



Zoe Grella Professional Musician



I am a professional drummer and drum instructor.

How long have you been a drummer?

I've been a drummer for 40 years, and I've been teaching drums for 34 years.

Where do you currently work?

I play drums with different bands all around the tri-state area. My business name is Wilson Blvd Music and I am currently giving drum lessons from home either remotely or outside in my backyard. (Before COVID I was teaching in my home studio and also at students' houses).

How do you spend most of your time at work?

I teach kids and adults how to play drums. I also practice playing my drums and learn songs for band gigs.



Why did you choose this career?

I've been playing drums since I was a kid, and I never stopped playing! I started playing in bands when I was 15 and started giving drum lessons when I was in high school. I just kept playing and getting more students until I was making enough money to continue as a professional musician. One of my biggest inspirations was drummer Neil Peart from the progressive rock band RUSH.

ZOE'S FUN FACTS

*I've read the entire Harry Potter series 3 times. Love those books!
I've also read the Hunger Games series a few times.*

What did you do to prepare for this career?

I took private drum lessons for many years as a child and again as an adult. I played percussion in high school band, and I was also part of the Queens College Percussion Ensemble for four years. My work experience came from playing in different bands since high school.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Performing in front of people and also watching my students develop their musical skills

What do you find most challenging about your job?

Trying to have enough gigs and enough students to make a living as a full-time musician.

What is one piece of advice you would give to a young person who is interested in your profession?

Make sure you take one on one private drum lessons with a professional drum teacher. It's OK to use YouTube videos as a tool to help you learn drums, but it's not a substitute for a real teacher who can give you feedback and help you with your specific goals.



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