



devin
gray drummer

Selected Performance Experience (short list)

Multiple jazz tours in Poland, France, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium and Canada.

Extensive touring in East Coast (USA) major cities: Boston, NYC, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington D.C., and Portland, Maine.

Kim Cass Quartet: Featuring George Garzone. Portland, Maine.

Ted Rosenthal Trio: An Die Musik Live, Baltimore

Corpulent: Gary Thomas, Joel Grip. Spy Club, Baltimore/Washington D.C.

Devin Gray Trio: featuring, John O’Gallagher, and Michael Formanek. Baltimore.

Dave Burrell Trio: An Die Musik Live, Baltimore

Jon Ballantyne/Devin Gray Duo: Portland Conservatory of Music, Maine.

Devin Gray Quartet: Russ Johnson, Kris Davis, Alexis Cuadrado, Yarmouth Clam Festival, Maine.

Solo Drum Concert: May 2006. “National Galleriet,” Stockholm, Sweden.

Devin Gray Trio: Baltimore Jazz and Blues Festival, June 2005-07.

Biography

Devin Gray began his love of music at age 7, with a new drum set. He grew as an artist through his junior and senior high school education, winning awards such as the Tom Snow “jazz musician” award, all-state big band and combo music competitions and earned the opportunity to play with vocalist Cleo Lane and a master class with Christian McBride, all at a very young age.

He then graduated from the prestigious Peabody Conservatory of Music at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. While attending Peabody, Devin studied western classical harmony, improvisation and jazz vibraphone, in addition to percussion as a scholarship student with Gary Thomas and Michael Formanek.

Upon graduation from Peabody, he was selected to attend Banff Centre for the International Jazz and Creative Music Workshop (headed by New York trumpeter, Dave Douglas) for internationally emerging jazz musicians in Alberta, Canada as a scholarship student. While at Banff, he studied drums with Gene Lake, Clarence Penn, and Gerald Cleaver.

Devin’s exciting musical energy has compelled him towards many different musical directions and projects. Over the past few years, he has been touring extensively in Northern Europe with many Swedish and German-based musicians and groups. Devin has recorded several records for the Stockholm based record label, Umlaut Records and for the New York based record label, Flattened Planet Records. Devin has performed all over the world and continues to make peace with his audiences.

Presently Devin is completing a Masters in jazz performance from the Manhattan School of Music in New York City, where he is studying with jazz drummer/teacher John Riley, as a scholarship student. Since Devin’s move to New York in August 2006, he’s quickly becoming a top call young drummer in many modern jazz circles.

Performances & Recordings

With: Tony Malaby, Rez Abbasi, Cameron Brown, Bill McHenry, Dave Ballou, George Garzone, Vardan Ovsepiyan, Russ Johnson, Ted Rosenthal, Gary Thomas, Joel Grip, John O’Gallagher, Steve Grover, Ingrid Jensen, Michael Formanek, Dave Burrell, Greg Osby, Jon Ballantyne, Jolly-Boat Pirates.



Devin’s fresh approach to modern drumming has enabled him to play with many of America’s great modern jazz musicians. He has performed and recorded with innovative musicians of contrasting styles and backgrounds such as: Tony Malaby, Gary Thomas, Ingrid Jensen, Sam Barsh, Dave Ballou, Michael Formanek, George Garzone, Sam Rivers, John O’Gallagher, Ted Rosenthal, Vardan Ovsepiyan, Bill McHenry as well as many others.

Often compared to avant-garde drummers Tom Rainey, Jim Black, Tony Oxley and Paul Nilsen-Love as well as more traditional New York jazz drummers such as, Roy Haynes, Brian Blade, Nasheete Waits, and Jeff Ballard; Devin Gray tries to blend these sounds with a mix of New England folk spirit.

Composition also takes a large role in Devin’s artistic output. He is known for experimenting with composition vs. improvisation. His music is composed in a style that allows the musicians ample freedom of expression through improvisation of their own voices. Some of his work can be heard on Umlaut Records recordings, and in a co-led trio “Corpulent” featuring Miles Davis Band Alum, Gary Thomas, recorded when Devin was only twenty years old!

An artist interested in multiple musical directions and one who strives for quality and sincerity in his work. He’s a versatile musician who focuses on a clear understanding of beauty through music. Considered by his contemporaries as cutting edge, Gray shows promise as an artist that will not only move **the** music forward, but one who will share his unique musical vision in a world of music.

Education

Manhattan School of Music: Masters of Music, jazz performance, expected graduation date: May 2008.

