

DRUM CHANNEL[®]

LEARN FROM THE BEST™ **NEWSLETTER**
AUGUST 2024

JACOPO VOLPE

THE MAGIC BEHIND POST MALONE
PERFORMANCES, BREAKDOWNS
TIPS, TRICKS, EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

ZORO

TECHNICAL, VERSATILE, MASTERFUL
COURSE & LESSONS WITH CHARTS
NEW MEMOIR: MARIA'S SCARF

ON THE AIR

LESSONS, PERFORMANCES



SUPPORT@DRUMCHANNEL.COM

COMING SOON

VIRGIL DONATI, AL VELASQUEZ



In every newsletter, we aim to inform you about what's new on Drum Channel and share some of the things that will help you in every area of your playing. This month, we are featuring Jacopo Volpe and Zoro. As a member of Drum Channel, you will be able to see all of the videos and links in this newsletter.

If you're not a member, we've included some YouTube videos that you will see if you scroll down to the bottom of this newsletter. They include Jim Keltner discussing Charlie Watts with Chad Wackerman and Gregg Bissonette. It's one of the hundreds of DC Shows in DC Entertainment, and they're all another great way to learn. You can also check out Camille Bigeault for free in a masterclass where she breaks down polyrhythms and shows you how to easily master them. It's excellent for drummers at all levels and a great example of our hundreds of Lessons on Drum Channel. Gregg Bissonette discusses the art of drum solos, which he also covers in his Drum Channel course on Vocabulary, where he breaks down 15 different styles.

Enjoy what's free, and remember, for as little as \$16.42 per month (paid annually), you can see everything as a DC member. There is enough to keep you busy for several years.

Don Lombardi



NEW! ZORO'S MEMOIR

Zoro's memoir tells the story of a fatherless biracial child of a Mexican immigrant and his family's fight for survival against almost insurmountable odds. Through laughter, tears, and many misadventures, Zoro touches the heart of every reader— young or old, citizen or immigrant—and speaks to the dreamer in all of us. Pick up your copy today— available through most book retailers.

"Filled with wit, wisdom, grit, and glory, Maria's Scarf will leave you with a hopeful sense of possibility and the desire to rock the world in your own way!"

Alex Van Halen

"Zoro's memoir will make you believe anything is possible."

Dave Ramsey

AUGUST 2024 NEW WEEKLY PLAYALONGS

Wed, August 7
Goodbyes
by Post Malone

Wed, August 14
Rockstar
by Post Malone

Wed, August 21
Pappapà RMX
by Salmo

Wed, August 28
I Want You to Want Me
by Cheap Trick

*"Play for the music,
not for yourself."*



Jacopo Volpe is known for his exceptional technicality and innovative approach to rhythm. With experience across various musical genres, he has played with prominent artists such as Post Malone, showcasing his ability to adapt and elevate diverse musical styles. Known for his mantra, "play for the music, not yourself," Jacopo's dedication shines both on stage and in the studio. Discover how Jacopo has been preparing for his current gig his entire life and how taking risks has led to significant breakthroughs in his career. We hope you enjoy getting to know and learning from the incredible Jacopo Volpe as much as we did!

When did you start playing drums?

I started playing drums at like four or five years old. I was surrounded by music because my dad used to play, not as a professional musician, but he plays organ and stuff like that. So it's probably why I started playing drums and music in general. I joined him in playing when I was very young, and we used to do jam sessions. I didn't have a Plan B for my life. I always wanted to be a musician. Being on stage is the best feeling in the world.

How did you get the gig with Post Malone?

Of course, I was a fan of Post Malone. When I used to listen to his songs, I felt connected with him because I really liked the songwriting, and he didn't have a specific genre. He can play everything, and everything he does sounds amazing. I met him in 2018 when I flew from Italy to the US for one of his shows.

It was May 2018. A friend gave me a backstage pass, and I saw him in front of his tour bus. I got to show him a video of me playing one of his songs called, Over Now, and he was really interested in watching the video. After he saw the video, he gave me his number. I also told him, "I'm from Rome," and he said, "No way, man, Rome is one of my favorite cities in the world. We should ride a Vespa and have a good wine in Rome." Everything was very natural.

(Getting the Gig continued)

After that, I stayed in contact with the production team. At the time, he wasn't playing with a band. He was just playing with tracks. I would check in every six months or so. In 2019, I had the chance to jam with him in a jam room backstage, but it wasn't until 2023 that he started going out with a band, and that's when I got a call. I had to rush to get my Visa to work in the US. I had less than a month to do everything. I started learning all the songs, every arrangement, every single pattern. I was trying to be as precise as I could.

My motto is that you have to play for the music, not for yourself. I wanted to be respectful, and then, when we were in the rehearsals, we changed things a little bit. He might say, *give me some more on this, play less on that*, and that's it. On the first day of rehearsals with Posty, we played like five or six songs, and then we jammed for like four hours, going from blues to country, and ended up in metal stuff. It was so cool!

