

# DRUM CHANNEL<sup>®</sup>

LEARN FROM THE BEST™ NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024

## ROBERTO PORTA

DRUM CHANNEL X ROLAND CONTEST WINNER  
INCREDIBLE PERFORMANCES,  
DRUM SOLO, INTERVIEW

## SCOTT PELLEGRAM

ALL NEW LESSONS TO BOOST  
CREATIVITY AND MUSICALITY

## ON THE AIR

LESSONS, PERFORMANCES,  
EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS

## PLAYALONG CHART

PURPLE RAIN - PRINCE

## COMING SOON

CAMILLE BIGEAULT, VIRGIL DONATI,  
THOMAS PRIDGEN & BAND



SUPPORT@DRUMCHANNEL.COM

## FOUNDER'S DOWNBEAT



Since the years when I was teaching 40-50 students per week, the bar of drumming education has certainly been raised from both a technical and musical point of view.

Finding the balance between your technique and musicianship is one of the challenges I see with today's aspiring professionals. Visual media like YouTube is a huge asset, but at the same time, it could be a liability. Copying what someone played is one thing. Understanding why they played it and the subtleties of their technique is another thing, and it can easily be overlooked.

Anytime you see a drummer play, it is a learning experience. There is a good chance they will do something you hadn't thought of. I remember Alex Gonzalez of Mana saying he was returning to a hotel after playing to a crowd of 100,000 and hearing a wedding drummer in the ballroom doing something that he thought was really cool.

Learning to play drums is not about getting a good deal. It's about getting the right information, and there is no substitute for private instruction when possible. Looking back at hundreds of interviews I've done, almost every drummer has a story about their drum teacher and how they affected their life. Of course, there are the rare few who are self-taught, got into a great band, and found their niche.

I said it last month, and I'll say it again: it takes passion, practice, and patience. With hard work, you'll get there.

*Don Lombardi*

## LIVE STREAMS

## MEMBER EXCLUSIVE LIVE STREAM ACCESS

**Connect. REPLAY. Jam. LEARN.**

LIVE ●

**SAT, MARCH 02**

THOMAS LANG LIVE!  
9:00 AM PT

**SAT, MARCH 23**

THOMAS LANG LIVE!  
9:00 AM PT

**SAT, MARCH 09**

THOMAS LANG LIVE!  
9:00 AM PT

**SAT, MARCH 30**

THOMAS LANG LIVE!  
9:00 AM PT

**SAT, MARCH 16**

THOMAS LANG LIVE!  
9:00 AM PT

- ★ VIP Q&A's
- ★ Member's Only Chat
- ★ Replay 100+ Live Shows
- ★ Calendar of Upcoming Live Shows
- ★ Add Live Shows to your Calendar
- ★ Email [support@drumchannel.com](mailto:support@drumchannel.com) to request topics and guests for upcoming Live Shows!

A photograph of Roberto Porta, an Italian musician, sitting at a drum set. He is wearing a dark blue t-shirt and has a focused expression. The background is dark with a prominent red vertical light source. The word "Welcome" is written in a white, cursive font in the upper left, and "ROBERTO PORTA" is written in a large, bold, white sans-serif font below it.

# Welcome ROBERTO PORTA

**Roberto Porta**, an Italian musician and incredible talent in the world of drumming, secured the top spot in the 2023 Drum Channel x Roland Playalong contest. During a recent visit, he delighted Drum Channel with his exceptional drumming skills, leaving us thoroughly inspired.

## **Congratulations on winning 1st place in the Drum Channel x Roland Playalong Contest!**

It's a dream come true for me to be on Drum Channel. Since I was a child, I always took a lot of inspiration from Drum Channel. It has always been and continues to be an important guide for where I learn about drums and music in general.

I have been following Drum Channel since 2007. I first discovered Drum Channel through YouTube, watching guys like Ronald Bruner and Thomas Pridgen. Drum Channel has been really helpful for my growing path. I've taken Masterclasses and Micro Courses from Thomas Pridgen, James Gadson, and Gergo Borlai. I enjoyed Chad Wackerman breaking down Allan Holdsworth's songs. I've enjoyed Matt Garstka, Kaz Rodriguez, and Virgil Donati explaining the applications of dotted eighth notes, independence, and odd meters.

I also like catching live duets with Terry Bozzio on DCTV. I remember Antonio Sanchez playing with other drummers, and it's very beautiful because they are orchestrating live, like composition duets, so not properly trading solos, and that's what I like.

