

Kyle Dorny

Live + Studio Drummer | Cross-Genre Specialist

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Full Bio

Professional Summary

Santa Barbara-based drummer and composer **Kyle Dorny** delivers the versatility and precision of a true cross-genre professional, blending technical mastery with musical intuition across live and studio settings. From intimate venues to legendary stages like **The Troubadour** and **The Mint** in Los Angeles, Kyle has delivered high-level performances across rock, pop, indie, blues, funk, jazz, Latin, reggae, and alternative genres.

A **Berklee College of Music** and **University of North Texas Jazz Drumset** program alum, Kyle combines formal technique with the creativity and instinct honed through years of professional performance. Mentored by **Grammy-winning drummer Gregg Bissonette**, he is equally at home crafting intricate jazz phrasing, driving pop/rock grooves, or innovating on hybrid acoustic-electronic setups.

A **first-call session and live drummer for Voracious Records and The 805 Studio**, Kyle records and performs regularly with **Nicole Sophia**, **Joveth**, **McKenna Elliott**, and **Leo James Conroy**. His hybrid acoustic-electronic setup and session speed make him a top-tier choice for producers seeking reliability, musicality, and creative range.

Selected Career Highlights & Milestones

2025 – Present

- Drum credits on seven songs of Nicole Sophia's *Feral* LP, including singles released prior to and with the full album (Voracious Records).
- Collaborated with **Leo James Conroy** at *The Troubadour*, West Hollywood.

2024 – 2025

- Performed live with **Joveth**, supporting his *Lonely Boy* EP (Voracious Records).
- First-call session drummer for **Voracious Records**, recording on cutting-edge hybrid kits.

2023 – 2024

- Joined **Nicole Sophia**, supporting her debut *Reveal Your Heart* EP (Voracious Records).
- Established a professional home studio with multi-camera setup and 8-channel drum mics for online instruction and custom drum tracks.

2017 – 2023

- Expanded from jazz into pop, alt-rock, funk, and indie performances.
- United with regional alternative rock band **Always the Alibi**, a group with two EPs, 11 released songs, and music videos. The band was ranked #1 on Reverb Nation's Dallas Alternative chart in 2012 and resumed performing with Kyle after their hiatus.
- Performed Buddy Rich's *Bugle Call Rag* with **Gregg Bissonette**, David McInnes, and Westin Byerly in a four-drummer ensemble at the *Jazz in Paradise* festival.
- Anchored **Eric Marienthal's** backline during his master class and big band stage performance at *Jazz in Paradise*.
- Formed trio **King Tyle and the Court**, headlining the *Santa Barbara Jazz Redux Festival*.

2016 – 2017

- Professional debut with quartet **The Rhythm Section** at private events and local Santa Barbara venues.
- Sextet combo won **first place AAA division** at the Reno Jazz Festival.
- Played backline with visiting artists educational outreach, including **John Clayton** and **Kamasi Washington**
- Performed with **Tom Scott** during an evening concert at the Dos Pueblos Jazz Festival.

2007 – 2015

- Founded first band as leader, **The Collective**, performing at the *Goleta Lemon Festival*.
- Began formal drum studies at **Mike's Drum Shop, Santa Barbara**, training ground for **George Pendergast** (Dishwalla), **Randy Guss** (Toad the Wet Sprocket), and **Bucket Baker** (Kenny Loggins, Boz Scaggs)

Notable Collaborations & Artists Worked With

Leo James Conroy | Nicole Sophia | Joveth | McKenna Elliott | Tower of Switches (Tenk Van Dool) | The Henry Coke Band | Always the Alibi | Eric Marienthal | Gregg Bissonette

Performance & Video Portfolio

Selected live performances, drum covers, and studio recordings demonstrating Kyle's range in **jazz, rock, pop, indie, blues, funk, Latin, alternative, and electronic genres** are available on his [Videos page](#) at kyledornymusic.com.

Studio & Recording Experience

Kyle has recorded extensively for vinyl, CD, and streaming releases, including:

- Nicole Sophia – *Too Young to Die, Some Kind of Soulmates, Sex on the Internet, Meet Me in the Bathroom, Sweet Melancholy, Praying for a Positive Sign, Hope That We'll Figure It Out* (Voracious Records, 2025)
- Early contributions for **Tenk Van Dool**, showcasing pre-production and demo work.
- Pre-release and custom session recordings for multiple artists through his home studio (2023–2025).
- Multiple sessions for Voracious Records, leveraging hybrid acoustic/electronic kits and advanced home studio setups

Education & Mentorship

- **Berklee College of Music** – Summer Program (**Brazilian rhythms with Alberto Neto**, 2017)
- **University of North Texas – Jazz Drumset Program**; studied with Quincy Davis, Jose Aponte, Mark Ford
- Mentored by Grammy-winning drummer **Gregg Bissonette**, focusing on advanced session technique, live adaptability, and professional touring preparation

Gregg Bissonette Testimonial

“I've had the pleasure of seeing Kyle's drumming evolve into something truly special—his creativity, precision, and groove make him the perfect choice for any session or band. He has an ear for versatility across jazz, blues, indie, pop, alternative, hip-hop, and rock with a friendly, personable work ethic to match. If you're looking for dynamic, professional drum tracks, he's the drummer to hire.”

– **Gregg Bissonette**, Grammy-winning drummer