

Justin Amaral Building A Buzz In Music City

Justin Amaral began playing drums at the age of eleven. During the early stages of his career, he studied with a variety of gifted teachers, including a six-month stint with legendary jazz drummer/educator Alan Dawson. He also performed with The New England Grammy All-Star High School Jazz Band, and attended Berklee College Of Music, where he was taught by world-class musicians such as drummers Casey Scheuerell and Kenwood Dennard, and saxophonist Walter Beasley.

In 1999, Justin moved to Nashville, Tennessee to further his career in music. Since then, he has recorded or performed with a variety of acclaimed artists, including multi-instrumentalist Mike McEvoy (Steve Winwood, Sting), saxophonist Jeff Coffin (Bela Fleck & The Flecktones), and bassists Mike Gordon (Phish) and Derek Jones (Nickel Creek, Cirque du Soleil).

Justin has also been busy with his original project Bee Speed, a unique, high-energy trio featuring electric banjo, bass, and drums. Their self-titled debut disc fuses elements of jazz, bluegrass, and world music into a distinct and eclectic sound. Throughout the disc, Justin displays his musical dexterity as he navigates challenging arrangements ("Radio Bean"), lays down solid grooves ("Gravelyard"), and takes a few tasteful solos ("Spain," "Tropicalia"). His Mid East-inspired tune "Behold The Turtle" is also a highlight, featuring the drummer's genre-bending skills on drumkit and doumbek.

Hometown: Somerset, Massachusetts—Currently living in Nashville, Tennessee
Education: Berklee College Of Music in Boston, Massachusetts
Tools: Yamaha drums, Yamaha and DW snares, Remo drumheads, Bosphorus and Zildjian cymbals, Pearl pedals, Vic Firth sticks and brushes, Grover triangle, Cooperman frame drum, Remo Glen Velez riq, and other world percussion
Influences: Steve Gadd, Elvin Jones, Roy Haynes, Zigaboo Modeliste, Harvey Mason, Al Jackson Jr., Poncho Sanchez, Airtio Moriera, Tony Williams, Manu Katché, Yousou N'Dour, Billy Martin, Zakir Hussain, and Tony Allen
More info: www.beespeed.net



Jayson Brinkworth Western Canada's Drumming Ambassador

Accomplished drummer/percussionist/vocalist Jayson Brinkworth's résumé reads like a who's who of the Canadian country music scene. The artists he's performed or recorded with include Gil Grand, Jamie Warren, Brad Johnner, Rick Tippe, Jake Mathews, Diane Chase, Beverly Mahood, The Poverty Plainsmen, Melanie Laine, Duane Steel, and Curb Records artist Lisa Brokopis. Jayson was also nominated for Musician Of The Year at the Western Canadian Music Awards in 2003 and for Canadian Country Music Drummer Of The Year in 2004.

On the other side of his career, Jayson is co-owner of Music In The House, a music school founded in 2002 with partners Ray Bell and Shamma Sabir. At this school, Jayson teaches forty-five private students and oversees lessons for twenty others.

Jayson has also been involved with Learning Through The Arts, a national arts program administered through Canada's Royal Conservatory Of Music that's designed to reinforce curricular needs in the classroom. In this program, Jayson teaches a percussion module called FLIP (Fun Learning Interactive Percussion) to around six hundred second- and third-grade students each year.

Currently, Jayson is developing a program for sports teams and corporations that uses percussion to promote a positive team atmosphere, and he's completing a drum method book titled *Thinking Outside The Books* to help teachers cultivate the creative mind of students at all playing levels.

Hometown: Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada
Tools: Jayson endorses EPEK drums, Sabian cymbals, Evans drumheads, Trueline drumsticks, Flix brushes, Mountain Rythm percussion, and Impact cases. He also uses Mapex and Yamaha hardware and a Roc-N-Soc throne.
Influences: Jeff Porcaro, Steve Gadd, Bernard Purdie, Billy Ward, Rick Marotta, Buddy Rich, Tony Williams, Elvin Jones, Eddie Bayers, Billy Thomas, and Buddy Harman
More info: www.jaysonbrinkworth.com



Justin Krol On The Road With Freshwater Collins

Twenty-four-year-old Justin Krol has been drumming for Milwaukee-based alternative rock band Freshwater Collins for the past three years. In that time, the drummer has toured across the US, playing in venues ranging from mid-sized clubs to large amphitheatres. Freshwater Collins has shared the stage with Zeppelin frontman Robert Plant, pedal steel guitarist Robert Randolph, New Orleans funksters Galactic, and southern rock band Gov't Mule. Most recently, the band signed with famed manager Mark Bliesener, who has also been affiliated with Big Head Todd & The Monsters, Lyle Lovett, and The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band.

In 2005, Freshwater Collins played to enthusiastic crowds in forty-five cities in support of their newest release, *These Days Lately*. Justin's drumming on this disc perfectly complements the band's conglomerate sound. From the funky vibe of "Head Towards The Light," to the rolling 12/8 pocket of "Fair," to the driving rock of "The Find," Justin saturates each tune with a special blend of creativity, musicality, and relentless energy. The drummer's diverse style is best represented on "Housedown," as he transitions between a heavy funk verse, an open-hat chorus, and a blasting rock ending, while also throwing in a few ear-catching licks and fills.

When not out with Freshwater Collins, Justin keeps himself busy playing sessions and club dates throughout the Midwest region.

Hometown: Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Education: University Of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, Wisconsin Conservatory Of Music
Tools: Justin endorses GMS drums, Istanbul AGOP cymbals, and Moog Music electronics. He also uses Remo heads, DW hardware, Vic Firth sticks, and Anvil flight cases.
Influences: Vinnie Colaiuta, Lil' John Roberts, Eric Tribbet, Manu Katché, Stewart Copeland, Poogie Bell, Robby Ameen
More info: www.freshwatercollins.com

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