

Described as being “...fiendishly precise...” (*pitchfork.com*), Toronto based Canadian Nico Dann has been playing drums for over 15 years. Besides composing/arranging for and leading his own jazz ensembles in Toronto and New York. Nico has played and recorded with chart-topping indie luminary *tUnE-yArDs* (4AD Records), Montreal-based ex-indie band *Sister Suvi* and many other bands and ensembles. Nico has performed at various festivals including the *North Sea Jazz Festival* in the Netherlands, Montreal’s *Off Jazz Festival* and *POP Montreal*, Austin’s *South by Southwest*, England’s *Glastonbury Festival*, New York’s *CMJ Festival* and the *Distillery Jazz Festival* in Toronto. Nico has also played at many world-renowned venues including New York’s the *Bowery Ballroom*, *Rockwood Music Hall*, *Rockshop* and *Sidewalk Café*, Toronto’s *The Rex*, Montreal’s *The Upstairs*, Edinburgh’s *The Jazz Bar* and *The Living Arts Center* in Philadelphia.

Although Nico’s primary output has been in the jazz and indie-rock idioms, he has had the opportunity to play with ensembles in many musical contexts. Nico made his Contemporary-Classical Music debut playing the music of Peter Lieberon with violist-father Steven Dann and bassist Joel Quarrington at Ottawa’s National Arts Centre in 2008. In 2010 Nico performed the Musical-Theatre compositions of Bram Gielen in Toronto’s *Summerworks* “Indie Theatre and Arts Festival”. Lately Nico has been one third of Contemporary Blue-Grass Band *The Alex Mallett Band*.

After beginning his drum studies with Jim Blackley, Nico earned a Bachelor of Music in Jazz from McGill University in Montreal under Chris McCann, Michel Lambert and Rémi Bolduc. He attended Canada’s Banff International Workshop on Jazz and Creative Music studying with New York Jazz greats Dave Douglas, Clarence Penn, Gerald Cleaver and Scott Colley among many other notable players. In 2011 Nico completed his MA at CUNY Queen’s College in New York City, studying with famed jazz drummer Nasheet Waits, alto-saxophonist Antonio Hart, trumpeter/arranger Michael Mossman and pianist David Berkman among others. Currently Nico lives in Toronto with his wife Classical soprano Ilana Zarankin.