

Benito Rha Lisco

75 Blakenham Road, Tooting Broadway, London, SW17 8NZ

Tel: 07791 249525

Email: rhastranges@gmail.com

PERSONAL PROFILE

A freelance drummer, percussionist, composer, arranger and band leader, with a passion for teaching, sharing musical knowledge and experiences and over ten years of experience. A good team player with excellent organisational skills, who focuses on achieving significant results through use of initiative and a positive “can-do” attitude at all times, as demonstrated during studies and work experience. I have performed in a number of countries including in the UK, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland and Hungary; I have recorded many albums, both as part of a band and as a session musician. These encompass a wide range of genres including pop, rock, heavy metal, jazz, latin and world music. I have attained both a BA (Hons) Jazz and a MMus Jazz Perf. I also work as a sound engineer, both in the studio and live, where I have gained a good working knowledge of a number of music software.

Looking for a teaching role where current skills and experience can be applied, with the opportunity for further self-development.

EDUCATION

Guildhall School of Music and Drama 2011 – 2012; London – United Kingdom

MMus Jazz Performance – Studied under some of the most prominent jazz figures in the UK, including Martin Hathaway, Scott Stroman, Malcolm Edmonstone and Carlos Lopez-Real. Also studied drum kit with Andrew Bain and Trevor Tomkins.

Modules included: Big Band Arrangement and Composition (First); Improvisation (2:1); Big Band Live Session; Harmony and Theory (First) and Jazz Performance (2:1)

Middlesex University 2008 – 05 July 2011; London – United Kingdom

BA Jazz (Hons) - Modules included: Un-American Studies, such as Brazilian and Afro-Cuban music (First); Advanced Improvisation (2:1); Harmony and Theory (First); Composition and Arranging (First) and Stylistic Studies (2:1).

Conservatorio di musica classica “Nino Rota”, Monopoli, Bari, Italy 2003 – 2006

Classical music diploma: Piano Grade 5 (First); Music Theory Grade 8 (First); Classical Percussion and Tuned Percussion including Marimba (First).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Guildhall School of Music and Drama (summer school)

Music teacher, July 2013

- Helping groups of musicians (with a wide range of ages) to develop their sight-reading, improvising and individual sound, as well as encouraging them to play together as an ensemble.
- Leading the class, giving them the keys to prepare a final-course concert.

Guildhall School of Music and Drama

Music assistant September 2012 – May 2013

- Teacher assistant for rhythm's class and jazz improvisation's class
- Help students to achieve professional results, and pushing them to the highest level, crossing music barriers and creating high level of performances

St Mary Magdalene Academy

Music teacher assistant, September 2012 – January 2013

- Teaching classes of pupils aged between 5 to 18 in both, primary and secondary school.

Guildhall School of Music and Drama (summer school)

Music teacher assistant, July 2012

- Helping the group (aged between 11 to 18) develop their sight-reading, improvising and individual sound, as well as encouraging them to play together as an ensemble.
- Generally assisting the student bands and aiding musicians during rehearsals.

Music Academy Bari-Scuola di musica - Via Edmondo De Amicis, 31, 70125 Bari

Summer music teacher and course coordinator for both jazz and pop music, June 2010 – September 2010, June 2011 – September 2011

- One-to-one drum kit teacher.
 - Performance teacher - helping pupils to develop performance skills and stage approach.
 - Theory and harmony teacher.
 - Composition and arranging teacher.
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WORK EXPERIENCE**Rha Stranges Trio/Quartet/Quintet**

Drummer, band leader and composer, October 2009 – Present

- Leading a personal jazz project as a trio, quartet and quintet.
- Touring in the UK and Italy, playing in well-renowned jazz clubs (Charlie Wright's International Bar, The Jazz Market, Nord Wind Jazz Pub, Oasi San Martino, Bohemien Jazz Caf , Taylor pub and more).
- Writing original music and arrangements for the upcoming album in September 2012.

Rha Stranges with Jason Rebello

Drummer, 18 November 2011 at Guildhall Music Hall

- Playing in a trio with the multiple-award-winning jazz pianist, Jason Rebello during the "London Jazz Festival"

Guildhall London Big Band

Drummer and percussionist, September 2011 – Present

- Playing drums and percussion for an 18-piece multiple-award-winning big band under the direction of Scott Stroman.

Steve Potts "Electric Flame"

Drummer and percussionist, October 2010

- Drumming for the Italian tour of one of the most influential improvisers and saxophonists of the century, the American's "Steve Potts Electric Flame" project with Gianni Lenoci (piano) and Carlo Mascolo (trombone).

Astrea

Band leader, drummer and composer, September 2002 – Present

- Won a number of awards in rock contests in 2004-2005-2006, including in the ASP Festival (Puglia, IT), Gioiosa Jonica rockfest (Calabria, IT), Art and Sonos (Sardinia, IT) and Pofirock (Lazio, IT).
- Recording of the video for the single, "Modern Hallucination", which critics and magazines described as "superb" and "enchanting".

Fallin'Time

Drummer, composer and lyricist, 1997 – 2001

- Studio drumming for the album, “Point Of No Return” – Elevate Rec/99th floor (1999); the album sold about 10 000 copies worldwide.
- “Point Of No Re-Tour”: almost two years of intense live sessions promoting the album with the band.

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Sound engineer, Roadie, Stage manager, and Stage tech. 2002 - Present

- In conjunction with my music career, I have worked as a sound engineer, roadie and stage manager on many tours around Italy, developing my team-working and problem-solving skills to a very high level. Some of my experiences are as follows:
- PA System operator for a Pope Mass in June 2009.
- Roadie for the multiple-award-winning band, “Stadio”, including five consecutive tours from 2005 – 2008.
- Road manager for the folk band, “i FOLKABBESTIA!”, from 2004 - 2006
- Stage manager with the role of team leader for “Sonika Music Service” from 2008 to Present.

All Around Metal 2011 – Present

Reviewer: Writer for the website, www.allaroundmetal.com , reviewing CDs and live gigs.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ON-LINE LINK: on you tube type Rha Stranges to videos link.

IT SKILLS: Good knowledge of the leading music software, including: Pro tools, Nuendo, Cu-Base, Sibelius. Experience with Microsoft Office – Word, Excel and Powerpoint.

ENDORSEMENT: Since 1999, I have been an endorser for **UFIP**, an Italian cymbal manufacturer.

SPORT INTERESTS: Almost 20 years of training in Karate; I gained the Black Belt (First Dan).

CRB Certificate: Full

Driving Licence: Full

References: **Martin Hathaway**, Head of Jazz at Guildhall School of Music and Drama,

Phone number: 07973155223 email: martin.hathaway@gsmd.ac.uk

Scott Stroman, Professor at Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Phone number: 07779657950 email: s.stroman@virgin.net