

Ari Hoenig (born on November 13, 1973 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), is a jazz drummer, composer and educator known for his unusual and intense approach to drumming emphasizing complex rhythms in direct harmony with other group members. Ari is widely noted particularly for his drumming not being relegated to just keeping tempo, or being a side issue to the music he plays in, but rather for elevating drumming as an indispensable part of the performance.

Hoenig is also known for his unique ability to modify the pitch of a drum by using drum sticks, mallets, and even parts of his body (such as his hands and elbows). Using this technique, he can play any note in the chromatic scale, virtually any melody, and even improvise on a chord structure in the same way as any other instrumentalist would.

Hoenig was born into a family of classically trained musicians. His father being a choral conductor and mother a violinist, he was exposed to classical and folk music at an early age. He played both piano and violin as a child, then rock and metal drums as a teen before settling into jazz and improvised music.

Ari has recorded written and produced 14 cd's as a leader. He has written and published 3 educational books, 4 educational DVD's and a songbook. Currently, his group tours worldwide and performs regularly at the legendary New York jazz club Smalls.

Ari is currently touring and performing with his trio of Gadi Lehavi on piano and Ben Tiberio on bass as well as his quartet adding Tivon Pennicott on Tenor sax with whom he won the BMW Welt competition in 2013.

Other artists Hoenig has performed or recorded with include Shirley Scott, Jean Michel Pilc, Mike Stern, Kenny Werner, Joshua Redman, Wayne Krantz, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Robert Glasper, Richard Bona, Chris Potter, Toots Thielemans, Pat Martino, Billy Childs.