

MATT MURPHY

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Matt Murphy has spent the past twenty years of his life perfecting his craft as a drummer and percussionist. While attending **Western Illinois University**, Matt had the opportunity to perform with the *Grammy Nominated Western Illinois University's Jazz Studio Orchestra*, **Arturo Sandoval**, **Clark Terry** and **Diane Schurr**, to name a few. After graduating college, Matt was afforded the opportunity to travel the country with Caribbean/Pop sensations, **The Steel Bandits**. During his tenure with this outstanding group, Matt was seen playing to sold out venues, arenas and auditoriums from the **Sunset Strip** in Los Angeles, to the **1996 Olympic Games** in Atlanta, to tours through **Europe** and practically everywhere in between.

After spending two years with the 'Bandits, he moved on to working several festivals, clinics and concerts throughout North America and Europe, playing with such groups as the **Stephen Kummer Trio**, **Mangú**, and **Stan Sykes and Company**. This gave Matt the unique opportunity to master many styles ranging from Jazz to Latin to the soulful sounds of R 'n B, Motown and beyond. His uncanny knack "to know exactly what to play, and when to play it" has helped Matt successfully take the drum seat in every musical setting.

Beginning in 1998, Matt assumed the responsibility of Musical Director for **Norwegian Cruise Line**, performing as an artist as well as departmental manager on several of Norwegian's vessels within the fleet of nine ships. It was during that time that **Mangú** completed a nine-month tour of Miami, Mexico and the Caribbean Islands. They had played for thousands of satisfied audience members at the **Latin Music Festival** in St. Thomas in 2001. Immediately following that successful tour, Matt was asked to back up the soulful singing sensation **Stan Sykes**, as part of **Stan Sykes and Company**. It was during 2001 and 2002 that Stan and the gang, spent time touring Europe, North America and the Hawaiian Islands.

In 2002, Hollywood has called for Matt's knowledge of music in television. Working both in front and behind the camera's lens, Matt can be seen on several television programs starting in 2002, as a sideline musician. Matt is also keeping very busy, working as **Music Consultant** for the new **Partridge Family** series for **MTV Networks**, as well as the internationally famous prime time hit from **Warner Brothers**, the **Gilmore Girls**.

Moving to Las Vegas in the fall of 2005 proved to be one of Matt's smartest moves. Within weeks of coming to town, Matt was asked to take the drum seat for "**The Rat Pack Tribute**". *'This show brings back the good ol' days when Vegas was Vegas. Musically, it's one of my favorite shows and pays homage to some of the finest entertainers the world has ever seen- Frank, Sammy and Dean,'* Murphy was quoted saying in an interview after a show. Matt has also been seen around town working for various national touring artists including: **Clint Holmes**, **Ronnie Foster**, **The Coasters**, **Platters & Marvelettes**, and **The Brothers Ali** among others.

From 2009-2011, Matt held down the drum seat for International Superstar **Charo**, as she travels the world promoting her Platinum-Selling Album "**Charo on Guitar**". Matt also leads his own group **The Definitives**, performing in such mega-resorts as: **Mandarin Oriental Hotel**, **Mandalay Bay** and the **TRUMP Tower** in Las Vegas. Recently, Matt has been found playing drums for such award-winning theater productions: **Smokey Joe's Café**, as well as the Rock-Opera **TOMMY**. The Las Vegas production of Jonathan Larson's **Pulitzer Prize-Winning Musical**, **RENT**, showcased Matt playing drums in front of sold-out audiences since it's inception and has been a highlight of Matt's lengthy career.

2010 marked the completion of Matt's highly anticipated tutor, **A Drummer's Guide to Afro-Caribbean Grooves**. This text has been given numerous accolades from the percussion industry's greatest, authors, performers and educators. As the largest educational resource in the world, **Stick Library** has brought Matt and his expertise onto their team not only as a **Major Contributor**, but also as a **Musical Director** for their percussion-related video projects. The **Beginning Drum Series**, **Latin Drumset Symposium Series** and **Jazz Drums Series** features Matt as an author and educator in hours upon hours of educational footage. As an adjunct professor, Matt has been afforded the opportunity to teach private drum set lessons as well as the **History of the Steel Band** to students within the percussion program at the **University of Nevada, Las Vegas**. As one could imagine this is quite an honor and Matt takes this opportunity very seriously.

Matt Murphy is indeed an All-American percussionist with a global perspective that permeates his grooves, style, and musicianship. He is a proud endorser and clinician for; **Drum Workshop** Drums and Hardware, **SABIAN** Cymbals, **Vic Firth** sticks and brushes, **Aquarian** Drumheads, **Audix** Microphones, **Prologix** Practice Products, **BlowIt** Fans and **Humes and Berg** bags and cases. Matt is also a proud member of the **Professional Drum Teacher's Guild** and **Hudson Music's Teacher's Integration Program**. Matt has recently been selected into an elite group of clinicians as a member of the **Drum Workshop**, **SABIAN** and **Vic Firth** Education Teams' roster.