

Paolo Orlandi - Jazz Drummer and Educator

Long Biography

A tour of the world that starts from Milan and ends in Geneva, passing through the United States and the Middle East.

Paolo Orlandi begins his musical studies between Milan – a student of Tony Arco at the Civica Scuola di Jazz – and New York, where he is admitted at the City College of New York with a scholarship in 2005.

While working toward the completion of his studies, culminated with a Master of Arts in Jazz Performance, Paolo immerses himself in the competitive New York City jazz scene, sharing the stage with numerous artists, among which stand-out the collaborations with legendary bassist John Patitucci. He also performs with Anthony Wonsey, Ray Gallon, Ed Cherry, Marco Panascia, and many other New York-based musicians.

His drums studies continue under the tutoring of Nasheet Waits, Adam Cruz, Portiño and Tony Moreno. In 2008 Paolo is offered to possibility to join the CCNY faculty and lands a first teaching position as adjunct professor of jazz history and drums instructor.

In 2013 life brings Paolo to the capital of Lebanon, Beirut, where he joins the rich local musical scene and collaborates with many musicians, performing across the MENA region. He is also appointed Visiting Assistant Professor at the prestigious American University of Beirut. There, he teaches classes of jazz history, hip-hop and American popular music. During these years he also begins a fruitful collaboration with Jazz Education Abroad, the educational project founded by Gene Aitken.

Since 2016, Paolo he lives in Geneva. After having served as drum professor in two Geneva based institution, the Ecole de Musiques Actuelles and the Conservatoire Populaire de Geneve, in 2024 Paolo decides to dedicated himself to performing, touring and running his own drum studio.

The list of collaborations includes Franco Cerri, Robert Bonisolo, Alessio Menconi, Ben Kraef, Andrea Dulbecco, Peter Weninger, Moncef Genoud, Matias Szandai, Ian Shaw, Sharon Clark, John Aram, Graeme Blevins, the trio of Simone Daclon, Massimo Pinca and many more. Paolo has performed in some of the most important jazz venues and festivals in Europe, the Middle-East the the Americas, as well as in radio broadcasts and shows.

His own projects include the trio “North-East” led alongside with Slovenian pianist Gregor Fticar and the Italian group Voices, a collaborative group featuring Giovanni Ceccarelli, Andrea Dulbecco and Salvatore Maiore.

Paolo is an endorser of Japanese drums manufacturer Canopus Drums and Swiss drumsticks, Agner. He has published articles on Drumheads Magazine.