

ERNIE COLON

Drums



Ernesto “Ernie” Colon was born and raised in the small upstate New York village of Middletown. He started banging on pots pans and at the age of 10 started studying violin, moved on to sax, then finally told his father he needed to play the drums. At the age of 14 after only four years of playing he was accepted in all-county and all-state jazz and concert bands. At 15 his father took him to all the local jazz clubs to sit in with as many local jazz artists as possible. At 16 he was performing five nights a week while attending high school. Ernie won two New York State drumming awards, and at the age of 17 wrote and performed

many of the Middletown marching band’s street beats. That year the Middletown band was chosen to represent New York State in a national competition in the state of Florida.

Frustrated with the music scene in Orange County, New York, Ernie decided to study music at the Inter-American University in San Germán, Puerto Rico. During the next four years Ernie was a music honor student, performing in all the honor student recitals. While in Puerto Rico he had the privilege to perform with some of the best Latin and jazz artists on the island, including **Papo Lucas, Giovanni Hidalgo, Eddie Gomez, Charlie Palmieri, Marian McPartland, Kenny Drew Jr., Hector Venenos**, and many more.

When Ernie returned to New York, he taught and played locally until hooking up with the legendary timbalero **Henry “Pucho” Brown**. He recorded and toured the world with Pucho including two appearances in New York’s most prestigious jazz venue, the Blue Note. He has also shared the stage with many jazz artists, including **Roy Hardgrove, Clark Terry, Mitchell Camillo, Chucho Valdez, Fred Wesley, Claudio Roditi, Terance Blanchard, Mark Egan, Bernard Purdie, Alex Acuna, Stanley Clarke, Lou Donaldson, Dave Valentin, Ray Barreto, George Clinton, Afro-Cuba, Bob Mintzer**, and many more.

Ernie is active in the New York City jazz scene as a player and teacher. Currently, Ernie is working on a **Sal Giorgianni** recording with Tony Marino on acoustic bass, Robert Rodriguez on piano and Sal Giorgianni on tenor sax.

Ernie is a solid part of the core of **The Best!**, a 10-piece band led by maestro **Garth Hudson** of The Band with Garth’s wife, **Maud Hudson** on vocals.