Drum Channel is different because it involves drummers with many different playing styles, and each one has different experiences to share. The thing I really appreciate about Drum Channel is that it's very focused on educational content, so you don't only get Masterclasses, but you also get Micro Courses where the drummers and the masters explain the concepts they are teaching. I think it's essential to inspire people by explaining specific concepts like groove or improvisation, for example.

# ROBERTO PORTA

## When did you start playing music?

My father had a music shop for more than 30 years. As a kid, I had the opportunity to be there a lot and try a lot of instruments. Drums came naturally to me. I started playing drums at the age of two on my first toy drum set. I would watch videos of great drummers like Steve Gadd, Jeff Porcaro, Vinnie Colaiuta, and Dave Weckel for fun. They inspired me. My father also showed me the great music of Steely Dan, Toto, Gregg Allman, and the most popular rock bands. I joined my first rock band when I was four or five.

At the age of nine, I went to the Classical Music Conservatory. I studied classical and symphonic percussion. This helped me a lot with technique on snare and other instruments like timpani, vibraphone, marimba, and xylophone. This gave me a new perspective on drums. As a drummer, I think about percussion first.

When I was 15, I did a bunch of gigs for about ten years, playing with many different bands in Italy that had many different musical styles, from pop to rock, blues, and country. I learned discipline. In a band, the role of a drummer is accompaniment.

At 20, I started touring internationally. Because I enjoyed many bands and had family that exposed me to many different styles, I became a very versatile drummer. I like to play pop, rock, jazz, fusion, R&B, and whatever. I am very open-minded, and that's why the drums are so beautiful to me.

## What's next?

My next step is to do as many things as possible, from recording sessions to playing live, clinics, teaching, and everything that concerns the world of drums and music. Teaching is one of the main things I love to do. It's about sharing what you know and love and inspiring people to help them grow.



Performance: "Fiery"



Performance: "Eclipse"



Performance: "Sense of Home"



# ROBERTO PORTA

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## DC CONTEST CHAMPION

*"When someone plays that kind of stuff so well and precisely, and so much in time with great feel, you know there's a lot more where that came from...it was a great performance altogether. He's very educated in music and clearly interested in great, complex music. You can tell he's played a lot at home and also with bands. It was fantastic!"*

- Thomas Lang

*"When he started playing, we didn't know that Roberto had the passionate musical chops that he had. They weren't just chops to be chops. They were subdivided with displacement, but he always came in right on the money, and started playing a groove that was fat and deep and in the pocket, and then he took off and went to Mars."*

- Gregg Bissonette

Drum Channel Presents



Roberto Porta  
DC Contest Champion

*"He knows the difference between on-the-beat and off-the-beat in any subdivision that he's playing in, and I think that's an important thing to know as a drummer. That was the thing that did it for me."*

- Terry Bozzio

*"He can groove. If he just had the superhuman ability without the groove, it wouldn't hit me, but he has the groove, and when he went into hyperdrive, it took off to another planet, and the time didn't ever suffer."*

- Chad Wackerman

*"He blew me away at the beginning when the bass drum patterns were with a single pedal. He didn't use a double pedal until the end of the solo. He was using his foot as another hand, which was amazing."*

- Don Lombardi

Q & A WITH

# ROBERTO PORTA

**Favorite Vacation Destination?**

**Venice or Polynesia**

**Starbucks Order?**

**Frappuccino and Vanilla Coffee Latte**

**Favorite Treat?**

**Tiramisù is my favorite dessert of all time.**

**What time do you go to bed?**

**Around midnight.**

**When are you the most creative (morning or night)?**

**Morning and afternoon because I have all the energy that brings ideas to my mind.**

**Favorite Song to Play?**

**"ESCUDO" from my latest EP, recently released.**

**Dream Collaboration?**

**I would love to play with Sting, Hadrien Feraud, Scott Kinsey, Frank Gambale, and John McLaughlin.**

**If you weren't a drummer, which instrument would you focus on?**

**Bass**

**Favorite Food?**

**Pasta with meatballs and tomato sauce, of course, with a classic old Italian recipe, of course.**

**Words of wisdom to share with young, upcoming drummers?**

**Practice, practice, and practice hours every day for years. Listen to all types of music and play with as many different musicians and bands as possible in many different styles. This experience will improve your playing.**

**Book Recommendations?**

***Douze Etudes* by Jacques Delecluse and *The New Breed* by Gary Chester**

**Hidden Talent?**

**I like to write thriller stories and plots for books or movies.**

**DRUM SOLO!**



# SCOTT PELLEGROM

BRAND-NEW



**Scott Pellegrom** - drummer, educator, and clinician with a twist of “mad scientist,” is back on Drum Channel delivering more of what he’s known for - versatile and innovative drumming techniques. Get ready to become an even more creative version of yourself after taking Scott’s lessons!

