

**the**  
**WHOLE**  
**DRUM** Jazz legends in historic percussion performance  
**TRUTH**

**Albert “Tootie” Heath • Billy Hart • Louis Hayes**  
**Willie Jones III • Idris Muhammad • Ben Riley**  
**Kenny Washington • Jackie Williams • Leroy Williams**

[www.thewholedrumtruth.com](http://www.thewholedrumtruth.com)

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## **Booking Kit**

**Story • Reviews • Bios • Teaching**

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# the WHOLE **DRUM** Jazz legends in historic percussion performance TRUTH

## Story

The Whole Drum Truth brings together legendary American jazz drummers under the leadership of Albert “Tootie” Heath in a rotating all-percussion quartet. Our ensemble is unique on the contemporary music scene. New pieces are composed and rehearsed for each concert. On three continents – from Yale University to the Cape Town Jazz Festival, from the New Orleans Contemporary Arts Center to the Rotterdam Jazz Festival – every performance has received a standing ovation and every hall has sold out.

The artists are prime creators of the rhythm and sound of modern jazz –

- **Tootie Heath, leader** – drummer for Bobby Timmons, J.J. Johnson, the Modern Jazz Quartet, John Coltrane and currently The Heath Brothers Quartet.
- **Billy Hart** – drummer for Miles Davis, Wes Montgomery, Herbie Hancock and currently leader of the Billy Hart Quartet.
- **Louis Hayes** – drummer for Cannonball Adderley, Horace Silver, Freddie Hubbard and currently leader of the Cannonball Legacy Band.
- **Willie Jones III** – drummer for Milt Jackson, Arturo Sandoval, Roy Hargrove and currently leader of his own ensembles.
- **Idris Muhammad** – drummer for Sam Cooke, Curtis Mayfield and Ahmad Jamal.
- **Ben Riley** – drummer for Thelonious Monk and Sonny Rollins, co-founder of Sphere and currently leader of the Monk Tribute Band.
- **Kenny Washington** – drummer for Betty Carter, Johnny Griffin and currently (and for more than the past decade) the Bill Charlap Trio.
- **Jackie Williams** – drummer for Doc Cheatham, Alberta Hunter and currently the Junior Mance Trio.
- **Leroy Williams**, drummer for Stan Getz, Sonny Stitt, Teddy Wilson and currently (and for the past 30 years) the Barry Harris Trio.

The Whole Drum Truth moves the drums from the “back line” into the spotlight!

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## Reviews

“The big event of the festival . . . groovy, earthy . . . melodic and musically inspired.”

ARMAND SERPENTI  
Trouw newspaper, Amsterdam

“Elegant, entertaining and technically amazing.”

GWEN ANSELL  
South Africa Business Day

“Incredible set . . . Four drum masters . . . have enchanted and taken the instrument to the next level. Intellectual and effective. Who knew a tambourine had THAT much to say?”

DEBORAH RATH  
DJ, CD101.9-FM

“A stellar gathering of jazz drumming talent . . . sheer joy and percussive intensity.”

RICK VAN HORN  
Senior Editor Modern Drummer

“Drumming legends – rhythm masters who can take the stick and drive the car with control at top speed or brush a sibilant, sensitive canvas for a ballad – and handle everything in between. Each man is a force in his own right. In their presence the subject of jazz drumming is clearly articulated and demonstrated with the utmost authority. Together they are a prodigious Power of Four.”

IRA GITLER  
Former editor *Downbeat*; co-author *Biographical Encyclopedia of Jazz*

“The drum set is one of the truly new instruments that arrived in the 20th century, and some of the most demanding styles since 1945 have been mastered by these men. Anything they get together and do is more than highly recommended; it is essential learning.”

STANLEY CROUCH  
Columnist and cultural critic

“The trap set is an American invention and the core of virtually every kind of urban American music. To learn the different components, the variety of ways in which they can be played, and the mastery of tone and style that identifies every great drummer is to achieve a closer understanding of percussion and time itself. What makes "The Whole Drum Truth" so remarkable is that it brings together the greatest players of the past 40 years – the heartbeat musicians who helped bring alive the music of Thelonious Monk, the Modern Jazz Quartet, Cannonball Adderley, and many others.”

