

PEPPE MEROLLA

JAZZ DRUMMER · NAPLES → LAS VEGAS



PEPPE MEROLLA

"Little Joe" — from Naples

Frank Sinatra heard him open a show in New York and handed him a nickname that stuck: **"Little Joe."** Four decades on, Peppe Merolla is the drummer the masters call when the music has to swing — and the one they send their students to.

He came up the right way: the stages and festivals of Italy from age five, a **master's in classical trumpet** from Naples' Conservatorio di San Pietro a Majella, then the bandstands of New York. He has powered groups led by **Joey DeFrancesco, Eddie Henderson, Vincent Herring, and Jeremy Pelt**, and played the rooms that matter — the Blue Note, Yoshi's, Smoke, and Smalls.

His debut as a leader, *Stick With Me*, turned a sextet of New York heavyweights loose on a set of fearless hard bop. Singer, classically trained trumpeter, and actor as well as drummer, he works both sides of the Atlantic from his base in Las Vegas.

"He is an exceptional drummer of the new generation."

JOE MORELLO — DRUMMER, THE DAVE BRUBECK QUARTET

Hometown	Naples, Italy	Based in	Las Vegas, Nevada
Training	Conservatorio di San Pietro a Majella, Naples — M.A., Classical Trumpet	Style	Hard bop · Straight-ahead
Instruments	Drums & Percussion · Voice · Trumpet · Piano	Endorses	Canopus · Prologix
Online	peppemerolla.github.io/PeppeMerolla		

BOOKING & LESSONS peppemerollabookings@gmail.com · **WEB** peppemerolla.github.io/PeppeMerolla

Instagram [@pepporjazz](https://www.instagram.com/pepporjazz) · YouTube [/c/peppemerolla](https://www.youtube.com/c/peppemerolla) · Facebook [/peppemerolla](https://www.facebook.com/peppemerolla)

01 SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

- AS LEADER** **Stick With Me** — debut album as a leader; hard-bop sextet featuring Steve Turre
Sogno Italiano (Italian Dream) — Peppe Merolla & Jazz Mediterraneo (2001)
- INSTRUCTIONAL** **For Serious Drummers Only, Vol. 1** — endorsed by Joe Morello, Dave Black & Peter Donald
- EARLY CAREER** As teenage vocalist “Little Joe” — a three-album contract with Zeus Records, plus two records for Visco Disc

02 SHARED THE STAGE WITH

Eddie Henderson · Joey DeFrancesco · Vincent Herring · Frank Lacy · Jeremy Pelt · Steve Davis · Mike LeDonne · Russell Ferrante · Larry Schneider · Gerald Cannon · Enrico Rava · Franco Ambrosetti · John Farnsworth

Italian icons: Andrea Bocelli · Ornella Vanoni · Raffaella Carrà · Katia Ricciarelli · Eugenio Bennato

03 STAGES & FESTIVALS

[Blue Note](#) [Yoshi's](#) [Smoke Jazz Club](#) [Smalls](#) [Umbria Jazz](#) [Pisa Jazz](#) [Siena Jazz](#)

04 PRAISED BY THE MASTERS

David Garibaldi	Tower of Power · funk-drumming legend
Peter Erskine	2× Grammy winner · Weather Report, Steps Ahead, Steely Dan
Horacio “El Negro” Hernández	Grammy winner · Carlos Santana, Michel Camilo, McCoy Tyner
Jeff Berlin	Electric-bass virtuoso · Bill Bruford, Allan Holdsworth, Yes
Gary Husband	Drummer & pianist · John McLaughlin, Jeff Beck, Level 42
Eric Alexander	Tenor saxophonist · One for All; Harold Mabern
Joe Farnsworth	Jazz drummer · Pharoah Sanders, McCoy Tyner
George Fludas	Jazz drummer · Ray Brown Trio, Diana Krall

05 BEYOND THE KIT

- › **Orchestra Scarlatti of Naples** — drummer & percussionist from age 18
- › **RAI International television** — alongside Andrea Bocelli, Ornella Vanoni, Raffaella Carrà, Katia Ricciarelli & Eugenio Bennato
- › **Scugnizzi** (film) — lead role & soundtrack vocalist; an award winner at the Venice Film Festival
- › **Educator** — online & in-person drum lessons, all levels; clinician for colleges and schools worldwide

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