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# BUDDY RICH

## MEMORIAL CONCERT

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MANHATTAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS/HAMMERSTEIN BALLROOM

EVENT  
**PROGRAM**  
OCTOBER 18, 2008



PRESENTED BY

**DRUCKER LABS AND SCABEBA ENTERTAINMENT**

— PRODUCED BY NEIL PEART —

# BUDDY RICH

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Arguably the greatest jazz drummer of all time, the legendary Buddy Rich exhibited his love for music through his life-long dedication to the art. His was a career that spanned seven decades, beginning when he was just 18 months old, and continuing until his death in 1987. Immensely gifted, Rich could play with remarkable speed and dexterity despite his never having received a formal lesson and refusing to practice outside of his performances.

Born Bernard Rich to vaudevillians Robert and Bess Rich on September 30, 1917, the famed drummer was introduced to audiences at a very young age. By 1921, he was a seasoned solo performer with his vaudeville act, "Traps The Drum Wonder." With his natural sense of rhythm, Rich was performing regularly on Broadway by the age of four. At the peak of Rich's early career, he was the second-highest paid child entertainer in the world.

*"Rich's technique has been one of the most standardized and coveted in drumming. His dexterity, speed, and smooth execution are considered holy grails of drum technique. While Rich typically held his sticks using 'traditional grip' (left thumb facing up), he was also a skilled 'match grip' player, and was one of few drummers to master the one-handed roll on both hands. Some of his more spectacular moves are crossover riffs, where he would criss-cross his arms from one drum to another, sometimes over the arm, and even under the arm at great speed."*

— EXCERPTED FROM WIKIPEDIA



Rich's jazz career began in 1937 when he began playing with Joe Marsala at New York's Hickory House. By 1939, he had joined Tommy Dorsey's band, and he later went on to play with such jazz greats as Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Ventura, Louis Armstrong, and Gene Krupa. Rich was regularly featured in *Jazz At The Philharmonic* during the late 1940s. He also appeared in such Hollywood films as *Symphony Of Swing* (1939), *Ship Ahoy* (1942), and *How's About It* (1943).



Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, Rich toured with his own bands and opened two nightclubs, *Buddy's Place* and *Buddy's Place II*. Known for his caustic humor, Rich was a favorite on several television talk shows, including *The Tonight Show* with Johnny Carson, *The Mike Douglas Show*, *The Dick Cavett Show*, and *The Merv Griffin Show*.

Throughout his career, Rich received numerous awards including an induction into *Downbeat* magazine's Hall Of Fame. Rich toured around the globe, performing for millions of fans and several world leaders, including the King of Thailand, King Hussein of Jordan, the Queen of England, and U.S. presidents Franklin Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, and Ronald Reagan.

On April 2, 1987, Rich died of heart failure following surgery for a malignant brain tumor. His close friend Frank Sinatra gave a touching eulogy at Rich's funeral. Today, Buddy Rich is remembered as one of history's greatest musicians. According to jazz legend Gene Krupa, Rich was "The greatest drummer ever to have drawn breath."

This is the 11th Buddy Rich Memorial Concert. The first was held in 1986.

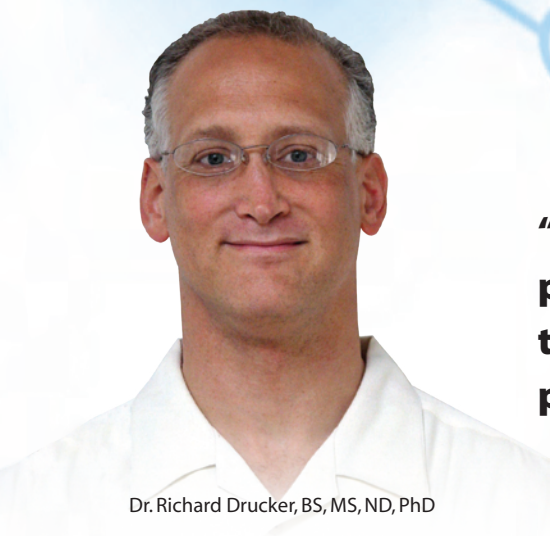
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# BUDDY RICH TRIBUTE CONCERT

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## INTRODUCTION WITH CATHY RICH

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TOMMY IGOE

"Little Train," "Preach And Teach," "La Fiesta"

JOHN BLACKWELL

"No Jive," "Nutville," "Mind Of Jay"

DONNIE MARPLE

Solo performance

TERRY BOZZIO FEATURING EFRAIN TORO

"Some Skunk Funk," Venture Brothers Medley w/Cowboy BeBop, "Machine"

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## INTERMISSION (15 MIN)

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TOMMY IGOE FEATURING WILL LEE

"The Chicken"

NICK RICH

"Beulah Witch," "Mercy, Mercy, Mercy"

CHAD SMITH

"Dani California," "Hocus Pocus," "Birdland"

NEIL PEART

"Love For Sale," "Time Will Tell," "Cottontail/One O'Clock Jump," "YYZ"

# CATHY RICH

I am honored to be able to present this amazing evening! It takes so much time and dedication to bring these events to you. I could never do this alone, and I want to thank everyone who came together to make this possible.

