

Artistic Résumé

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SHORT BIO

Multi-award-winning Marcello Cardillo is a drummer and composer from Naples, Italy. He has performed alongside some of the world's most renowned musicians and he is currently living in New York City, where he regularly performs in some of the city's most historic venues.



Watching his father, Marcello started playing the drums around the age of 5. By the age of 14 he was already playing with some of the most important names of the music scene of Naples, and very soon all-around Italy, collecting at a very young age national and international recognition.

At 18 he moved to the Netherlands to study at the Conservatory of Amsterdam where he got his Bachelor and his first Master degree.

During those years he got the chance to play with names such as: John Clayton, Wycliffe Gordon, Bob Mintzer, Vince Mendoza, Jesse van Ruller, Riccardo del Fra, Alex Sipiagin, Ben van Gelder, and many others.

After spending one semester in exchange from Amsterdam at The New School of New York in 2019, where he studied with Masters such as Reggie Workman, Charles Tolliver, Andrew Cyrille, and Rodney Green; Marcello came back to the big apple in 2020, being awarded a scholarship to start his second Master degree at the prestigious Manhattan School of Music. Here he studied with Kendrick Scott, John Riley and Miguel Zenon. Soon Marcello got into New York City's vibrant jazz scene playing in historic clubs such as Smalls, Dizzy's, The Django, Nublu, Café Bohemia, Minton's Playhouse etc. Notable collaborations during this period are with legendary bassist Buster Williams, Steve Wilson, Stacy Dillard, Logan Richardson, Troy Roberts and Fabrizio Bosso, to name a few. His latest album "Portrait of a Moment", in collaboration with pianist Tommaso Perazzo, was released on May 31, 2025 and it features Buster Williams on bass, with whom he toured around Italy in the summer of 2025.

EDUCATION

From September 2010 till June 2015, he attended the Elio Vittorini High School in Naples (Italy).

On July 6, 2010 he successfully passed tests for admission to the Conservatory of Naples San Pietro a Majella for the traditional course of Percussion Instruments, which he attended for five years.

In May 2015 he was admitted at the Conservatory of Amsterdam, and on September 1st 2015, just finished the High School, he moved to Amsterdam to start his Bachelor.

In June 2018 he got his Bachelor degree at the Conservatory of Amsterdam.

In June 2020 he got his Master degree at the Conservatory of Amsterdam.

He moved to New York for 5 months (01/2019 - 06/2019), studying at The New School, as an exchange program with Amsterdam.

In May 2022 Marcello finished the second year Master at Manhattan School of Music in New York (4.0 GPA).

Drums teachers

- At 12 he started to take lessons with Maurizio Saggiomo.
- His drums teacher, from 2013 till 2015, was Israel Varela.
- Gregory Hutchinson, Kenny Washington, Joseph Farnsworth.
- Private teachers at the Conservatory of Amsterdam:
Martijn Vink, Marcel Serierse, Lucas van Merwijk
- Private teachers at The New School of New York:
Rodney Green, Kendrick Scott.
- Private teachers at Manhattan School of Music:
Kendrick Scott, John Riley, Miguel Zenon

MASTERCLASSES

From 21 to 26 July 2009 - Fara Music Summer School in Fara Sabina (RI) with the drums teachers: John B. Arnold and Ellade Bandini.

From July 6 to 18, 2010 - Workshops of the Berklee Summer School - Umbria Jazz Clinics 2010 in Perugia with the drums teacher Ron Savage. On that occasion he received the prize: All Stars 2010 by the Berklee School.

From July 18 to 24, 2011 - Summer School in Fara Sabina (Rieti), with drums teachers: Ellade Bandini and Kim Plainfield. Here he won a scholarship for an intensive course by the Drummers Collective in New York.

From May 25th to July 31, 2011 - Masterclass in Soriano nel Cimino (Viterbo) at the Tuscia in Jazz with teachers such as (among others): Antonio Sanchez, Buster Williams, David Kikoski, Shawnn Monteiro, George Garzone, Rick Margitza, Kurt Rosenwinkel.

On February 25th, 2012 - Workshop of the Trio: Enrico Pierannunzi on piano, Scott Colley on bass and Antonio Sanchez on drums.

In March 2012 - New York City - intensive course at Drummer Collective with the scholarship won last July in Fara Sabina (RI).

From July 30th to August 5th, 2012 - Fara Music Summer School with teachers such as (among others): Fabrizio Sferra and Billy Hart, Chiro Yamanaka, Jonathan Kreisberg.

From July 24 to August 7, 2013 - Siena Jazz Summer Workshops with teachers such as (among others) Ferenc Nemeth, Jeff Ballard, Gilad Hekselman, Miguel Zenon.

2015 till 2017 masterclasses with: Joshua Redman, Jeff "Tain" Watts, Peter Bernstein, Billy Hart, Jeff Ballard, Jorge Rossy.

From July 24 to August 7, 2017 - Siena Jazz Summer Workshops with teachers such as, among others, Marcus Gilmore, Henry Cole, Joe Sanders, Harish Raghavan, Drew Gress, Dave Douglas.

Performing with John Clayton & Wyckiffe Gordon during the "Exploring the Black Roots of Jazz" masterclass – Amsterdam from the 10th till the 14th of December 2017.

In July/August 2021 - Jas Academy in Aspen – Big Band workshop with Christian McBride.

AWARDS

He received the prize "All Stars 2010" by the Berklee School of Boston, during the Workshops of the Berklee Summer School - Umbria Jazz Clinics 2010 in Perugia.

