

## **Biography:**

Efa Etoroma Jr., born August 3, 1988, in Hamilton, Ontario and raised in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, is a dedicated and talented artist known for his expressive creativity and his deep musical instincts.

Showing musical talent at a young age, Efa Jr. studied piano for five years, then switched to percussion to join his Junior High School band. During Junior and Senior High School he received awards and recognitions for musical achievement including Most Outstanding Drummer at the West Coast International Music Festival, selection as Percussionist in Alberta Honor Band, a scholarship to Humber College, Musicfest Canada Zildjian Combo Drummer Award, selection as drummer in the Yamaha All-Star band at Musicfest Canada, and a Yamaha showcase performance in the 2011 Montreal Drumfest. During this time Efa Jr. was also fortunate enough to receive instruction from a number of notable musicians including Sandro Dominelli, Hugh Fraser, Phil Dwyer, Ingrid Jensen, Jamie Aebersold, and David Baker.

In 2007, Efa Jr. was accepted into the McGill University, Schulich School of Music to study jazz percussion where he had the opportunity to study with Dave Laing, Chris McCann, Jan Jarczyk, Joe Sullivan, Andre White, and Remi Bolduc. While studying at McGill, Efa Jr. received the Anne Burrows Scholarship for Music, an Alberta Foundation for the Arts grant to record his trio's debut album "Before and After", and just prior to graduating from McGill, an endorsement from Istanbul Agop Cymbal Company. Efa Jr. graduated from McGill University in 2011 with a Bachelor's of Music.

While in Montreal, Efa Jr. led Ruckus, Montreal's critically acclaimed Hip Hop group that was known for its unique fusion of Jazz, Rock, Funk and Latin music with contemporary Hip Hop. This fusion-based approach is documented on the group's 2011 debut album "Round One", which has received extensive national and international radio play, reviews and sales.

Efa Jr. leads the Efa Etoroma Jr. Trio, nominees for the 2011 Montreal International Jazz Festival, TD Bank Grand Prix and Galaxie Rising Star awards, recipients of a 2009 Alberta Foundation for the Arts Commercial Recording grant and finalists in the 2008 Effendi Jazz en Rafale Competition.

Efa Jr. has been recognized for his talents with prestigious honours such as a Western Canadian Music Award nomination for the Best Contemporary Jazz Award with The Writers' Guild, a cover feature for the 2013 February - March issue of Drum Etc. magazine, an Anne Burrows Foundation for Music Scholarship, an Alberta Foundation for the Arts grant, a RBC Jazz Summit and Calgary National Music Centre scholarship and an artist endorsement from Yamaha Drums. In 2015, Efa Jr. completed his Master's in Fine Arts in Jazz Performance from California Institute of the Arts (Cal Arts) under the tutelage of world renowned drummer Joseph LaBarbera. At Cal Arts, Efa also studied a variety of subjects including hand percussion, arranging, composition and electronic music with Randy Gloss, Swapan Chanduri, Darek Oles, Amy Knoles, David Roitstein, and Aaron Serfaty. Efa Jr. uses Yamaha Drums, Paiste Cymbals, Promark Sticks, Evans Drumheads and Humes and Berg Cases exclusively.