I do this for one reason and one reason only — to keep the name and legacy of my father alive. He was and is my guiding light, and I will always honor his last wishes of keeping his band working, his music playing, and doing something for young people. He is always with me and I am proud to be his daughter.



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# NEIL PEART

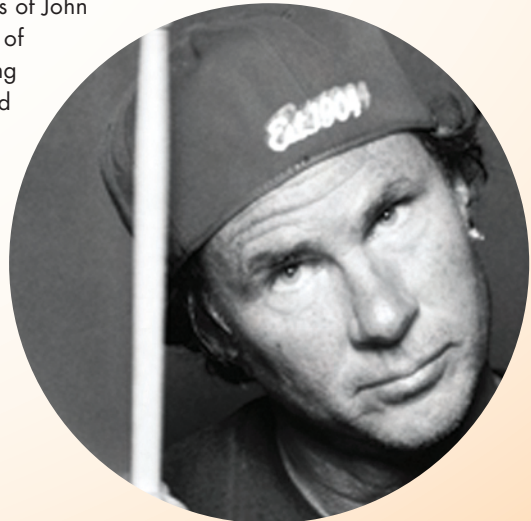
Neil Peart has garnered momentous amounts of well-deserved fame and respect from fans and critics alike thanks to his technical drumming proficiency, as well as his poise as a lyricist. Peart joined Canadian progressive rock band Rush more than 30 years ago. To date, Rush has sold more than 25 million records. When Peart expressed interest in the drums as a child in Ontario, his parents agreed that if he consistently practiced for one year (on practice pads and with lessons), they would buy him a drum kit. Peart earned the kit, and his parents paid for him to receive lessons at the Peninsula Conservatory Of Music. On July 29, 1974, Peart joined Geddy



Lee and Alex Lifeson in Rush, wasting no time in affirming that Lee and Lifeson had chosen the right drummer for the job. Before long, Peart also took over primary songwriting duties for the group. His creativity and timekeeping ability have made Peart one of the world's most famous living drummers. He is also Buddy Rich fan #1, having played an important role in previous Buddy Rich Memorial Concerts, as well as starring in *Burning For Buddy* and the documentary *The Making Of Burning For Buddy*. He has authored several non-fiction books, mostly personal reflections and travelogues of his many road trips.

# CHAD SMITH

Chad Smith's deep, funky grooves drive the Red Hot Chili Peppers with incessant muscle and a spacious sense of taste. He is a powerful player whose diverse influences, from the jazz of Buddy Rich to the big Bonzo beats of John Bonham, and the irreverent, unbridled attack of Keith Moon, enhance his playing with a strong sense of swing, great pop-rock sensibility, and an intuitive instinct to nail the groove deep within the pocket but still keep it lively. Smith joined the Chili Peppers in time for 1989's *Mother's Milk*, and from that point on this wildman behind the drums has pumped up the rhythm section's power with rock-steady grooves, hard-hitting syncopations, and a whole lot of personality on such highlights as "Give It Away," "Higher Ground," "Under The Bridge," "Lonely View," and, as you'll see tonight, "Dani California."



# TERRY BOZZIO

As a young boy growing up in San Francisco, Terry John Bozzio pounded out beats on coffee cans and crumpled high voltage signs, playing along with Tito Puente, Sandy Nelson, and The Ventures. Bozzio begged his father for drum lessons after he saw The Beatles on *The Ed Sullivan Show*. Then he began taking lessons and playing in garage bands. After playing with Mark Isham, jazz trumpeter Luis Gasca, and others, Bozzio joined Frank Zappa in 1975. His contributions to Zappa's sound were

as enormous as his increasingly elaborate drum sets. After leaving the group, he performed with a who's who of jazz, fusion, and rock, and led his own hit group, Missing Persons. He is equally well known for his groundbreaking work with guitarists Jeff Beck, (for which he earned a Grammy), Stevie Ray Vaughan, Steve Stevens, and others.

Bozzio is also a product innovator who has worked closely with Sabian on cymbal design and with DW on a variety of hardware and drums. Today, he is the resident artist for Drumchannel.com. Terry is performing with Efrain Toro, percussionist extraordinaire and unparalleled educator.

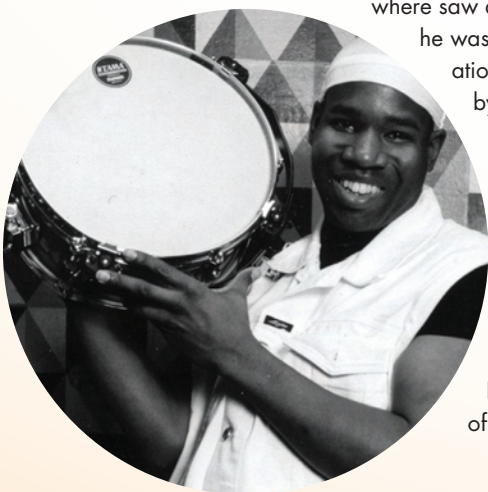


# JOHN BLACKWELL

Growing up in Columbia, South Carolina, John Blackwell Jr. was surrounded by great drummers, including his dad (John Blackwell Sr.), several uncles, an aunt, and one of his sisters. Even his grandfather, who didn't play drums, was still a huge fan of Gene Krupa. Blackwell has vivid memories as a young kid of seeing Buddy Rich in the *Muppets* episode that features a great drum battle between Rich and Animal.

