

**Ryan Hecker**  
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## Education

### **Master of Music, Instrumental Jazz Performance, Concentration in Drum Set, 2014-2016**

University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL, USA. Studied under Dafnis Prieto and Steve Rucker

Thesis: *The Role of the Drum Set In Improvised Music Settings*

Committee members: Steve Rucker (chair), Martin Bejerano, Svet Stoyanov

### **Bachelor of Music, Instrumental Jazz Performance, Cum Laude, 2010-2014**

Florida International University, Miami, FL USA. Studied under Rodolfo Zuniga

## Teaching Experience

### **Instructor, Frost School of Music Young Musician's Camp, 2015-2017**

Drum Set Instructor

Rhythm Section Instructor

Rock and Roll History Instructor

"STOMP" Bucket Drumming Instructor

My responsibilities in this position included leading classes for students between the ages of six to eighteen and teaching drum set lessons.

### **Graduate Assistant, University of Miami, Frost School of Music, 2015-2016**

Teaching Assistant, Percussion Techniques

Performer/Clinician, Frost Outreach Program

My responsibilities as teaching assistant included developing the curriculum for the percussion techniques course designed for jazz majors and giving private drum set lessons to undergraduate students.

### **Instructor, Branches of South Miami, a Non Profit educational organization, 2014**

Rhythm/Bucket Drumming Facilitator

I taught elementary aged students a class focused on music essentials, call and response and rhythmic development.

## Performance Experience

### **Theatre Percussion**

Area Stage Theatre Company, 2012-Present

Performances Include ***James and the Giant Peach, Godspell, Broken English, Dreams of Anne Frank, The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, In the Heights, Shrek, The Ballad of Janis Matthews and the Dodo Scouts, Sweeney Todd, Wild Party, Into the Woods, Hair*** and more.

I was not only required to perform both onstage and in a pit setting, but in some cases required to design and orchestrate my own scores for new musicals and projects without written music.

Slow Burn Theatre Company, 2016

Performance of the musical: ***Titanic***.

University of Miami Theatre Department, 2014-2017

Performances Include ***Oklahoma, The Drowsy Chaperone, Children of Eden, Next to Normal, Pirates of Penzance, Edges, Little Shop Of Horrors*** and more.

Stage Door Theatre, 2017-Present

Performances include ***Imagine, A Beatles Celebration*** and ***Tickling The Ivories***.

Fort Lauderdale Children's Theatre, 2013

Performance of the musical: ***Legally Blonde, The Musical***.

Florida International University Theatre Department, 2012

Performance of the musical: ***Songs For a New World***.

### **Orchestral Percussion**

Sunrise Symphonic Pops Orchestra, 2008-Present

Section Percussion Chair (2008-2013)

Drum Set Chair (2013-Present)

Section Leader Chair (2013-Present)

Board of Director Chair (2015)

Orchestra is led under the baton of both Clark McAllister and Peter Graves.

Florida Youth Orchestra, 2005-2010

Section Percussion Chair

Traveled to New York City and premiered Thomas Sleeper's *Concerto for Cello* at Carnegie Hall.

### **Opera Percussion**

Florida Grand Opera, 2014

Premiered the Florida Debut of Andy Vores' Production, ***No Exit***.

### **Jazz and Pop Percussion**

Henry Mancini Institute at the Frost School of Music, 2016-2017

Performing in this ensemble gave me the opportunity to work with artists including James Newton Howard, Arturo Sandoval, Estelle, Michael Feinstein, Jon Secada and more.

University of Miami Studio Jazz Band, 2014-2015

Vinyl Blvd, [www.vinylblvd.com](http://www.vinylblvd.com), 2013-Present

Playing jazz standards at hotels, restaurants and private events.

University of Miami "Extensions" and Vocal Jazz I Ensemble 2015-2016

Florida International University Studio Jazz Band, 2010-2014

Performing In this ensemble gave me the opportunity to work with artist including Paquito D'Rivera, John Fedchock, Giovanni Hidalgo, Dave Samuels, John Faddis, Bob Mintzer and more.

Florida International University Charanga Ensemble, 2012-2014

Under the direction of flautist Nestor Torres, I got to perform a variety of different Latin styles and dances within a traditional "Charanga" setting.

### **Professional Services**

**Owner**, Ryan Hecker's Percussion Rental Company, 2016-Present

I maintain and help serve the South Florida community with a large collection of percussion instruments and sound reinforcement for rental.

### **Recognition**

Recipient of the Gold Coast Jazz Society's Jean M. Russell Jazz Scholarship, 2010

Recipient of the Broward Schools Art for the Future Scholarship, 2010