

## ARI HOENIG BIOGRAPHY

Ari Hoenig, was exposed at an early age to a variety of musical experiences. His father is a conductor and classical singer, his mother a violinist and pianist. Accordingly, at 4 years of age, Ari began studying the violin and piano. At age 12 he started in on the drums and by age fourteen he was honing his skills with other young jazz musicians at Philly clubs such as Ortlieb's JazzHaus.

After attending the prestigious University of North Texas for three years, Ari transferred to William Patterson College in northern New Jersey. He soon found himself playing for legendary Philadelphia organist Shirley Scott and working regularly in New York City.

Shortly thereafter, Ari moved into Brooklyn and began playing extensively with a variety of groups, including Jean Michel Pilc Trio, Kenny Werner Trio, Chris Potter Underground, Kurt Rosenwinkel Group, Joshua Redman Elastic band, Jazz Mandolin Project and bands led by Wayne Krantz, Mike Stern, Richard Bona and Pat Martino.

Both of Ari's self-produced solo drum CDs, "Time Travels" (2000) and "The Life Of A Day" (2002), document his exploratory nature and they represent an ambitious tribute to the melodic possibilities of the drum set. Today, Ari continues to build on the concepts of these two records by playing largely improvised solo concerts using a simple four-piece drum kit without help from extraneous percussion instruments.

The Ari Hoenig Quartet was formed at the end of 2002 while playing every Monday night at the New York Village jazz club Fat Cat. The band featured Jacques Schwarz-Bart on tenor sax, Jean Michel Pilc on piano, and Matt Penman on bass. They released two records on the Smalls Records label: "The Painter" (2004) and the DVD "Kinetic Hues" (2005)

In 2006 Ari signed a multi-record deal with Dreyfus Records and released his first record for them called "Inversations" (2006) which features the trio of Jean Michel Pilc and Johannes Weidenmueller. "Bert's Playground" (2008), Ari's second record for Dreyfus, features Ari's Punk Bop Band joined by Chris Potter. Highlights of this record include Chris's solo on Moments Notice and Ari jumping around in red pants on the cover. Jonathan Kreisberg, Matt Penman, Will Vinson, Gilad Hekselman and Orlando le Fleming also represent on this one.

His next record project was for "Smalls Live", a record label set up in 2009 to document some of the music being performed at the "Smalls Jazz Club" in New York where Ari has appeared regularly since 2003. Ari chose his Punk Bop Band to make the live record "Punk Bop Live at Smalls (2010)". The Punk Bop Band features Will Vinson on alto, Jonathan Kreisberg on guitar and fellow Jazz Mandolin Project alumni, Danton Boller on bass. Tigran Hamasyan is a special guest on 4 tracks as well.

Ari's Quartet with Tigran Hamasyan, Gilad Hekselman, Orlando le Fleming and Chris Tordini released "Lines of Oppression" (2011) on the Naïve label.

In 2013 Ari and his quartet won the prestigious BMW Welt (World) award in Munich, an international competition for best band led by a drummer.

In 2016, Ari Released The Pauper and the Magician on AH-HA Records. It features the quintet of Shai Maestro on piano, Gilad Hekselman on guitar, Tivon Pennicott on Sax and Orlando Le Fleming on bass. On this record, Ari explores the link between story telling and jazz by creating a soundtrack to the improvised and sometimes twisted stories he tells his two small children.

In 2018, Ari released a standards record called NY Standard (a tribute to playing standards in New York). In 2019, Connors Days (his first full trio record) was released. It features Nitai Hershkovits on piano and Or Bareket on bass. Both of these are on the Fresh Sound label and have received widespread acclaim.

2022 brings two new exciting releases:

1) "Ari's Funhouse" (OAM). Ben Markley Big Band with Ari Hoenig. Ari teamed up with arranger/pianist Ben Markley to record an album of his compositions with a full 19 piece big band from the Denver area.

2) The trio recording "Golden Treasures" (Fresh Sound). Golden Treasure features Ari's current working trio of Gadi Lehavi and Ben Tiberio and documents Ari's composing and other general musical activities during the pandemic. The record is indicative of Ari's cinematic style of songwriting.

Ari also co-leads a variety of projects. Pilc, Moutin, Hoenig (The Three headed monster) released Threedom in 2011 on the Motema label. He has had various projects with partner Gael Horellou including the jazz electronica project "Nasty Factorz" with a self titled record released in 2016 and "Live" with the quartet featuring Horellou, released in 2019. Ari has also co-led various duo's with Chris Potter, Edmar Casteneda, JD Walter and Dan Weiss. His recordings as a side-artist total around 120 to date.

#### Educational Projects:

As an educator, Ari teaches privately and is on faculty at New York University and the New School for Social Research in New York. He gives clinics and lectures at music schools and universities worldwide. In collaboration with bassist Johannes Weidenmueller, Ari released "Intro to Polyrhythms Vol 1", and "Metric Modulations, Expanding and Contracting Time within Form Vol 2. (Mel Bay 2009, 2012)

In 2011, Ari released two more educational products dedicated specifically to drumming. "Systems Book 1, Drumming Technique and Melodic Jazz Independence" (Alfred Publishing), and DVD "Melodic Drumming" (2011) on [www.jazzheaven.com](http://www.jazzheaven.com).

In 2014, Ari released the 3 part video entitled "Rhythm Training" geared for all musicians who want to improve their time and rhythmic vocabulary. It offers a clear step by step approach to learning rhythm essential rhythmic vocabulary and is available through [www.mymusicmasterclass.com](http://www.mymusicmasterclass.com)

Since 2014, Ari has released many other educational videos on mymusicmasterclass.com. He started an online members only club at Patreon.com to talk about musical concepts and to share video lessons. "The Ari Hoenig Songbook" (a book with the lead sheets of all of Ari's compositions (not just the easy ones) is available for download at [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com))

Ari resides in Brooklyn with his wife and 2 daughters.