His dad frequently took the young Blackwell to concerts when he was growing up, where he saw artists from The Jackson 5 to Rush. By middle school he was starring in marching and jazz bands. After graduation, Blackwell went to Berklee College Of Music, but by his final year he was already hitting the road and has toured with stars such as P. Diddy, Justin Timberlake, Prince, Cameo, Patti LaBelle, and others.

The Blackwell family was struck by tragedy in 2004 when John's two-year old daughter Jia died. "One thing I do before I go on stage every night," Blackwell says, "is take my hat off and bow and say, 'Let's go get 'em, Jia.' I feel she is with me every time I play." On this night, Blackwell says he hopes to channel the great spirit of Buddy Rich as well.





# TOMMY IGOE

Tommy Igoe has been a highly praised studio and touring drummer for the last 20 years. Based out of New York, he has worked with such acts as Stanely Jordan, Art Garfunkel, Dave Grusin, New York Voices, Patti Austin, Mark Mancina, Blood Sweat & Tears, David Wilcox, and Lauryn Hill.

Igoe is the son of the legendary Sonny Igoe and so, naturally, has been drumming from an early age. "I had the bug from day one," Igoe admits. Under the tutelage of his father, Igoe was privy to drumming fundamentals from the start, and was able to develop a strong work ethic as a result.

He has toured with Glenn Miller, Art Garfunkel, and many others, and is now primarily a television and film score session artist and private music teacher in New York. Igoe's Friday Night Big Band performs once a week at New York City's legendary Birdland jazz club.



# NICK RICH

Nick Rich, Buddy's grandson, started playing drums almost before he could walk. He was given his first drum set by Remo Belli at 18 months old, and played his first "gig" at two, sitting on his grandfathers lap at Disneyland. He hasn't stopped playing since.

After a successful career in television commercials as a child, Rich got serious about drums in middle school. At 15, he joined his first band, and had the opportunity to study with one of his drumming heroes, Travis Barker. He credits one lesson with Dave Weckl a couple of years later for taking him to yet another level of playing.

Rich is not only a talented drummer, he is also a singer, writer, and producer. His recent recording credits include working with multi-platinum artist Ray J and the EP *The Red Room Sessions* with underground sensation Opium Alibi. Rich is deeply honored to be a part of this celebration of his grandfather.



# DONNIE MARPLE

Born in Keyser, West Virginia, 21-year-old Donnie Marple began playing drums at the age of three at his former church, Elk Garden Assembly Of God. Having never had a drum lesson in his life, Marple's vigilant work ethic and persistence has paid off, with him being crowned champion of Guitar Center's Drum-off in 2007, the premier drum set competition in the world. He is now living his dream in Nashville, playing with a rock/fusion/jazz band called The Elmwood Band ([elmwoodband.com](http://elmwoodband.com)).



# THE BAND

## **BANDLEADER**

WILL LEE

Best known as bassist for 26 years on *The Late Show* with David Letterman, Will has also lent his considerable talents to well over 1,100 pop, jazz and rock albums by artists from Mick Jagger and Mariah Carey to the Bee Gees and Frank Sinatra, and has the distinction of recording or performing with all four of The Beatles. Will was also recently inducted into The Musician's Hall Of Fame in Nashville. ([willlee.com](http://willlee.com))



## **BASS**

Will Lee with special guest **Jeff Berlin**

## **TRUMPETS**

Chris Jaudes, Nick Marchione, Glenn Drewes, Scott Wendholt

## **TROMBONES**

Mike Davis, Birch Johnson, George Flynn

## **SAXOPHONES**

Nathan Childers — alto, Matt Hong — alto, Bob Malach — tenor,  
Rob Middleton — tenor, Roger Rosenberg — baritone

## **PIANO**

Matt Harris

## **PERCUSSION**

Efrain Toro



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## ARTIST ENDORSEMENTS

John Blackwell: Tama, Zildjian, Vater, Remo, Hudson Music

Terry Bozzio: DW, Sabian, Vic Firth, Attack, B-Band, DrumChannel

Tommy Igoe: DW, Zildjian, Vic Firth, Evans, LP, Rhythm Tech, Hudson Music

Neil Peart: DW, Roland, Sabian, Pro-Mark, Remo

Nick Rich: DW, Buddy Rich Drum Company, Sabian, Vic Firth, Remo, Joshua Clothing

Chad Smith: Pearl, Sabian, Vater, Remo

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