GARY GIDDINS  
Jazz historian

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## Bios

**Albert “Tootie” Heath** Youngest of the three musical Heath brothers. The first of Tootie’s several hundred records was John Coltrane’s first as a leader (*Coltrane* on Prestige). John Lewis chose Tootie to be the last drummer for the Modern Jazz Quartet following the death of Connie Kay. Tootie was a regular member of bands led by Don Cherry, Kenny Drew, Harry “Sweets” Edison, Art Farmer/Benny Golson, Frederic Gulda (in a trio with Ron Carter), Tommy Flanagan, Dexter Gordon, Herbie Hancock, Freddie Hubbard, Milt Jackson, J.J. Johnson, Yusef Lateef, Sonny Rollins, Bobby Timmons, Lester Young, Cedar Walton and Ben Webster. Recipient of Yale University’s Duke Ellington Fellowship Medal and many awards for helping children at risk. Member of the faculty at Stanford University’s Jazz Workshop since 1986. Featured in the documentary film *Between a Smile and a Tear* by the Danish pianist and film-maker Niels Lan Doky, which highlights Tootie’s residency at the fabled Montmartre jazz club in Copenhagen. Tootie performs with his brother Jimmy in the Heath Brothers Quartet.

**Billy Hart** Billy began his career playing for Shirley Horn. He was the regular drummer for the Montgomery brothers, organist Jimmy Smith and Wes Montgomery. He then joined Herbie Hancock’s sextet, McCoy Tyner and Stan Getz. Among his more than 600 recordings are two for Miles Davis, *Big Fun* and *On the Corner*. Billy has also played and recorded with Chick Corea, Andrew Hill, Joao Gilberto, Pharaoh Sanders, Wayne Shorter and Cecil Taylor. He was a founding member of both the Mingus Dynasty and Quest ensembles. As a leader, his groups have included Bill Frisell, Kevin Eubanks, Buster Williams and John Stubblefield. His innovative percussion performances include duets with Andrew Cyrille. Billy is a member of the music faculty at Oberlin, Western Michigan University and The New England Conservatory of Music, among other leading institutions. Billy is the leader of the Billy Hart Quartet.

**Louis Hayes** Louis began his professional career at age 18 when he joined Yusef Lateef’s band. He was the prime drummer for Cannonball Adderley, and propelled groups led by Horace Silver, Freddie Hubbard, Oscar Peterson and John Coltrane (including the albums *Lush Life* and *Last Trane*). Louis has also provided the rhythm for Nat Adderley (*Work Song*), George Benson, Duke Ellington, Curtis Fuller, Stan Getz, Dexter Gordon, Joe Henderson, J.J. Johnson, Jackie McLean, Wes Montgomery, Sonny Rollins, Woody Shaw, McCoy Tyner and Cedar Walton. His work with vocalists includes Ella Fitzgerald, Betty Carter and Nancy Wilson. Louis has recorded with musical geniuses as varied as John Lee Hooker and Ravi Shankar. His recent quintets have included young stars such as Vincent Herring, Javon Jackson, Abraham Burton, Riley Mullins and Richie Goods. Louis is the leader of the Cannonball Legacy Band.

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**Willie Jones III** The son of a prominent jazz pianist, Willie attended the California Institute of the Arts where he studied under Tootie Heath. He was a semifinalist in the 1992 Thelonious Monk Jazz Drum Competition. Willie spent a decade as the regular drummer for the Milt Jackson Quartet, Arturo Sandoval, and the Roy Hargrove Quintet. Among Willie's many recordings are Horace Silver's *Jazz Has a Sense of Humor*, Kurt Elling's Grammy-nominated album *Night Moves* and Eric Reed's *Here*. He has also played with Eric Alexander, Ernestine Anderson, Michael Brecker, Bill Charlap, Billy Childs, Herbie Hancock, Bobby Hutcherson, Hank Jones, Wynton Marsalis, Sonny Rollins and Cedar Walton. As a leader, Willie has released four albums on his own label WJ3 Records; his latest is entitled *The Next Phase*.

**Idris Muhammad** A celebrated innovator in soul, funk, R&B and jazz, and a major recording artist (including more than 130 albums for Rudy Van Gelder). Drummer for many classic recordings and performances by Sam Cooke, Fats Domino, Curtis Mayfield and Lou Donaldson. House drummer at Harlem's famed Apollo Theater. Original drummer for the Broadway musical, *Hair*. Longtime drummer for Roberta Flack, Idris has also performed and recorded with Johnny Griffin, Ahmad Jamal, Pharaoh Sanders, George Coleman and the Paris Reunion Band. As a leader, Idris' bands have included Grover Washington, Jr. and Randy Brecker.