Here is some of what you will learn...

**Hand Technique:** Brush mastery, including mixing it up with sticks and brushes for improved technique and creativity, along with how to utilize the “thumb pit.”

**Foot Technique:** Bass drum hacks and heel/toe bass drum technique.

**Creativity:** Learn how to play inverted doubles for more musicality, along with what Scott calls “Squishin and Squashin the Padada.”



USING THE THUMB PIT



BUILD YOUR HAND TECHNIQUE USING BRUSHES



BRUSHES FOR HAND TECHNIQUE & CREATIVITY



MIXING STICKS & BRUSHES

# SCOTT PELLEGROM

BRAND-NEW



SQUISHIN' AND SQUASHIN' THE PADADA



INVERTED DOUBLES FOR MUSICALITY



DOUBLE BEAT EXERCISE



BASS DRUM TECHNIQUE LIFE HACKS



HEEL TOE BASS DRUM TECHNIQUE



HAND/FOOT COMBINATION WARM-UP



# PRACTICE ROOM



## Prince Purple Rain

### Drum Key



Crash Hihat Open Hihat Ride Ride Bell Tom1 Tom2 Snare Tom3 Bass Drum Hihat Foot

♩ = 100

### Verse



*mp*

### Chorus



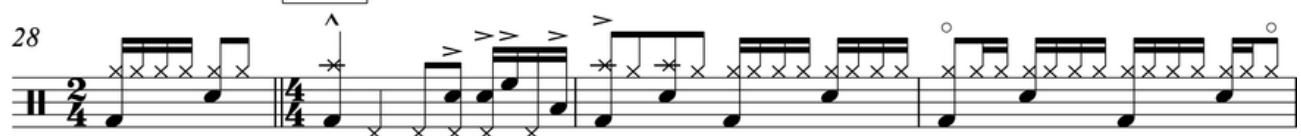
*mf*



### Verse



### Chorus



## PRACTICE ROOM

44

48

52

Guitar Solo

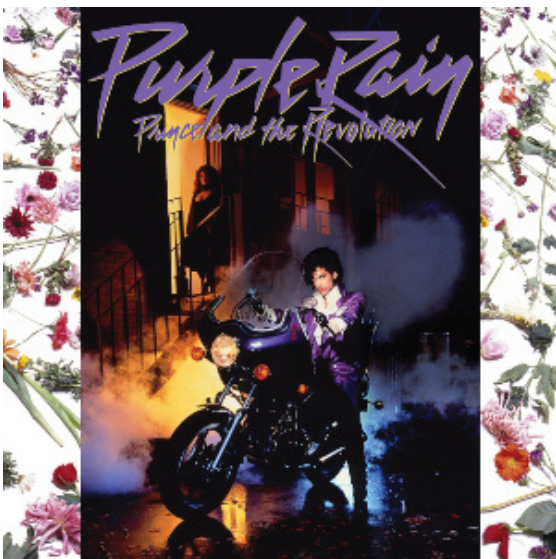
56

60

64

68

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Transcribed by Elias Vasquez



The drummer on this legendary track was **Jonathan Melvojn**. Released as the album's third single, "Purple Rain" is a compelling power ballad that blends elements of rock, R&B, gospel, and orchestral music.

Check out all of Drum Channel's Playalongs [here](#), where you can playalong with the most iconic songs of all-time. Choose to playalong to the original track, a Drumless version, or a Drums Hot version. You can also loop or slow down any section for deeper learning/practice!

Email us at [support@drumchannel.com](mailto:support@drumchannel.com) to let us know what songs you would like to playalong to next!

EDUCATION.

# DC MUST-SEE

ENTERTAINMENT.

FINDING YOUR VOICE  
FT. TERRY BOZZIO, STEPHEN PERKINS,  
ABE LABORIEL JR., CHAD SMITH



IN MEMORY OF HAL BLAINE  
HIS DRUMMING LEGACY LIVES ON



SINGLE STROKE ROLL – 15 MINUTE EXERCISE  
FT. CHAD WACKERMAN AND DON LOMBARDI



CHAD SMITH'S SHORT "UNDER THE BRIDGE"  
DRUM LESSON TO NANDI BUSHELL



NATE WOOD  
HOW TO COMMUNICATE MUSICALLY



THOMAS LANG'S DRUM COVER OF  
"SLEDGEHAMMER" BY PETER GABRIEL



LEARN.

HAVE FUN.