From July 18 to 24, 2011 he attended the Summer School in Fara Sabina (Rieti), with drums teachers such as: Ellade Bandini and Kim Plainfield. Here he won a scholarship for an intensive course by the Drummers Collective in New York.

In April 2016 he, together with Tommaso Perazzo Trio, attended the semifinals of the Keep an Eye International Jazz Competition.

In May 2017 he won the First Prize of the Bucharest International Jazz Competition with the Aron Gunst Quintet.

On June 9th 2017 he participated to the final of the Conad Jazz Contest in Umbria Jazz with Tommaso Perazzo Trio.

In April 2018 he, together with Tommaso Perazzo Trio, wins the second prize of the Keep an Eye International Jazz Competition.

Summer 2019 he participated to the final of the Conad Jazz Contest in Umbria Jazz with Emanuele Filippi Trio.

Expression of art Award with Tommaso Perazzo Trio – April 2018

Barga Jazz with Tommaso Perazzo Trio – Summer 2020

Downbeat Magazine Student Award - 2022

COLLABORATIONS

Around the age of 14 he started to play with many musicians of the Neapolitan music scene such as Antonio Onorato, Diego Imparato, Stefano Giuliano, Bruno Persico, Aldo Farias and many others.

On November 20th 2013 he officially became part of the Jazz Big Band of the “University of Fisciano” (Salerno) lasted for two years.

He had the opportunity to have lessons and attend masterclass and concerts with several big names of the international jazz scene such as legends like Buster Williams, Reggie Workman, Andrew Cyrille and Charles Tolliver. During this time he has been playing with many different projects and bands, from the trio to the big band + symphony orchestra, performing around Europe, US and abroad in clubs, bigger venues and festivals.

Big Band projects and gigs:

- Christian McBride (Aspen, 2021)
- Mingus Big Band tribute directed by Jack Walrath, guest: Ingrid Jensen (Dizzy's, Lincoln Center, 2022)
- John Clayton and Wyckiffe Gordon (Amsterdam Blue Note 2017)
- Bob Mintzer Afro-Cuban Big Band project (Amsterdam Blue Note 2018)
- Vince Mendoza Big Band + Symphonic Orchestra, guest: Tineke Postma (Amsterdam Blue Note 2019)
- Justin DiCioccio (Amsterdam Blue Note, Amsterdam Jazz Festival 2018)
- Riccardo del Fra and Alex Sipiagin + Big Band + Strings (Amsterdam Blue Note 2018)
- Joris Roelofs with Concertgebouw Big Band (Amsterdam Blue Note 2019)
- Chris Byars (Amsterdam Blue Note 2017)

Small groups noticeable collaborations among many others:

Buster Williams quartet “Something More”, Logan Richardson, Stacy Dillard, Fabrizio Bosso, Ben van Gelder, Jesse van Ruller.

Marcello is now performing, teaching and writing music in New York. He has high level professional experience in playing many other music genres such as: Rock, Pop, Funk, Fusion, Brazilian, Cuban.

He also plays piano and percussion at an intermediate level.

Marcello is also a prolific composer and arranger, having written from small group composition to Big Band + Strings.

RECORDINGS

- “What’s Coming Next?” – Tommaso Perazzo Trio – 2019
- “Retrospective” – Retrospective Quintet – 2023
- “All in My Head” – Dion Berardo – 2024
- “Portrait of a Moment” – Tommaso Perazzo & Marcello Cardillo featuring Buster Williams – 2025
- “small things” – Jackson Potter – 2025

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2022/23 – The Bronx House – Private lessons and group classes. All ages, different backgrounds, including special needs.

2022/23 – Williamsburg Music Studio – Private lessons. All ages and different backgrounds.

2022/25 – Atmosphere Academy – Group classes. 6 to 8 graders.

Currently teaching and at the Atmosphere Academy in the Bronx, NY.

“When I was fairly young already my peers were asking me for advice and insights on how to play and how to practice more efficiently. The skill of communicating and sharing the knowledge has always been with me since the early days. I was developing as a teacher as I was developing as a drummer. I had a lot of teachers in my life and I learned a lot from every one of them not only about playing, but also about delivering information, allowing me to shape a strong and personal teaching method.

My teaching experience is vast and varied. When I was studying at the Amsterdam Conservatory other fellow students asked me to teach them, and from then on, I started to have a studio of a vast variety of students, from the peers, kids, and adults. There I discovered my passion and predisposition to teaching. I am passionate about sharing my knowledge, my skills and my vision to my students. I love teaching and I have been fortunate to be able to keep doing it successfully to this day because people appreciate my way of delivering the information: Simple and Clear.

I have taught children and seniors coming from many different backgrounds, and I do not have preferences of age or preparation, every student is a different world and every world

is unique and precious. I've taught in every environment possible, from institutions such as **The Bronx House, Williamsburg Music Studio and Atmosphere Academy** in the Bronx where I taught in a group class of kids between 5 to 14, to private studio where I encountered a huge variety of persons, age range and background, developing a well thought method and communication skills to be able to deliver the knowledge to every different kind of student, achieving the student's improvement and blossoming of their musicianship quickly and effectively. I do have experience in team-working and relating to children's parents, families, and colleagues. I'm an advocate for kindness and respect in and outside the work space.

I believe one of the most important things in teaching is understanding. It's a two ways process. Deeply understand the student and be flexible to constantly find different and more effective ways to deliver, depending on each individual. Ultimately, I believe lighting up the student's inner fire of curiosity and passion, is one of the greatest lessons that can be taught.

I hope I will be able to keep sharing my knowledge and help my students recognize and actualize their potential, and I am sure I will do it with the same passion and dedication I've had so far."