

Peter O'Brien, Drums

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Born in Flushing, Queens, NY, drummer Peter O'Brien inherited his musical talents from his father, drummer Bill O'Brien, with whom he began his formal studies of the drums at age five. A prodigy, Peter was accepted into his grammar school orchestra at the age of seven and played alongside seventh and eighth grade students. This experience led to a musical scholarship in high school and five years of formal study with Charlie Perry.

In 1976, at age 16, Peter attended a drum clinic held by Perry at Hofstra University where he studied with Jack DeJohnette, whose interest in Peter led to a recommendation and referrals to John Abercrombie, Bill Connors and Miroslav Vitous. After graduating high school, Peter immediately became active on the New York City jazz scene.

There he garnered the attention of drummers Jo Jones Jr., Al Foster, Jimmy Lovelace, and Michael Carvin. Peter later studied with Carvin from 1978-79.

In 1982, Peter toured the USA with organist Brother Jack McDuff and, from 1984-1985, performed all over the USA and Canada with the Edgar Winter Band. The band featured the legendary singer Jerry LaCroix (the original lead singer for White Trash) and performed the jazz-inflected fusion material from Edgar's first ground-breaking record "Entrance," 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, he toured Europe with Mark McMillan.

Peter moved to Woodstock, NY in early 1988 and became a member of John Hall's band Orleans. The notoriety created by their hits, "Still The One," "Dance With Me" created a big demand for Peter on the pop music scene. Peter appeared on seven CD's (four with Orleans, three with John Hall), did three tours of Japan (two with Orleans, one with Hall), and numerous USA tours and dates (including Woodstock '94). He was the subject of a feature article published in Modern Drummer's Rhythm and News (Japan). Peter toured with Orleans until 2004.

Peter joined saxophonist Eric Person's Meta-Four in 2001. On Peter's first gig, the quartet recorded *Live at Big Sur* (Distinction Records) at the 7th Annual Big Sur Jazz Festival to a sell-out crowd. The band had its NYC premiere at the Blue Note in January 2003 and Peter remained

with the band for two CDs and three national tours. Peter O'Brien is also a member of pianist John Esposito's Trio along with bassist Ira Coleman and since 2003 has recorded on a number of other Sunjump Records projects. In addition to his busy performance schedule, O'Brien is an Adjunct Faculty member at Bard College, NY and freelances as a studio session player.

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 Erlkönig* Sunjump - 2011

Gigs With:

Mose Allison
Hubert Laws
Warren Bernhardt

Pete Levin
Walter Bishop, Jr
Mike Manieri
Rory block
Sangeeta Michael Berardi
Brother Jack McDuff
Nick brignola
J.R. Monterose
The Brubecks
Roy Buchanan
Tracey Nelson
Murali Coryell
Orleans
Jack DeJohnette
Eric Person
John Esposito
Kenny Drew, Jr
Mitch Kessler
Dr Lonnie Smith
John Hall
Edgar Winter Band
Dave Kikoski
Pete Yellin

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
Burger King.