**Ben Riley** Drummer for Thelonious Monk. Ben has also played and recorded extensively with Ray Bryant, Stan Getz, Woody Herman, Ahmad Jamal, Sonny Rollins, the Ron Carter Quartet, Milt Jackson, Sir Roland Hanna's New York Jazz Quartet, the New York Saxophone Quartet, Abdullah Ibrahim and Maria Muldaur. He was a co-founder of Sphere (with Charlie Rouse, Kenny Barron and Buster Williams) to pay musical tribute to Monk. Recipient of Yale University's Duke Ellington Fellowship Medal. Ben is the leader of the Monk Tribute Band.

**Kenny Washington** Kenny graduated from the famous Music & Art high school and furthered his drum studies with Rudy Collins, a player of wide talents for such diverse artists as Hot Lips Page and Cecil Taylor. While still a teenager, Kenny broke in with Lee Konitz's band. He later joined Betty Carter and Johnny Griffin. Kenny has played and recorded with many of the greatest jazz musicians, including Ray Bryant, Tommy Flannagan, Dizzy Gillespie, Milt Jackson, Ahmad Jamal, Houston Person, Clark Terry and Frank Wess. His work with singers includes Andy Bey, Freddy Cole, Lena Horne, Etta Jones and Jane Monheit. A scholar of jazz history, Kenny is the author of liner notes for many albums and he has prepared classic recordings by Count Basie and Art Blakey for re-release. A faculty member at The Julliard School of Music since 2008, he also teaches at Purchase College of the State University of New York. For more than the past decade, Kenny has been the drummer for the Bill Charlap Trio.

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**Jackie Williams** Jackie was Doc Cheatham's drummer for 18 years at Sweet Basil in Greenwich Village. He has played and recorded with Buck Clayton (on a U.S. State Department tour of the Middle East and Africa), Bobby Hackett, Earl Hines, Milt Hinton, Alberta Hunter, Illinois Jacquet, Jay McShann, Bobby Short, Buddy Tate and Teddy Wilson. Recipient of Yale University's Duke Ellington Fellowship Medal. A veteran of jazz festivals throughout the world including Nice, Montreux and North Sea, Jackie is the longtime drummer for the Junior Mance Trio.

**Leroy Williams** Leroy is largely self-taught, having scrounged his first set of drums from the church where his grandfather was the pastor and his mother played piano. Growing up in Chicago, he played with bassist Wilbur Ware, saxophonist Eddie Harris and Miles Davis' future drummer Jack DeJohnette, who was then a pianist. After moving to New York, Leroy played and recorded with a host of jazz legends, including Pepper Adams, Ray Bryant, Stan Getz, Dizzy Gillespie, Johnny Griffin, Clifford Jordan, Hank Mobley, Thelonious Monk, James Moody, Sonny Rollins, Jimmy Rowles, Sonny Stitt, Teddy Wilson and Richard Wyands. Leroy is famous for his more than 30-year membership in the acclaimed trio of NEA Jazz Master pianist Barry Harris, currently with Ray Drummond on bass.

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## **Teaching**

The Whole Drum Truth is committed to musical education. Teaching can be adapted to the specific needs of your institution.

## **Experience**

The drummers are all experienced educators. Tootie Heath has taught at the Stanford University Jazz Workshop since 1986; Billy Hart is a professor at five conservatories and universities; and Kenny Washington is on the Julliard faculty. The other artists have conducted extensive university and conservatory-level instruction and master classes world-wide.

## **Seminars**

The Whole Drum Truth offers six approximately one-hour demonstration seminars. The seminars should take place in a concert hall or similar venue, which allows each drummer to be seated at his drum kit onstage. A piano should be available for musical illustrations. Voice microphones may be needed, depending on the hall and the size of the audience. Written materials can be prepared for distribution.

## **Topics**

The seminar topics are:

1. The Beat is a Personal Signature: The Individual Styles and Influences on the Drummers.
2. Elements of Drumming: Analysis of Hand Drumming, Brushes, Sticks, Mallets, Snare, Rack and Floor Toms, High Hat and Bass Drum.
3. The Drum Solo.
4. Drumming the Blues.
5. African, Latin and World Rhythms.
6. Playing for Band Leaders and Singers, and the Drummer as Band Leader.