

ERNESTO CERVINI

Drummer Ernesto Cervini is making a name for himself as a consummate bandleader and in-demand sideman, praised for his deeply musical, infectious energetic talents. *Time Out New York* encapsulated Cervini as “a buoyant drummer as well as a sharp composer and bandleader,” while the jazz bible, *Downbeat*, described his fluid style as one that “exemplifies ‘float like a butterfly, sting like a bee’.” The drummer released *There*, his third album as leader of the Ernesto Cervini Quartet, in fall 2011. Reviewing the album, *Modern Drummer* magazine said: “Cervini recalls such old-schoolers as Art Blakey and Billy Higgins. . . It’s his robust, magnetic personality that fascinates consistently.”

There – Cervini’s first release via the New York-based Anzic Records, following his albums *Little Black Bird* (2009) and *Here* (2006)– was recorded live and features the drummer alongside saxophonist Joel Frahm, pianist Adrean Farrugia and bassist Dan Loomis. Of the recording, *The Ottawa Citizen* said: “On *There*, you can often practically hear the musicians smiling and reveling in their creativity and musical repartee. . . some superb, high-energy, spur-of-the-moment music.”

Born in Toronto in 1982, Cervini graduated from Canada’s Royal Conservatory of Music with a degree in classical piano and clarinet before focusing his energies behind the drum kit. After then graduating with a bachelor’s degree from the University of Toronto (where he now conducts masterclasses) and a master’s degree from the Manhattan School of Music (during a life-changing sojourn in New York City), Cervini laid claim to a diverse musicianship, one that has taken him to some of the hippest stages in North America – from the Montreal Bistro, Top Of the Senator, Rex Jazz & Blues Club, Massey Hall and Glenn Gould Theatre in Canada to Birdland, the Jazz Standard and 55 Bar in New York City.

Cervini has performed with Joe Lovano, Clark Terry, Benny Golson and Cleo Laine, among other jazz legends. He has opened for such star headliners as Herbie Hancock, Kenny Garrett, Roy Hargrove, Dave Holland, Roy Haynes and Poncho Sanchez. As a sideman, Cervini continues to play drums for the Amy Cervini Quintet (led by his singer sister), Strange Attractors and the four-part vocal group Monday Off. In the studio, the drummer has recorded albums with the Tara Davidson Quintet (*Code Breaking*, nominated for a Juno award), as well as saxophonist Hiromi Masuda (*Maybe September*) and Amy Cervini (*Lovefool*). As part of MEM3 with pianist Michael Cabe and bassist Mark Lau, Cervini recorded *Pennsylvania Grey*, described by *The Whole Note* as a “tour de force.” Cervini also co-leads the trio Myriad, with pianist Chris Donnelly and bassist Dan Fortin.

www.ernestocervini.com

###