

J E F F N E A L ' S

DRUMMER

"Preeminent sideman"! That's how best to describe drummer Jeff Neal. He prides himself on being a diverse player with a full range of musical styles. Jeff's playing is *sensitive, clean, uncluttered* and *"in the pocket"*. He provides a *solid tempo & infectious groove* that makes the music feel good. Jeff's goal as a drummer is to always give the artist and the music what they require, to the best of his ability...period.

Jeff has been influenced by drummers **Steve Gadd, Jeff Porcaro & William Kennedy**, to name a few. He developed his feel by listening to a wide variety of music from artists, **Chick Corea, Steely Dan, Miles Davis, Michael Franks, Al Jarreau, Antonio Carlos Jobim, Kansas, Parliament, Sade, James Taylor** and many others.

Jeff Neal's musical training and education began with **The DC Youth Orchestra Program**. He also attends the annual **KoSa Percussion Workshop** in **Castleton, VT.**, as well as, **The Percussive Arts Society (PAS)** and **The International Association for Jazz Education (IAJE)** annual conventions. These events have provided him with master class instruction from some of the most respected drummers & percussionist in the industry.

Jeff volunteers and performs for **The Fish Middleton Jazz Scholarship Fund (FMJS)**, whose mission is to...*"nurture, sustain and perpetuate Jazz education and performance in public schools and institutions of higher learning"*. Since 2004, he has also been the drummer for the **Elliston Music Studio for Jazz Studies' "Vocal Workshops"** under the direction of **Ron Elliston** and **Ronnie Wells**.

Theatrical experience for Jeff Neal includes the Broadway musical **"Five Guys Named Moe"**, which ran for three months at **Ford's Theatre** in Washington, DC and for six weeks, at **The Wilbur Theatre** in Boston, Massachusetts. He was also the drummer for local productions of **"Footloose"**, **"Just So"** & **"Anything Goes"**.

Jeff Neal has performed live on the **Cable TV 76 Program, "It's About Time"**. Jeff has played on three CD projects to date and he also performs regularly in many night clubs and at music festivals throughout the area with many local artist including singer/songwriter **Mary Ann Redmond** as well as **Tyrone Shuz & His Funky Bluz**.

Jeff has also completed one contract on **NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINES' the M/S NORWEGIAN SUN** as the drummer for the **"Sun Show Band"**. The **"Show Band"** is the preeminent band on the ship and requires strong reading skills. They provide musical support for the various guest artists, dance companies and staged productions. They also performed different "theme" sets including 'Sinatra', 'Gershwin & Porter', 'Jump Blues', 'Dixieland' and 'Late Night Jazz Sessions'.

"Jeff is one of the few drummers that I can play with without a bassist." - Ron Elliston, pianist

"he plays from the inside- out." - Vander Lockett, sound engineer

short bio