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# The Teacher Feature

We meet Northern Ireland-based Kasey Peters, who received a large number of nominations for her teaching

## Kasey Peters

**Kasey Peters** is a Belfast based teacher offering lessons Monday to Thursday afternoons and evenings from her dedicated teaching facility. She also teaches at several schools in and around Belfast as a peripatetic tutor during the day.

### KaseyPeters.com

Facebook: Kasey Peters Drum Kit Studio

Twitter: @KaseyPeters

Kasey is endorsed by the District Drum Company ([www.districtdrumcompany.com](http://www.districtdrumcompany.com))

## WHAT HER STUDENTS SAY...

"Kasey Peters has taught me so much over the past 8 years. I had 6 years of lessons with Kasey at school and since leaving she has continued to help me out whenever I have music related problems. I always thought it was really cool how she was able to put up with angst-type teenagers asking her to teach us Metallica, RHCP and Nirvana songs even though it wasn't really her thing. She always shows a great love for the instrument and music in general and that has definitely passed on and influenced me greatly."

**James Clendenning**

## TELL US ABOUT YOUR TEACHER!

If you would like to see your teacher featured in a future issue, email us their details (under the heading 'Teacher Feature') and tell us in no more than 100 words why they deserve special mention:

[nick@blazepublishing.co.uk](mailto:nick@blazepublishing.co.uk)

If your teacher is featured here you'll receive a special prize as well as a mention for your nomination!



### How long have you been teaching?

I've been teaching for 12 years. I moved to Northern Ireland from the States, set up my own teaching studio and haven't looked back.

### Do you specialise in any particular styles or areas of drumming?

I'm very into funk, having grown up during the 70s in LA. I adore jazz due to the influence of my father who was a jazz drummer. I try to instil an appreciation of jazz within my students – there'd be no rock without jazz, and historically the kit was created to swing.

### What age range do you teach?

I teach anywhere from age six to 62. The majority of my students are high school age, though I also teach in a primary school and have adult students, as well.

### Do you teach graded exams and what are your thoughts regarding them?

It's important that students have a good grounding and knowledge of reading notation, rudiments, an understanding of various styles, improvisation, sight-reading and listening skills. The Rockschooll curriculum, which I use, is great for this. I have recently branched out with the Trinity syllabus as well.

### What set-up do you use for your teaching?

I use two acoustic kits set up side-by-side facing the same direction. This is

great for demonstrations as you are able to mirror one another. I use slow-down software to help learn songs at a comfortable tempo and headphones to manage decibel levels. Electric kits are great for practising if there are volume constraints, but the majority of gigs are played on acoustic kits and students benefit and love experiencing the acoustic feel, especially at full pelt! I have a pet peeve about studios where the drums face a wall, as it can become rather demoralising. I believe you should play out to the room in the same manner you would play out to a crowd.

### What do you think makes a good teacher?

A good teacher is someone who can engage with students and is open to learning from their creativity. They offer more than formal learning, drawing on their gigging experience and knowledge of the history of the drum set, as well as key players and styles of music. The best teachers also read music. This is important for recalling and referencing materials and will give students more options and professional opportunities in the future, while cultivating a greater musical vocabulary. Other vital attributes include not being a musical fuddy-duddy, being open, generous and hip!

### Do you have any particular books that you use in your lessons?

The usual suspects like the Ted Reed and Louie Bellson books, but lately I've been very into Stanton Moore's *Groove*

Alchemy and Michael Adamo's *The Breakbeat Bible* – 'Cold Sweat' never fails to please!

### What should students think about when looking for a good teacher?

Look for an experienced musician who is patient, someone who can impart information thoroughly and succinctly. Try to find a good communicator who is supportive. Consider what a teacher has to offer and look for someone who is teaching because they want to.

### Any notable students – previous or current – that we would know or should be looking out for?

Danny Trouton got a distinction on his Grade 8 exam just after turning fifteen and is developing into a technically proficient player. He has aspirations to go to Berklee and is definitely one to watch. Conor McErlane, seventeen, (Grade 7 distinction) is an exciting young player and Fionnbharr Brannigan who is only eleven, yet won third place at the Northern Ireland Young Musician of the Year competition for primary school pupils.

### Any advice for people thinking of having lessons?

Shop around for a teacher. Don't just settle for the first person that wows you with their instrument skills. Just because someone is good at something doesn't automatically make them a good teacher. It's a completely different skill set. Find someone with a real knack for teaching that can inspire, motivate and encourage.