

# Brian O'Neill

## Eclectic Percussionist and Drummer

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“Percussion master and musical polymath”  
—*Boston Phoenix*

“Incredible musicianship”  
—*Downbeat*

## Orchestral, Chamber, Solo, Choral Performance Experience

### ENSEMBLES (PERCUSSION)

- Orchestral sub list: Portland Symphony Orchestra (2018–), Boston Modern Orchestra Project (2017–), Orchestra Pro Musica (2017–), Albany Symphony (+drumset) (2016–), Springfield Symphony (2016–), Glens Falls Symphony (+drumset) (2016–), South Florida Symphony Orch. (2016–), Merrimack Valley Philharmonic Orch., New Bedford Symphony, Cape Ann Symphony, Wellesley Symphony, Melrose Symphony
- Choral Ensembles: Orchestra Pro Musica (Albany), Spectrum Singers (MA), Chorus of Westerly (RI), Wellesley Chorus (MA), HalaLisa Singers (MA)
- Boston Festival Orch. ('11)
- Boston Pops WGBH Orch. ('07)
- AZ Opera Ring Cycle Orchestra ('96, '98)
- Flagstaff Symphony (AZ) (principal, '97-'99)
- Flagstaff Festival of the Arts Orch. (AZ) ('97)

### PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Guest soloist, Northern Arizona University Percussion Ensemble. Premiered Chris Vennel's "Losing the Shackles" for percussion soloist and ensemble ('11)
- Carnegie Hall w/ Newton Symphony ('02)
- Concerto winner (vibraphone), Sun Cities Symphony of the West Valley (AZ) ('99)
- Concerto winner (vibraphone), Northern Arizona University Orch. ('99)

## Musical Theater Experience

### PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Boston Opera House
  - *Motown the Musical* – National Tour ('15)
  - Kristin Chenoweth ('12)
- North Shore Music Theatre
  - *42<sup>nd</sup> Street* ('17); *Spamalot* ('16); *West Side Story* ('16); *Shrek* ('15); *Anything Goes* ('14)
- Providence Performing Arts Center
  - *Motown the Musical* – National Tour ('15)
- Hanover Theater
  - *Motown the Musical* – National Tour ('17)

### ENSEMBLES

- Additional freelancing with Franklin Performing Arts Center, Merrimack Valley, Quannapowitt Players, Arlington Friends of the Drama, Weston Friendly Society, Longwood Players, Maverick Productions, Footlight Club, all since 2000.
- Excellent reader with extensive doubling capability (drumset, percussion incl. latin/world, piano). Performing since '96.

# Chamber/Jazz/World Experience

## PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Mr. Ho's Orchestrotica (leader)
  - Detroit Institute of Arts ('17)
  - New Music Edmonton ('17)
  - Lied Center (KS) ('17)
  - Huntington Summer Arts Festival (NY) ('17)
  - Musical Instrument Museum (AZ) ('17)
  - Montreal Jazz Festival – Main Stage ('12)
  - Wassermusik Festival Berlin ('13)
  - Celebrate Mexico Now ('13)
  - Festival de Nuevos Vientos Ecatepec, Mexico ('08)
  - Festival de Mexico ('06)
- Boston Irish Festival w/ Ishna ('16,'17)
- Kennedy Center w/ Klezwoods ('12)
- Donna Summer *Crayons* Tour (multiple cities) ('08)
- Hawaii International Jazz Festival w/ Waitiki ('06)

## ENSEMBLE MEMBERSHIP

- Mr. Ho's Orchestrotica: 22-pc Esquivel Megaband & global jazz/exotic chamber quintet (artistic director, composer, performer)
- Ishna (drumset, bodhran)
- Bert Seager's The Why (chamber jazz)
- Jeni Jol (Turkish/Otto-American duo)
- Klezwoods (Klezmer/Balkan)
- David Wax Museum (guest drummer)
- Previous: cordis, Newpoli, Aljashu, La Tuza, Orchestra of This

## Additional Achievements

### RECENT RECORDINGS

- Klezwoods: *Toy Monkey*
- cordis: *Seams* ('16)
- Bert Seager's The Why: *The Why* ('14)
- Mr. Ho's Orchestrotica: *Where Here Meets There* ('13)
- Klezwoods: *The 30<sup>th</sup> Meridian: From Cairo to St. Petersburg with Love*
- Mr. Ho's Orchestrotica: *The Unforgettable Sounds of Esquivel* ('10) & *Third River Rangoon* ('11)
- David Wax Museum: *Everything Is Saved* ('11)
- Klezwoods: *Oy Yeah!* ('10)

### AWARDS, EDUCATION, AFFILIATIONS, SKILLS

- Mr. Ho's Orchestrotica
  - Named 2012 Best World Music Act (*Boston Phoenix* annual readers' poll)
  - Nominated 2012 International Artist of the Year (*Boston Music Awards*)
- Recorded percussion on 2011 Song of the Year by David Wax Museum (*Boston Music Awards*)
- Bachelor of Music, Percussion Performance (*Summa Cum Laude*), Northern Arizona University (Dr. Steven Hemphill)
- 11 years of formal piano studies
- Member, American Federation of Musicians (AFM)
- Member, Percussive Arts Society (PAS)
- Extensive technology background including MIDI sequencing, composition

### MASTER CLASSES AND TEACHING

- Various percussion masterclasses at
  - University of Nevada Las Vegas ('14)
  - University of Massachusetts Lowell ('12, '14)
  - Frederick Maryland PAS Day of Percussion ('13)
  - WUMB Radio ('11)
- New England Conservatory (substitute teaching): World Rhythms class ('10)
- Somerville High School Drumline Coach ('07, '08)

### RADIO AND TV HIGHLIGHTS

- WNYC New Sounds - feature spot about Mr. Ho's Orchestrotica and other "global Jazz" artists ('13)
- PBS: Music supervisor for the film, *Plastic Paradise: A Swingin' Trip Through America's Polynesian Obsession* ('12)
- Additional appearances: Ibero 90.9 (Mexico), WUMB; Channel 11 (Mexico City), Panamerika (lat-am), KHON, WYEP, WBCN, WAAF