

DAN SCHNELLE

BIOGRAPHY



Dan Schnelle is one of the most talented, in-demand drummers in the Los Angeles area. Known for an intuitive ability to bring precisely what is necessary for each performance, Schnelle understands how to make other musicians comfortable, while bringing enough of the unexpected to his playing to keep it consistently exciting. Unsatisfied with the idea that the drum set is merely a time-keeping device, Schnelle is thoughtful about how this unique instrument, with its nearly limitless variety of sounds, can be tastefully and effectively deployed in a wide variety of musical situations. Years spent collaborating with some of the best musicians in Los Angeles (and beyond) have earned him a reputation as a hard-working, professional, and creative team player; one who is, above all, committed to musical excellence.

Schnelle began learning to play the drums in his hometown of Merrick, New York, at the age of ten. He progressed quickly, and by high school, was studying with two important and widely respected teachers, Al Miller and Dom Famularo. Together these men opened Schnelle's ears to the music of Buddy Rich, Max Roach, and Steve Gadd. Later, he would attend USC's Thornton School of Music, where he was exposed to a much broader perspective on jazz (and music as a whole), thanks in part to close interaction with such masters as Terri Lyne Carrington, Peter Erskine, Ndugu Chancler, Aaron Serfaty, John Clayton, Alan Pasqua, and many others. In his final 2 years at USC, Schnelle was named the Louis Bellson Scholar, an honor bestowed on one drummer each year. And after earning his Bachelor's Degree in Jazz Studies, Schnelle was selected to attend the Henry Mancini Institute, where he performed and studied with Vince Mendoza, Billy Childs, and Dave Leibman.

Even as a student in Los Angeles, Schnelle was already working regularly around Los Angeles. He has since toured throughout the US, Europe, China, and Japan performing at major festivals, and concert halls with numerous artists. Notable collaborators in the studio and on tour have included Billy Childs, John Daversa, David Benoit, Jeff Parker, Karrin Allyson, David Binney, Josh Nelson, Laurence Hobgood, Larry Goldings, Alan Ferber, Joshua White, Sara Gazarek, Tim Lefebvre, Phillip Dizack, Jeff Babko, Dayna Stephens, Tigran Hamasyan, Walter Smith III, Anthony Wilson, Ben Wendel, James Torme, Miguel Atwood-Ferguson, Dick Oats, and many others.

Schnelle is also refining his voice as a composer with his first record, *Shine Thru*, coming out on Outside In Music May 13, 2022! It features an amazing team of fellow artists, and longtime collaborators and friends: Josh Nelson (piano), Jeff Babko (piano, keyboards), Anthony Wilson (guitar), David Binney (alto saxophone), and Alex Boneham (bass). The results go beyond any reckoning one may have previously had about this artist!

Nowadays Schnelle maintains a busy performance schedule while simultaneously working as a dedicated music educator; he understands that effective pedagogy is a way of not only giving back to the art form but also continuing to challenge and expand his own playing and thought process. In addition to keeping a full roster of students in his private studio, Schnelle has also given countless masterclasses in colleges and conservatories across the US including USC, California Institute of the Arts, KU, CSUN, The Jazz School, and many others.