

# Brian T. O'Neill

## Eclectic Percussionist and Drummer

Boston • 617.905.9660 • brian@crashandboom.com • crashandboom.com • @orchestrotica

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

“Incredible musicianship”  
—*Downbeat*

## Orchestral, Chamber, Solo, Choral Performance

### ENSEMBLES (AS PERCUSSIONIST)

- Orchestral sub list: Albany Symphony 2022 American Music Festival (principal), Albany Symphony (+drumset) (2016-), Portland Symphony Orchestra (2018-), Boston Modern Orchestra Project (2017-), Orchestra Pro Musica (2017-), Springfield Symphony (2016-), Glens Falls Symphony (+drumset) (2016-)
- South Florida Symphony Orch. (2016-2018)
- Additional appearances in New England: Merrimack Valley Phil. New Bedford Symphony
- Chamber: Cape Cod Chamber Orchestra (2019-), New England Brass
- Choral Ensembles: Orchestra Pro Musica (Albany), Spectrum Singers (MA), Chorus of Westerly (RI), Wellesley Chorus (MA), HalaLisa Singers (MA)

### GUEST SOLOIST HIGHLIGHTS

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

## Musical Theater (d=drumset; p=percussion)

### NATIONAL TOUR STOPS

- Providence Performing Arts Center (RI):  
*Ain't Too Proud\** ('22) (p);  
*Anastasia* – National Tour ('18) (d/p);
- Hanover Theater, Worcester (MA):  
*Motown the Musical* ('17) (p)
- Boston Opera House: (MA)  
*Motown the Musical* ('15) (p);  
*Kristin Chenoweth* ('12) (p)

### REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

- North Shore Music Theatre:  
*Mamma Mia* ('22, '18) (p), *The Bodyguard* ('19) (p), *Hairspray* ('18) (p), *42<sup>nd</sup> Street\** ('17) (p);  
*Spamalot\** ('16) (d/p); *West Side Story* ('16) (p);  
*Shrek\** ('15) (d/p); *Anything Goes\** ('14) (d/p)  
*Motown the Musical* – National Tour ('15) (p)
- Lyric Stage Company (MA):  
*Pacific Overtures* ('19) (d/p)
- Emerson Univ. Cutler Majestic Theatre (MA):  
*Working* ('19) (d/p)

# Pop/Jazz/World Ensembles and Performances

## PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

- The Who: *The Who Hits Back Tour* (orchestra) ('22)
- Mr. Ho's Orchestrotica (artistic director, vibes)
  - Artist Concert Series of Sarasota (FL) ('18)
  - South Miami Dade Cultural Arts Center (FL) ('18)
  - Detroit Institute of Arts (MI) ('17)
  - New Music Edmonton (CAN) ('17)
  - Lied Center (KS) ('17)
  - Huntington Summer Arts Festival (NY) ('17)
  - Musical Instrument Museum (AZ) ('17)
  - Montreal Jazz Festival – Main Stage (CAN) ('12)
  - Wassermusik Festival Berlin (GER) ('13)
  - Celebrate Mexico Now (NY) ('13)
- 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, *bodhrán*)
- 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* ('18)
- 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* ('12)
- Mr. Ho's Orchestrotica: *The Unforgettable Sounds of Esquivel* ('10) & *Third River Rangoon* ('11)
- David Wax Museum: *Everything Is Saved* ('11)
- Klezwoods: *Oy Yeab!* ('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)

### 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