

Nick Costa

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Summary

Nick Costa is a professional drummer, teacher and recording engineer from the greater Philadelphia area. Along with being an independent musician, Nick also teaches privately throughout the greater Philadelphia area, has facilitated workshops teaching underprivileged kids music, is the percussion director at Villanova University along with being a Senior Lecturer at the University of the Arts. Nick has been praised by numerous producers including Mike Watts (The Dear Hunter, Adelita's Way, Story of the Year), Steve Haigler (Brand New, The Pixies, Fuel), Jason Elgin (Collective Soul), Fred Mascherino (Ex Taking Back Sunday), and Eric Plesha (Valencia, Cobra Starship, Promise of Redemption) for his consistency and energy in the studio.

Recently, Nick was offered the Drum Set position of the 2014/2015 Mama Mia National Broadway Tour, and was one of the top five finalists for American Idiot national Broadway tour.

Performance Experience

Independent Drummer

September 2001 – Current

Hired for various performances including the Nike Fuel band release (winter 2011) Board of Trustees gala at the University of the Arts (Spring 2009), Macy's Winter Window Revealing, and welcoming Julie Andrews (Winter 2009), various musicals including *Mama Mia*, *Green Day's American Idiot*, *Rent*, *Grease*, *Big the Musical*, *In The Heights* and more. Frequent drummer for Valley Point Church, session musician, and various ensembles ranging from Jazz Trios to rock bands.

George Weldon Jazz Groups

April 2011 – Current

Drummer for the George Weldon Trio, Quartet, and Quintet.

Modern Suits

August 2010 – September 2013

Drummer (live and recording). Drummer on *In Transition EP* (April 2011), and *Promises* (Oct 2012)

Practically Single

February 2009 – May 2011

Drummer/Songwriter for Pop/Punk Quintet Practically Single. Drummer on *This Is Why We Don't Have Nice Things EP* (July 2010)

Charles Mingus Tribute Ensemble

September 2009 – May 2010

Drummer for the University of the Arts small group jazz ensemble: Charles Mingus Tribute Ensemble

Triangle Shirt Factory

October 2008

Drummer on *Push* (from the sophomore album, Widening 2007)

Anthony Renzulli Band

September 2008 – July 2009

Live Drummer for Singer/Songwriter, Anthony Renzulli (currently of Soraia)

University of the Arts Z Band

September 2008 – June 2009

One of the two drummers for the University of the Arts "Z Band" Big Band. Drummer on *Almost Like Being in Love* recording.

Performance Experience (Continued)

Director's Ensemble

September 2009 – June 2009

Drummer for the University of the Arts Director's Ensemble, an ensemble that was selected by the director of the School of Music Marc Dicciani.

These Arms Have A Purpose

November 2007 – January 2009

Drummer on *At The End of the Road* (Online exclusive 2008) and *The Skies A Killer* (I Can Feel It, 2008). Live drummer (November 2007 – January 2009)

UArts Rock Ensemble

September 2007 – June 2008

Drummer for the University of the Arts small group ensemble: UArts Rock Ensemble

Rumble

September 2006 – May 2010

One of the senior members of Rumble: the University of the Arts bucket drum ensemble

American Music Abroad

Summer 2006

Primary Drummer for the American Music Abroad jazz band. Toured various countries in Europe for two and a half weeks.

Production Experience

Practically Single: This Is Why We Don't Have Nice Things

August 2009 – March 2010

Producer along with the rest of Practically Single and Engineer/Producer Eric Plesha. Assisted with Drum Mixes.

Triangle Shirt Factory

October 2008

Recording Engineer for *Push* (B-side to Widening, 2007) and *Hometown Reward* (B-Side to Widening, 2007)

These Arms Have A Purpose

July 2008 – December 2008

Recording Engineer for These Arms Have A Purpose's rendition of *Silver Bells* (online exclusive), *At The End of the Road* (online exclusive), and *Neutralize Me* (I Can Feel It, 2008)

Teaching Experience

University of the Arts

January 2015 – Current

Senior Lecturer at the University of the Arts, and Ensemble Director for Rumble – the Universities alternative bucket drum ensemble, as well as one of two teachers for the Drum-Set for non-majors course(s). Teaching assistant for all technology courses offered during the Universities Continuing Ed Summer Program.

Turnaround:Arts

Summer 2014

Facilitated a bucket drumming workshop to over sixty-five Educators and Administrators from various schools in the United States. Showed how bucket drumming can be used to improve student engagement and the learning environment.

Teaching Experience (Continued)

The School District of Philadelphia

September 2013 – Current

Itinerant percussion teacher for the School District of Philadelphia. Teaching fundamentals of music via private group percussion lessons at various schools within the district. Key role in implementing “Modern Band” initiative district wide.

Villanova University

August 2013 – Current

Percussion Director for Villanova University. Teaching non music majors the fundamentals of percussion including technique, drum maintenance, playing with other percussionist musically and together, along with writing and arranging music for the drum-line. Also teaching an alternative ensemble where students play on non-traditional instruments including buckets, trash cans, and more.

Keswick Music

May 2011 – June 2014

Private drum instructor at Keswick Music (Glenside, PA)

Welsh Valley Middle School

March 2011 – May 2011

Student Teaching placement for MAT in Music Education degree (University of the Arts). Taught various classes in music technology along with assisting concert band, and jazz band rehearsals.

Wissahickon High School

October 2010 – December 2010

Student Teaching placement for MAT in Music Education Degree (University of the Arts). Taught various classes in music theory, music history, concert band, string ensemble, along with assisting marching band, and jazz band rehearsals.

The University of the Arts

September 2008-May 2009

Teacher/drummer for the continuing education adult jazz jam, a course that helped adults improve on their jazz improvisational skills on various instruments while learning and improving on their musical skills

Philadelphia Clef Club

March 2011 – May 2011

Drum instructor for the after school jazz program at the Philadelphia Clef Club (In conjunction with the University of the Arts)

Paul Green School of Rock

August 2008 – December 2009

Substitute teacher for the Drum Department (Philadelphia Location)

Bluebond Guitars

March 2008 – December 2009

Substitute teacher for the Drum Department

Private Teacher

February 2006 – Current

Drum teacher to various students in the greater Philadelphia area

EDUCATION

The University of the Arts, School of Music, Philadelphia, PA

Masters in the Art of Teaching in Music Education, May 2011

Cumulative GPA: 4.0

Highlights: Graduate-level courses that focused on twenty-first century and challenge-based learning, including the Psychology of Teaching and Teaching Methods for Pre-K through the University Level.

The University of the Arts, School of Music, Philadelphia, PA

Bachelor of Music in Instrumental Performance (Percussion), May 2010

Cumulative GPA: 3.36

Minor in Music Education; Concentration in Jazz Studies

Highlights: Undergraduate courses that focused on jazz studies including jazz ear training, jazz music theory, jazz piano, improvisation, and musicianship. Student director of an alternative ensemble consisting of twenty-one students performing with non-traditional musical instruments. Responsible for organizing rehearsals, concert logistics, and teaching fellow students, all while assuming the responsibilities of a student director.

Endorsements

Nick is an artist for Ludwig/Musser Percussion, Vic Firth drumsticks, Remo drumheads, and Ultimate Ears.