

# Darren Altman

## Drummer

Darren started playing the drums at the age of 8. He took lessons at his local school in New Malden, Surrey and progressed to local orchestras and Big Bands. At the age of 14 he studied at Trinity College of Music Juniors, followed by Leeds College of Music and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

He then went on to occupy the drum chair in the National Youth Jazz Orchestra for three years, performing all over the country, as well as appearing several times at Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club in London and recording several albums with the band.

In 2002, Darren played in Hyde Park as part of the live broadcast on BBC1 with Ladysmith Black Mambazo for the Queens' Golden Jubilee celebrations, working with George Martin and film composer Michael Kamen. He has also performed live with Will Young and Gareth Gates, recorded music for the Opera 1984 in Covent Garden with conductor of The New York Symphony Orchestra, Lorin Mazel and has drummed for The Rat Pack Show in The West End and European tour and has been the house drummer at Ronnies Scotts Jazz Club.

As well as his live playing, Darren has provided the music for numerous film soundtracks, including Ella Enchanted for Miramax films and The Life and Death of Peter Sellers, in which he also appears. His television credits include Midsummer Murders (ITV) The Debt (BBC) Ready When You Are Mr Magill (ITV) The Reversals (ITV) and Lock Stock and Two Smoking Barrels (Channel 4).

Playing the drums has given Darren an opportunity to travel the world. His tours have included Argentina with the Glenn Miller Orchestra, The North Sea Jazz Festival, Holland and The Plovdiv Jazz Festival in Bulgaria. He also participates in the annual Paradise Jazz Festival in Cyprus, performing with singer Anita Wardell.

Darren co-leads his own contemporary jazz quintet, [Centre-Line](#) with Russell Van Den Berg on saxs, Mike Outram on guitar, Simon Colam on keyboards and Rob Mullarkey on bass. They are currently busy gigging all over the UK and hope to be playing in major jazz festivals all over the world in 2007.

Darren also teaches drums and is currently the drum tutor for The Purcell School Of Music and The Royal Masonic School For Girls. He has given workshops at several schools and music courses around the country, including the Glamorgan, Guildhall School Of Music, Royal Academy of Music Jazz Summer Schools and The Wavendon Jazz Course. In February 2002 he was invited to Cyprus by the British Council to give workshops in jazz.

Teachers studied with include Dave Hassell, Bob Armstrong, Ralph Salmins, Trevor Tomkins, Mike Smith, Tenna Lyle, Simon Purcell, Pete Churchill and the BBC Symphony Orchestras' Kevin Nutty and John Chimes.

Darren can be seen performing regularly with Sax Appeal, Holly Penfield, The London Jazz Orchestra, Anthony Strong, SW-XI, Kelvin Christian and other leading jazz and pop groups throughout the country.