How did you find your drumming style?

You've got to be very specific to find your style, no matter what the genre is. I grew up listening to a lot of different styles of music, from rhythm and blues to country, jazz, and fusion. Then I switched to punk rock, metal, electronic music and stuff like that, but I always tried to find my way of expressing myself, trying to mix all the influences I had to become the best drummer I could be. Not being stuck just in one style is important. Versatility is important, especially if you want to work in the music business.

What is your warm-up routine?

I don't have a specific routine. I want to be ready for the show, so I usually start playing on my drum pad and doing a lot of rudiments. Backstage, everyone likes to listen to music. They put on a song, and I do single and double strokes on that beat, and then I go to triplets and get up to 64th notes. It makes the practice more fun to play along with a variety of songs. It's a good way to not just be on your phone with a metronome doing rudiments, although playing with a metronome is important. I started playing with the metronome and click tracks at 18 or 19. I used to play with a lot of bands and artists with backing tracks because it's part of the show - the lights and everything are orchestrated around the click, so you cannot mess up with that.

My suggestion is that when you practice on your own, you play with a click and also play without a click and just go with the flow. But if you want to work in music and do pop or big gigs, you've got to be able to play with a metronome.

To see the full Lombardi Live Interview ft. Jacopo, [CLICK HERE](#) 

COURSE

JACOPO VOLPE



What You Will Learn

- Breaking Down “Goodbyes” by Post Malone
- Breaking Down “Rockstar” by Post Malone
- Breaking Down “Pappapà” By Salmo
- Jacopo’s Go-To Lick RKKL
- Trap Beats on the Drums

** Drum charts included to play along with. **

JACOPO VOLPE

Where were you born?

Rome, Italy, on April 11, 1990

Favorite vacation destination?

Formentera, Spain

When are you the most creative (morning or night)?

Morning

Dream collaboration?

Dave Grohl

If you weren't a drummer, which instrument would you focus on?

Probably bass or guitar, even though I studied piano when I was younger.

Book recommendation?

Relentless: From Good to Great to Unstoppable by Tim Grover

Hidden talent?

Cooking

Coffee Order?

Double Espresso

Favorite food?

Mexican - big burrito fan, here!

Favorite treat?

Oreo

What time do you go to bed?

Midnight

Do you have any words of wisdom to share with up-and-coming drummers?

Find your own way and be patient.

JACOPO VOLPE

"I always tried to find my way of expressing myself, trying to mix all the influences I had to become the best drummer I could be."

Jacopo Performances





ZORO

Zoro, known as "The Minister of Groove," is a renowned drummer in the rock, R&B, and hip-hop genres. He is celebrated for his distinctive feel and drive. Zoro has toured and recorded with an impressive roster of artists, including Lenny Kravitz, Bobby Brown, Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, New Edition, Jody Watley, Sean Lennon, Philip Bailey, Lisa Marie Presley, Throttle Body Motorcycle Club, and many more.

This 1-1/2-hour Drum Channel course delves into concepts such as creativity, improvisation, soloing, rudiments, and techniques for improving drum feel. Grab your hat and get started!

Building a Musical Foundation



Musical Ideas for Improvisation and Soloing

#1 6-Stroke Fill





**Using Creative Sounds
on the Drum Set**



**Master Your Backbeat, Triplet,
Swing, Half-Time Feel**

#1 6-Stroke Fill

R L L R R L R

#2 12/8 or Triplet Feel

#3 Swing Groove

#4 Swung/Straight Groove: Early Rock

#5 16th Note Groove



**How Ghost Notes
Will Make a Shuffle Funky**



**Using the 5 Stroke Roll
with Your Hands**

#1 5 Stroke Roll Sticking

R R L L R L L R R L

#2 Leading Off A Fill (16th & 32nd Notes)

R R R L L R R R L L



Using the 5 Stroke Roll with Hi-Hat and Bass Drum

#3 5 Stroke Roll Adding Two Bass Drums

R R F F L R R F F B B F



Add the 7 Stroke Roll and Subdivisions Into Your Playing

#1 3-Note Subdivision Example



#2 7-Stroke Roll



Bonus Lessons



Develop Your Finger Control
and Ghost Notes



Learn to Improvise by Building
Musical Ideas and Phrases

PAD EXERCISES FOR THE KIT MATT GARSTKA



CHARLIE WATTS MASTERED THE ROLLING STONES' SOUND: INSIGHTS FROM JIM KELTNER



ZIGABOO'S APPROACH TO GROOVES AND FILLS



CAMILLE'S CHALLENGE TO LEARN A THREE-LIMB POLYRHYTHM AS FAST AS POSSIBLE



WORKING ON YOUR INNER CLOCK WITH JR ROBINSON



DRUM SOLOS | TIPS AND TECHNIQUES FROM GREGG BISSONETTE

