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## LAPD Band

BY CHRISTINA CHALLEY

For Bas Janssen, LAPD Band drummer/percussionist, going to do a soundcheck at a Nigerian Church, rehearsing with a Brazilian drumming group, sight reading a musical, recording for the YSL rappers, and playing an R&B gig at the Viper Room, is all in a weekend's work. Getting to this type of 'work' began with "Mostly growing up in Cambridge, England."

Bas says he "mostly grew up in Cambridge, England," because that's where his family moved to when he was 8 years old. Before then, he had lived in the Netherlands, France and Utah. When he was

3, Bas' dad got a job in Utah, where Bas learned how to ski, and also got a black belt in Taekwondo.

Moving back to England, Bas lived in Cambridge for 10 years. He said he went to boarding schools where he was "put in houses like Harry Potter, but not chosen by the magical hat." It was during this time that Bas happened to see Nick Cannon's movie, *Drumline*, and became smitten with the drums. His parents agreed to drum lessons, and with his own drum set, Bas began studying and playing along with his favorite songs – in the attic.

While in England, Bas said everything in the music curriculum was much more



Bas at a gig.

classically based. His teacher placed him in the wind band after recognizing Bas' drumming technique and ability to read basic notation. His teacher even began to teach him the xylophone. While attending Junior Guildhall School of Music, during his last two years of high school in London, Bas joined county orchestras and continued to play along to his favorite songs on YouTube.

Bas then returned to the USA to attend the Berklee College of Music, where he received achievement scholarships, and graduated Cum Laude with dual majors in Performance/Music Production and Engineering. He said, "I then moved to Los Angeles to further pursue my musical dreams, and where better than the Mecca for the industry?"

Bas' professional performances include playing Carnegie Hall while in a Brazilian drumming group; playing congas with the Vlade Guigni Band on Telemundo; and playing timpani in the Barbican Youth Orchestra under Gustavo Dudamel. He can play all percussion instruments on a professional level. He says he prides himself on being able to play a variety of musical styles, which allow him "to learn a bunch of different cultures, honor their traditions/history, and offer my input as

authentically as possible and make the world feel like a smaller place one culture/genre at a time."

Bas is also a professional sound engineer, which he calls his "second instrument," offering recording, mixing and mastering in live studio. When asked what his favorite style of music is, he said, "it's difficult for me to say what my favorite style of music is because it will depend on the day, but R&B, Hip-hop, and Brazilian music (also Samba Reggae) if I had to pick a top three."

Along with music, Bas has always been into sports. He played for the county rugby and cricket teams. One teacher even told him, "If you stay at this school and train with me, I could have you playing Premier League cricket." Bas said his dad played professional volleyball and, when home, he plays tennis with his Mom. But luckily for the LAPD Band, Bas says, "music is the thing that'll consume my mind first..."

For more information about The Band, see our website at [www.lasown.com](http://www.lasown.com) and contact Jim Starr, Executive Director – email: [sngcop@aol.com](mailto:sngcop@aol.com). For greatly appreciated donations, please go to [www.lapolicefoundation.org](http://www.lapolicefoundation.org), and in the "Comments Box," put, "For The Band." ♦



Bas with Drums.

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