

Italian born drummer Luca Santaniello has been living in New York City since 2001, performing as a freelance jazz musician and collaborating with musicians from the international jazz scene. During his student career he had many excellent coaches and teachers including the internationally acclaimed bassist Ron Carter, legend pianist Barry Harris, and drummers Kenny Washington, Carl Allen and Billy Drummond.

Luca holds a Bachelor's degree in classical percussion from the L.Perosi Conservatory of Campobasso in Italy and an Artist Diploma degree from Juilliard School in New York City, where he was the first Italian jazz musician to be selected for the Jazz Studies program.

Luca began his professional jazz career at the age of 14 performing and touring all over the European territory with ensembles from the "Thelonious Monk Association of Jazz Music" (Campobasso, Italy) such as The Rhythm Machine, Orchestra Laboratorio Thelonious Monk, and a percussion ensemble called Ketoniche Percussions. He also has a large experience in the classical music field having performed with numerous orchestras like the Symphonic Orchestra of Spoleto Festival (Spoleto Festival), Symphonic Orchestra "G.Verdi" (Naples), Solisti Aquilani (Aquila, Abruzzi), Molise Symphonic Orchestra.

Since relocating to New York, Luca has performed in the finest New York City Jazz Clubs and venues as well as toured most of Europe with several different bands that vary in a wide range of jazz styles.

He has been collaborating on the bandstand with jazz greats such as Ron Carter, Joe Lovano, Roy Hargrove, Lee Konitz, Benny Golson, Billy Harper, Steve Grossman, Kirk Lightsey, Roberta Gamabarini, Joe Locke, Brian Lynch, Terrel Stafford, JD Allen, Harry Allen, Joel Frahm, Joe Cohn, Grant Stewart, Lonnie Plaxico, Marcus Strickland, Joel Frahm, Joe Magnarelli, Donny Mc Caslin, and many others.

Luca has recorded for major label Verve Japan in Chihiro Yamanaka's album "Running Wild" and has been a long time member of Carlos Abadie's quintet for whom he recorded 2 albums "Immersed in the Quest" Vol 1 and 2 for label Thruth Revolution Records.

He is also on Emanuele Cisi's album "Where or When" for notorious Max Jazz/Mac Avenue label in USA and has recorded for many international artists such as Dmitry Baevsky "Some Other Spring", Roberto Tarenzi "13th Floor" and "Dig Deep" and Spanish pianist Lluís Capdevila "Diapsora".

Although he is a sideman in high demand, Luca is also a leader of several projects that include a "Tribute to Nat King Cole" along with singer Cyrille Aimee, "Stick, Thick and Slick" a piano trio inspired by the jazz piano legends like Oscar Peterson and Phineas Newborn, "Tilt Trio" a piano less trio that explores the sonority of raw texture with bass, drums and saxophone, "Drums Limited" a double drums band that Luca co-leads with different fellow drummers such as Greg Hutchinson, Dan Aran, Marco Valery, and "Naples In My Hearth", a project inspired by the folk Neapolitan music tradition of the 19th century revisited in a contemporary jazz fashion.

Alongside the performing, touring and recording schedule, Luca has grown his passion for education.

He is a faculty member at The Westchester Conservatory of Music, Mind Builders Arts Center Bronx, and has been honoring his collaboration with The Juilliard School of Music representing the Jazz Department through performances and master classes all over USA, South America and Europe.

In 2012 Luca initiated the "Juilliard in Torino Jazz workshops" together with professor Emanuele Cisi from the prestigious Conservatory of Torino in Italy, and today this event represents the main Juilliard Jazz educational activity in Europe.

In addition to that Luca has been an active promoter of his own drum clinic called "Swingadelic" that focuses on the elements of jazz drums practice ranging from technique to brushes, independence, comping styles and solo vocabulary, and he has also been co-leading together with bassist Joseph Lepore the "Bass and Drums Limited" project, a workshop focused on the function of the rhythm section in jazz.

Those clinics and workshops have been staged all over Italy (Como Conservatory, Imusic School Rome, L.Perosi Conservatory, Blumusica Torino, Civic Institute Fergusio) and in New York City for The New York Jazz Workshop Institute.

Luca Santaniello's bebop influenced style coupled with his deep classical training has helped to shape his sound and has given birth to a refreshing new voice in jazz.

His exposure to dynamic modes of playing and to musicians with accumulated experiences only promoted the development of his own distinct musical personality.

www.lucasantaniellojazz.com

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