

**Short: (133)**

Chris Parker is a multi-instrumentalist and music educator based in the Midwest. He has performed or recorded with Dave Stryker, Rich Perry, Scott Wendholt, Randy Brecker, Greg Ward, Chris Potter, Jim Ridl, Tim Armacost, Charlie Ballantine, Jamey Aebersold, Frank Glover, Greg Abate, Jim Snidero, Monika Herzig, Roger Pemberton, Rob Dixon, and many others. He maintains a private teaching studio, serves as the President of Bloomington, IN nonprofit "B'Town Jazz", and is the student jam session coordinator for the Jazz Education Network JENerations Jazz Festival. In addition to an extensive discography as a sideman, his debut album as a leader ("Moving Forward Now") and 2-track EP ("Interstate EP") are available on all online music platforms. Chris is completing his Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music.

**Long: (813)**

Chris Parker is a jazz drummer/music educator hailing from Bloomington, Indiana. His performance and recording credits include Chris Potter, Randy Brecker, Greg Ward, Rich Perry, Scott Wendholt, Charlie Ballantine, Jamey Aebersold, Jim Snidero, Rob Dixon and many others.

Parker began playing the drums at age 11, and with the support of his parents was quickly enrolled in various extra-curricular music programs. Upon entering middle school, he was introduced to jazz music by long-time mentor and jazz pianist Monika Herzig.

Parker was mentored extensively by his high school band director (and legendary music educator) Janis Stockhouse. Throughout his time under her tutelage, he performed with the school's top jazz ensemble as a drummer, guitarist, and saxophonist. He also won top honors annually at many high school jazz festivals with that ensemble and his peer-comprised jazz trio, "Trio Collective". His junior year, Trio Collective was awarded Downbeat Magazine's student music award for Best High School Jazz Combo; they were then invited to perform at the 2015 Jazz Education Network conference in San Diego, CA. While in high school, Parker regularly performed with professors at the IU Jacobs School of Music as a sideman, and performed on several occasions with legendary saxophonist Jim Snidero.

Upon graduating from high school in 2015, he attended Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music on full-tuition scholarship where he double-majored in Jazz Studies (drumset emphasis) and Music Education (euphonium emphasis). He studied drums with Steve Houghton and Sean Dobbins, and euphonium with Daniel Perantoni. Additionally, he studied improvisation and jazz music with saxophonist Greg Ward. While at IU, he performed with the IU Marching Hundred, IU Symphonic Band, Men's Big Red Basketball Band, and the top jazz big band and combo. During his time at IU, Parker maintained an active private teaching studio. Every summer since 2015, Chris has served on staff for the Jamey Aebersold Summer Jazz Workshops. In 2019, he directed his own combo and ran a nightly jam session at the workshops. As a clinician, he has presented clinics on listening, transcription, and drum set performance practice and technique at various jazz festivals throughout the Midwest.

Since 2015, Parker has served as Vice President (and now president as of 2021) for the nonprofit organization that gave him his start playing jazz music, "B'Town Jazz". As VP, he was a co-organizer of numerous events including the B'Town Jazz Fest, the Taste of Bloomington Jazz Stage, and the Future of Jazz Concert. He also assisted in several successful grant-writing efforts for the organization. From 2014 to present, he serves as the student jam session coordinator for the Jazz Education Network's annual conference and is on the JENerations Jazz Festival Committee.

In the spring of 2016 (after the successful completion of his freshman year), he left Indiana University to pursue his career in performance. He had the opportunity to perform extensively with Indianapolis jazz legend Frank Glover's Quartet. Parker recorded two albums (and toured extensively) with Indianapolis guitarist Charlie Ballantine entitled "Life Is Brief: The Music of Bob Dylan" (2018) and "Cold Coffee" (2019). He also recorded on Indianapolis saxophonist Amanda Gardier's album "Empathy" (2018). In 2017, Parker recorded an album of his arrangements and original compositions with many of his mentors and colleagues. The resulting project entitled "Moving Forward Now" featured him on drums and tenor saxophone, and the musical contributions of Jamey Aebersold, Jeremy Allen, Rachel Caswell, Tom Clark, Rob Dixon, Luke Gillespie, Frank Glover, Pat Harbison, Steve Snyder, Dave Stryker, Craig Wagner, Jesse Wittman and Jay Tibbitts. Parker also works in artist relations and is a producer for Frankfort, IN based record label "Instru-Mental Records".

In the summer of 2018, Parker moved to New York City to continue his career in music performance/education. He quickly began working regularly in the bands of Kevin Blancq, Joe Pino, Peter DiCarlo, Eric Siereveld and many others. While in NYC, he performed on saxophonist Peter DiCarlo's debut album "Onward" which featured Jim Ridl, Rich Perry, and Scott Wendholt. With strong professional connections still in the Midwest, he was frequently invited back to perform and record. In 2019, he recorded on his mentor Frank Glover's album: a third-stream work for string quartet, jazz quartet and percussion entitled "Mim" (2019). In 2019 and 2020, he performed with Chris Potter and Larry McKenna respectively (as well as served as a clinician/adjudicator) at the Indiana State University Jazz Festival. He has since returned to Bloomington, IN to complete his undergraduate studies at Indiana University's prestigious Jacobs School of Music. During his time back, he has recorded on trumpeter Skyler Floe's 2021 release "Abstraction" (featuring Greg Ward, Steve Allee, Sean Imboden, and Nick Tucker), guitarist Charlie Ballantine's "Reflections/Introspection: The Music of Thelonious Monk", as well as Frank Glover's three most recent releases. He performed at and organized the annual B'Town Jazz Fest (as Vice President of the B'Town Jazz organization), and is currently completing his senior year at the Jacobs School of Music.