

Tom Dayan — Press Kit

One-liner

Tom Dayan is an Israeli-born, Berlin-based drummer and composer whose 30-year musical journey spans classical composition, jazz, rock, and orchestral work.

Short Bio (~100 words)

Tom Dayan is a drummer and composer born in Israel, currently based in Berlin. Classically trained in composition at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance under Prof. Michael Wolpe, Tom's early prizewinning compositions ("Milestones," 2007 Bouzoule Festival; "Affar," 2008 Chana Yador-Avny Competition) marked him as a serious voice on both sides of the kit. He fronts the band Mifrás, whose albums "Set Sail" (2013) and "Stella Maris" (2017) blend jazz sensibility with compositional depth. Tom has performed with the Maria Baptist Trio, Damir Out Loud, and KK Pearls, and serves as a drummer and composer with the Composers' Orchestra Berlin.

Long Bio (~350 words)

Tom Dayan's path to the drum kit wasn't a straight line — and that's part of what makes his musicianship distinctive. Growing up in Rishon LeZion, Israel, without room for a drum set, he started on keyboard, then violin during a childhood stretch in St. Louis. It wasn't until age 12, after the family returned to Israel and settled in Hadera, that he finally got behind a kit — studying with Amnon Yoel and quickly becoming one of the area's most active young drummers across rock and other bands.

A growing fascination with jazz and 70s progressive rock pulled Tom toward more complex music, and by 16 he'd decided to pursue composition seriously, taking up piano and studying with Shay Zelman to prepare. After a year of civil service, he entered the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, spending four years studying classical composition under Prof. Michael Wolpe while remaining active as a performing drummer. His compositions earned him first prize in the 2007 Bouzoule Festival (Jerusalem) for the piano quartet "Milestones," and first prize in the 2008 Chana Yador-Avny Composition Competition for the percussion duet "Affar." From 2008–2010 he held a scholarship from the America-Israel Cultural Fund as a jazz drummer.

In 2009, Tom moved to Berlin, where he still lives and works today. Since October 2012 he has served as the official drummer of the Maria Baptist Trio, and his playing with them has drawn praise from German press: Westfälischer Anzeiger described him as a "magnificent, sharply attuned drummer" whose sensitive playing always provided the right foundation, while Mannheimer Morgen singled out his "breathtaking solos." Tom founded his own band, Mifrás, in 2011; the group's debut album "Set Sail" was released in 2013 — partly funded by Berlin's Senate Chancellery for Cultural Affairs — followed by "Stella Maris" in 2017. He also performs with Damir Out Loud, KK Pearls, and Paleka, and is a drummer and composer with the Composers' Orchestra Berlin (COB), which invited

him as Featured Composer for a Carte-Blanche concert premiering his “Concerto Grosso” for quartet and big band. His compositions have also been used in Hörspiel (radio drama) productions for rbb, Berlin’s public broadcaster. Alongside performing, Tom teaches drums and percussion at Musikschule Treptow-Köpenick, a public music school in Berlin.

Most recently, Tom’s dual identity as performer and composer converged fully on a 2026 Composers’ Orchestra Berlin album, where he’s credited as a composer and also plays drums on select tracks.

Press Quotes

“A magnificent, sharply attuned drummer, whose deeply sensitive playing always provided the right foundation — whether refined nuance or groove was called for.” — Westfälischer Anzeiger, on a concert with the Maria Baptist Trio

“An expressive drummer... who won the audience’s admiration through breathtaking solos.” — Mannheimer Morgen, on a concert with the Maria Baptist Trio

(Both quotes translated from the original German; worth having a native speaker double-check the phrasing before publishing.)

“...drummer Tom Dayan’s powerful ‘Balta,’ whose bright and tantalizing rhythms elicit an unmistakable Israeli vibe.” — Jack Bowers, All About Jazz, reviewing “Telling Stories” (The Composers’ Orchestra Berlin, JazzHausMusik, 2026)

Career Highlights

- 30 years as a professional drummer
- Classical composition studies, Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance (under Prof. Michael Wolpe)
- First prize, Bouzoule Festival 2007 (“Milestones,” piano quartet)
- First prize, Chana Yador-Avny Composition Competition 2008 (“Affar,” percussion duet)
- America-Israel Cultural Fund scholarship, 2008–2010
- Official drummer, Maria Baptist Trio (since Oct 2012) — praised in Westfälischer Anzeiger and Mannheimer Morgen
- Founded band Mifrás (2011); two albums: “Set Sail” (2013), “Stella Maris” (2017)
- Performs with Damir Out Loud, KK Pearls, Paleka
- Composer and drummer, Composers’ Orchestra Berlin — composed “Balta” on the 2026 album “Telling Stories” (JazzHausMusik), praised by All About Jazz
- Featured Composer, COB Carte-Blanche concert — premiered “Concerto Grosso” for quartet and big band
- Compositions used in Hörspiel (radio drama) productions for rbb, Berlin’s public broadcaster
- Drum/percussion instructor, Musikschule Treptow-Köpenick, Berlin

Contact

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Note: pulled career facts and press quotes from tomdayan.com's About/Press Kit pages, an older Wix site (tomation.wixsite.com/tom-dayan) with festival reviews, a booking agency bio (newtalentsresources.com), your Musikschule Treptow-Köpenick teaching profile, an All About Jazz review of "Telling Stories," and several German-language sources (Composers' Orchestra Berlin site, Sinnewerk/Kladower Forum event listings). Checked Hebrew spellings of your name too — nothing substantive turned up there, so your press coverage looks to be mainly German/English. Flag anything that's outdated — some of this (contact info, the Wix site) looks like it's from the earlier Mifrás era.