

# Chris DeRosa - Drummer • Producer • Composer • Writer

Chris DeRosa is a professional freelance drummer, producer, composer, and writer based in New York City. His experience has taken him to over 55 countries, performing and recording across a vast range of musical styles — from jazz, rock, funk, and soul to Latin, Afro-Cuban, reggae, gospel, and world rhythms.

Born in New Haven, Connecticut, and raised in nearby Guilford, Chris began playing drums at a young age, captivated by the late-night ECM recordings he heard on WPKN radio. He earned a scholarship to attend the Educational Center for the Arts (ECA) High School and, at 15, studied with renowned University of North Texas drum professor **Ed Soph** during Soph's sabbatical in Connecticut.

By his senior year, Chris was performing with **The Five Satins**, opening for **Chuck Berry** at Nassau Coliseum. His first steady professional gig came at 15 with the New Haven top-40 band **Horizon**, followed by his first recording session with Neapolitan singer **Benny Del Mare** on the album *Ménage à Te* at Trod Nossel Studios. That early recording led to a series of concerts and outdoor festivals throughout Connecticut with L'anima, Benny's backing band.

Chris continued his education at both **Berklee College of Music** (where he received the **Buddy Rich Jazz Masters Scholarship**) and the **University of Miami**, where he earned a degree in **Studio Music and Jazz Performance** and received the **Bowman Ashe Award** for artistic and academic excellence. While in Miami, the rhythms of Jamaica and Cuba became deep influences on his sound and stylistic development.

His résumé reads like a who's-who of modern music. Chris has performed or recorded with **Deborah Harry & Chris Stein (Blondie)**, **Rick Ross**, **Cee Lo Green**, **Michael McDonald**, **H.R. (Bad Brains)**, **Nadia Ali**, **Melba Moore**, **Tony Scherr (Norah Jones, Al Di Meola)**, **Raul Midón**, **Ivan Julian (The Voidoids)**, **Phil Perry**, **The Five Satins**, **Magnet (replacing Moe Tucker of The Velvet Underground)**, and many more.

On Broadway and in the theatre, Chris has performed in *Oh! Calcutta!*, *Grease*, *Songs of Paradise*, and *The Mikado*, and has collaborated with producers **Giancarlo Vulcano (30 Rock)**, **Daniel Rey (Ramones, White Zombie)**, **Jon Brion (Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind)**, **Jose Luis Pardo (Los Amigos Invisibles)**, and **Stuart Epps (Elton John, Led Zeppelin)**, among others.

In the world of modern dance, Chris has performed, composed, or accompanied work for **Gus Solomons jr.**, **Ron Brown/Evidence**, **Elisa Monte Dance**, **David Dorfman Dance**, **Mark Morris Dance Group**, **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, and **Paul Taylor Dance Company**, among others.

He has also performed with numerous church communities (including Trinity Grace, Redeemer, Shekinah Glory Worship, Resurrection Brooklyn, The Journey, Infinity, Citilights, Emmanuel, Grace Redeemer, and Plymouth Church) and has taught or lectured at **Marymount Manhattan College** (Adjunct Professor), **NYACK School of Music** (Guest Lecturer), and **NYU Tisch School of the Arts** (Staff Musician and Guest Lecturer).

Chris's performances have been featured on **WPKN**, **WXPB's World Café**, **WDST's Sessions**, *Good Morning Cairo!*, and on international tours for the **U.S. State Department** and **Jazz Cultural Exchange** programs in Egypt and China. He has been featured in **Modern Drummer**, **DRUM!**, **Hudson Music**, **Percfest**, and **The Black Page Magazine**.

His full discography is available on Spotify:

<https://open.spotify.com/artist/6uhdiFaJrOPIg2mwIFyJSI>

Chris is a member of **BMI**, **The Harry Fox Agency**, and the alumni associations of **The University of Miami** and **Berklee College of Music**.

He is endorsed by **Vic Firth**, **Sabian**, **Evans**, **Brady Snare Drums**, **Audix**, **MOTU**, **Roland**, **KickPort**, **Cympad**, **DrumClip**, and **RhythmTech Percussion**.

In addition to his work as a performer and composer, **Chris DeRosa is also a contributing writer for All About Jazz**, where he shares insights and reviews of artists, performances, and the global jazz scene.

Read his published articles here:

<https://www.allaboutjazz.com/articles-by-chris-derosa>