes Jazz Festival, Portugal
Savannah Jazz Festival, GA
Newport Jazz Festival, NYC
Newport/Friehoffer Jazz Festival Saratoga Springs, NY
Cleveland Jazz Festival, IL
Savannah Jazz Festival, GA
Big Sur Jazz Festival, CA
The Erie Arts Museum Festival, PA
Woodstock Festival 1994

Concerts & Clubs:

Knitting Factory, NYC
Blue Note, NYC
Blue Room, Kansas City, MO
Jazz Gallery, NYC
Bearsville Theater' Woodstock, NY
Visiones, NYC
55 Bar, NYC
Joe's Pub, NYC
Jazz Factory, Louisville, KY
Kleinert James Gallery, Woodstock, NY
Bottom Line, NYC
Beacon Theater, NYC
Wolftrap, MA
Prarie Home companion, NPR

College Concerts & Workshops:

Chicago School for Performing Arts, IL
Edinborough College, PA
Bard College, NY
University of Missouri, Kansas City, MO
Hutchinson Community College, KS
Bethel College, KS
University of Missouri-Columbia, St. Louis, MO
University of Iowa, IA
Milliken University, Decatur, IL
Northeast Illinois University, Dekalb, IL
Baker University, Baldwin, KS
SUNY New Paltz
Western Connecticut University

National Commercials:

Continental Airlines

AT&T

Macy's

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