Peabody Conservatory of Music (Johns Hopkins University): Bachelor of Music, jazz performance: May 2006.

Quotes

"Thomas is in a definite serious groove and Devin Gray is amazing with his commanding mastery of the drums. He pushes his cymbals softly and splashes fire from his sticks."
- **Dr. Ana Isabel Ordonez, Jazzreview.com**

"...and Gray has yet to grow a third arm and bounce simultaneous snare rolls and high-hat chatter off Thomas' serpentine runs and Grip's quickened throb..."
- **Bret McCabe, Baltimore City Paper.**

"It's also worth noting that Gray and Grip get right inside these grooves, giving them a convincing heaviness—Gray's drumming in particular is both driving and mercurial, providing just enough lift to keep things interesting."
- **Daniel Spicemer, One Final Note**

New York Pianist Ted Rosenthal says... "Devin Gray is a swinging, sensitive, and interactive drummer who plays with a lot of spirit." (**www.tedrosenthal.com**)

"And I promise, you will get touched by Devin Gray's fast flowing cymbal-runs..." - **Frédéric Benreguia, Jazz critic in Paris (originally in French)**

"...at other times, his sound becomes transparent and fractured – it disintegrates into the rhythm of Gray's flashes of percussive brilliance..." - **SB**

"Thomas' sound is bolstered and propelled by Swedish bassist Joel Grip and drummer Devin Gray, a New Englander."
- **Shelly Blake, (www.shellyblake.coms)**

"Devin Gray is as fine a young drummer and composer as one is likely to encounter in the coming years". - **JB**

"The drummer Devin Gray possesses an ear for unusual and beautiful sounds, as well as the facility, musicality and groove to convey these sounds to his very fortunate bandmates and audiences". - **NYC Pianist - Jon Ballantyne, (www.jonballantyne.com)**

"Devin Gray is an exciting new presence on the New York City scene. Creative, multi-dimensional as a drummer, his playing is always sensitive and musical. Devin has the extraordinary ability to listen deeply, performing with some of the most important voices in today's music, such as Mike Formanek and Gary Thomas, just to name two. Devin has allowed his technical ability to mirror his creative development- every note counts. I look forward to watching the career trajectory of this special talent."
- **Steve Grover (www.stevegrover.com)**

Teacher Influence

Drum Set

John Riley

Howard Curtis

Adam Cruz

Michael Sarin

Jeff Williams

Steve Grover

Jazz Improvisation

Gary Thomas

Greg Osby

Michael Formanek

Dave Ballou

Garry Dial

Jason Moran

Teaching Experience

Master classes in improvisation and individual instruction in and around multiple Stockholm, Swedish high schools.

Yarmouth Maine School systems master classes: workshops on rhythm, listening and analysis/styles of music, performance techniques, how to play with other students. Grades 5th-8th and 9th-12th.

Middle School summer jazz camp instructor in Maine area middle schools.

Private drum set and mallet instruction: Music and Arts stores, Two years. Baltimore area, 2005-2007.

Private drum set, mallet, and jazz improvisation studio: St. Vincent Pallotti High School. Baltimore, MD. Ages 17-21.

Drum Master Classes and Musical Clinic/performances at, The Maine Jazz Camp, Farmington, Maine. Ages 12-21.

References

Justin DiCioccio

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John Riley

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Michael Formanek

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Jeff Williams

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Steve Grover

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Discography

Circus of the Sun (1998) (indie)

The Jolly-Boat Pirates (Live, 2003. TJBP, 2005. End of Tour Live, 2007) (Umlaut Records)

Corpulent (2004/5) (Umlaut Records) Trio Featuring Gary Thomas.

PowerLunch (Headless Body/Topless Bar, 2004. Freak the Big Head, 2005) (indie)

Jon Birkholz Trio (2006) (Umlaut Records) Piano Trio Featuring Michael Formanek. (Release date, Nov. 2007)

Thirty9Thirty8 (2005/2007) (Flattened Planet Records) Trio Featuring Dave Ballou.

Additional Music (un-released, soon to be released)

"All of them are..."

Robin Verheyen Trio (Brussels, Belgium) May 2007 (local label)

"Little Sheep"

Jo Begin Quintet (Quebec, Canada), March 2007 (local label)

"Second Five"

Aaron Choulai Trio (Melbourn, Australia), February 2007 (Sunnyside Records)



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For Additional Information/Links

www.umlautrecords.com/main.html

www.umlautrecords.com/pics.html

www.purevolume.com/thirty9thirty8

www.myspace.com/aaronchoulai

www.myspace.com/thejollyboatpirates

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