

Mark Kelso BIO:

Originally hailing from Belfast, Northern Ireland, Canadian drummer Mark Kelso has made Toronto, Canada his home for quite some time. Not only is he a skilled musician who plays drums and percussion, but he is also a singer, Producer, composer and band leader as well. Mark has also been the Head of the percussion dept at Humber College in Toronto since 2005.

Mark's ability to play a wide variety of musical styles has helped him become one of Canada's most sought after drummers. An all around player, he has worked/recorded with a wide array of artists such as *Pat Metheny, Donny McCaslin, Laila Biali, Michael Brecker, Randy Brecker, Michael Bubl , Changuito, David Clayton-Thomas, Holly Cole, Larry Coryell, Eliana Cuevas, Paquito D'Riveria, Hilario Duran, David Foster, Dave Grusin, Herbie Hancock, Olivia Newton John, Molly Johnson, Chaka Khan, Pat LaBarbera, Donnell Leahy, Natalie MacMaster, Bob Mintzer, Peter Murphy (Bauhaus), Donny Osmond, Danilo Perez, Chris Potter, Jovino Santos Neto, NOJO, Bonnie Raitt, Maria Schneider, John Scofield, Ron Sexsmith, Mike Stern, Soul Stew, James Taylor, Susan Tedeschi, Ian Tyson, Gino Vannelli, Carol Welsman* and his own Juno award nominated band, *The Jazz Exiles*. Mark runs "Groovy Drums Studio" where he records drum tracks for many artists around the world. To date he has played on over 285 recordings.

Aside from playing many TV and radio jingles and movie soundtracks Mark has also been featured in *Drums ETC, Canadian Musician, Drumhead, Drum Scene and Modern Drummer* magazines. Mark has also been a featured clinician/performer at the *Montreal Drumfest, IAJE, Musicfest, KOSA, Percussive Arts Society, Regina Drum Festival, Whack Bam Thudd festival, Victoria Drum Festival and the Cape Breton Drum Festival*.

Mark recently released his first instructional drum DVD entitled, "*Musician First, Drummer Second*" to great acclaim.

Mark endorses and is a featured clinician for **Yamaha Drums, Paiste Cymbals, Evans Drum heads, Headhunters drumsticks and Plunge Audio in-ear monitors.**

More info can be found at Mark's web site at www.groovydrums.com

