Known for his versatility and musical approach, jazz drummer Steve Fidyk has earned national and international acclaim as an artist, author, composer and columnist. For more than 21 years, he was the drummer and featured soloist with The Army Blues Big Band, a premier 17-piece jazz ensemble stationed in Washington D.C. During his tenure, Fidyk performed for seven U.S. Presidents, numerous dignitaries, and traveled throughout the Middle East supporting the troops during a USO tour in 2008.

Fidyk’s father John, who played tenor saxophone with groups throughout North Eastern Pennsylvania, began taking him on gigs as a substitute drummer at the age of eight. Encouraged by his parents, Fidyk pursued music throughout high school, and majored in music education at Wilkes University. He played drums in the big band under the direction of Bob Wilbur and eventually Tom Heinze. It was at this time that he began to immerse himself in jazz, listening to the great big bands of Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Woody Herman, Stan Kenton, and Buddy Rich. Rich was the first jazz drummer Fidyk saw perform live when he was eight years old, and that experience left a lasting impression.

In 1987, Fidyk met and began studying with legendary jazz drummer Joe Morello. Morello was instrumental in helping Steve with his technique, sound production, coordination, and overall approach to playing the instrument. He was also very influential in helping Fidyk develop his articulate teaching skills, and he has been dedicated and committed to education ever since. Fidyk currently serves on the jazz studies faculty at Temple University and The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is also an educational consultant for Jazz at Lincoln Center’s Essentially Ellington Program. Fidyk has authored several drum method books and DVD’s for Mel Bay and Alfred Publications and contributes columns to Modern Drummer Magazine, and Teaching Music Magazine.

Fidyk has appeared on over 100 recordings and his discography as a co-leader includes Big Kids with John DeSalme (U.S. Roots) and two records with The Taylor/Fidyk Big Band: A Perfect Match (Write Groove, 2003) and Live at Blues Alley (OA2, 2006). His discography as a bandleader includes Heads Up! (Posi-Tone, 2014) and Allied Forces (Posi-Tone, 2016). Both recordings feature his original arrangements and compositions. Since 2015, he has been a member of the Jazz Orchestra of Philadelphia. With vocalist Maureen McGovern, he has accompanied symphony orchestras throughout the country including The Cincinnati Pops, Spokane Symphony, Nashville Symphony, Plano Symphony, The Baltimore Symphony, The Buffalo Philharmonic, The Richmond Symphony, and the Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon Big Band.
Jamie Hillman is a multi-faceted musician who is active as a conductor, singer, pianist, music educator, and composer. At Gordon, he directs the College Choir and Men's Choir, teaches a number of vocal and music education courses, and coordinates the vocal area. As a Boston University Prison Arts Scholar and faculty member of BU's Metropolitan College/Prison Education Program, he co-initiated a music program at a large, medium-high security men's prison in Massachusetts. His previous teaching includes Beaver Country Day School, Boston University Tanglewood Institute, Csehy Summer School of Music, Phillips Academy, and Prairie College.

As a tenor soloist, Hillman has recently performed major choral-orchestral works by Beethoven, R. Nathaniel Dett, Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Ramirez, Saint-Saëns, and Schütz with choruses and orchestras in the United States, Canada, and Southeast Asia. As a professional choral singer, he has recorded and toured with Canadian Chamber Choir, Nathaniel Dett Chorale, and Vox Futura.

Dr. Hillman is an examiner for Conservatory Canada and has adjudicated, guest conducted, and presented throughout the United States and Canada, and in France, India, and Indonesia. Most recently, he has led All-State or honor choirs in Connecticut, Georgia, Virginia, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Ontario, Canada. He has adjudicated Bandung International Choir Competition, Carowinds Festival of Music, Fantastic Festivals, Festivals of Music, Great East Festivals, Manitoba ChoralFest, Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association, Music in the Parks, Ontario Music Festivals Association Provincials, Rhythms International, Tomohon International Choir Competition, WorldStrides, and Rhode Island ACDA.

Dr. Hillman sits on the Board of Directors of Boston's Back Bay Chorale and Greater Boston Choral Consortium and is the 2012 laureate of the Leslie Bell Prize for Choral Conducting from the Ontario Arts Council. He lives outside Boston with his wife and two sons.
Joséph H. Conyers was appointed assistant principal bassist of The Philadelphia Orchestra in 2010 after tenures with the Atlanta Symphony, Santa Fe Opera, and Grand Rapids Symphony where he served as principal bass. He has served as acting associate principal bass of the Philadelphia Orchestra since 2017. Joséph has performed with numerous orchestras as soloist across the country. An avid chamber musician and artist of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Joséph tours internationally. He was a 2019 recipient of the Sphinx Organization’s Medal of Excellence – the organization’s highest recognition; in 2018, he received the C. Hartman Kuhn award – the highest honor bestowed upon a musician of the Philadelphia Orchestra; and later in 2018, Joséph was named one of Musical America’s 30 Top Professionals – Innovators, Independent Thinkers, and Entrepreneurs. In 2015, Conyers was the inaugural recipient of the 2015 Young Alumni Award from his alma mater, the Curtis Institute of Music. A formidable advocate for music education, he is the executive director of Project 440 (project440.org) – an organization that engages, educates, and inspires young musicians, providing them with the career and life skills they need to develop into tomorrow’s civic-minded, entrepreneurial leaders. Joséph is the proud music director of the Philadelphia All City Orchestra program which showcases the top musicians of the School District of Philadelphia. A faculty member of Temple University, Joséph is a frequent guest clinician and lecturer presenting across the country from Yale University to The Colburn School.