

**ASAF  
SIRKIS**

DRUMMER, COMPOSER  
BAND LEADER  
EDUCATOR

# ARTIST & EDUCATOR PROFILE



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**To:**

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# ASAF SIRKIS

DRUMMER, COMPOSER  
BAND LEADER  
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## ABOUT ME

P1

NAME:  
ASAF SIRKIS

DATE OF BIRTH:  
22/03/1969

PLACE OF BIRTH:  
PETAH-TIQWAH, ISRAEL

NATIONALITY:  
BRITISH, ISRAELI, HOLDING A GERMAN  
RESIDENCY CARD + GERMAN WORK PERMIT

SPOKEN LANGUAGES:  
HEBREW – FLUENT (NATIVE LANGUAGE)  
ENGLISH – FLUENT  
GERMAN – IN PROGRESS

CURRENT ADDRESS IN GERMANY:  
HÖCHBERGER STR. 36,  
97082 WÜRZBURG,  
GERMANY



## EDUCATION

1981-1983: Studies of drum technique in Rehovot, Israel  
with Ofer Hadani

1983-1990: Continuation of drum studies in Tel-Aviv, Israel  
with Israel's iconic drum teacher David Rich

1989-1990: Private lessons in Harmony and arrangement  
in Tel-Aviv, Israel

2012-to present day: Studies the art of South Indian Vocal  
Percussion – Konnakol – with master Mridangamist  
Paramasamy Kirupakaran  
at the Tamil School of Music, West London.

2017 – to present day: Asaf Studies the Freddy Gruber  
Approach to drum technique with L.A based  
drummer Bruce Becker

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## ASAF SIRKIS - ARTIST C.V.

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**1969** - born. Petah-Tiqwah, Israel.

**1975** - attended elementary school. During this time Asaf was exposed to a variety of musical influences such as; western Classical music, Yemenite, Klezmer, Rock, Jazz, and Balkan musics.

**1981** - got his first drum kit and started studying the instrument in Rehovot, Israel with a local drum tutor, Ofer Hadani. Within 1 month, Asaf started playing in various local bands. His first performance was at the age of 12 during a school event. In 1983 Asaf continued his drum studies in Tel-Aviv with Israel's iconic drum teacher David Rich.

**1987** - attended to his compulsory military service in Israel whilst keeping his big passion for the drums and for making music. During that time Asaf spent long hours practicing drums and drum technique (6-8 hour a day) and started to write his own music.

**1990** - Started his professional career as a drummer touring and recording with many of Israel's Jazz/world luminaries such as Yair Dalal, Albert Beger, Harold Rubin, and many more. During that time Asaf recorded many of Israel's first Jazz albums for 'Jazzis' - a pioneer Jazz record label in Israel.

**1994** - Whilst still working as a sideman, Asaf moved to Tel-Aviv and formed his first band the 'Asaf Sirkis Trio'. This band toured Israel extensively and recorded their debut album 'One Step Closer' (1996, released independently).

**1997** - Asaf has focused on his solo career and formed a new band called 'Asaf Sirkis & The Inner Noise' - an unusual and pioneering line up of church organ, guitar and drums. The music of this band is considered ground breaking to this day and was partially funded by the Israeli Cultural Institute of Tel-Aviv's city council.

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## ASAF SIRKIS - ARTIST C.V.

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**1998** - Left Israel and re-located to the Netherlands, France and finally to London, UK, where he quickly found his way into the very lively London jazz and world music scenes.

**Since his arrival in the UK he has been touring extensively world-wide or recording with many Jazz/Rock/World artists such as:**

**John Abercrombie**, bassist **Dave Holland**, **Larry Coryell's Power Trio**, **Andy Sheppard**, **Gwilym Simcock**, **Chick Corea**, **Tim Garland**, **Jacob Collier**, **Soft Machine**, **Gilad Atzmon**, **Wilko Johnson**, **Norman Watt-Roy**, **Natacha Atlas**, **Mulatu Astatke**, **Gary Husband**, **Pianist John Taylor**, **Norma Winstone**, **Kenny Wheeler**, and many more.

In this period Asaf re-formed the **Inner Noise** band, which recorded three albums that received rave reviews.

**2007** - Formed the new Asaf Sirkis Trio featuring Greek guitarist **Tassos Spiliotopoulos** and bassist **Yaron Stavi**. The trio toured extensively world-wide (UK, Europe & the far East) and recorded another three albums with this band - 'The Monk', 'Letting Go' & 'Shepherd's Stories'.

**2011** - Began studying the **art of South Indian vocal percussion (Konnakol)** at the **Tamil School of Music in West London** under master Mridangamist **Paramasamy Kirupakaran** and developed his method of teaching it, making it applicable for all western musicians of all levels and musical styles.

Since, Asaf has been teaching one to one lessons, running workshops and seminars in many music schools and diverse universities around the world as well as running a Youtube channel about the subject.

His **Youtube course -'Mastering Rhythm With Konnakol'**- which is considered as one of the first comprehensive online Konnakol courses for western musicians is helping many students and professionals across the globe to develop their rhythmic awareness.

Around this time, Asaf collaborated with the **Lighthouse Trio** featuring **Gwilym Simcock** on piano (Pat Metheny Group) and **Tim Garland** on reeds (Chick Corea). The band had released an album on the A.C.T record label and toured worldwide until 2013.



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## ASAF SIRKIS - ARTIST C.V.

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**2014** - Co-formed the Sirkis/Bialas IQ band together with Polish singer/composer extraordinaire Sylwia Bialas. Their first album 'Come To Me' was selected as one of the best jazz releases of 2015 at the all about jazz website. Their latest album 'Our New Earth' was released on the Moonjune record label in 2019, received many rave reviews and was selected, again, as one of the best releases of that year. The band has toured UK & Europe up to Covid19 times.

**2015 to this day** - Started his collaboration with a N.Y.C visionary record label – Moonjune. Since that year, he has recorded around 12 acclaimed albums for Moonjune with various artists from around the globe such as: **Mark Wingfield** (U.S.A/UK), **Dwiki Dharmawan** (Indonesia), **Markus Reuter** (Germany), **Carles Benavent** (Spain), **Nguyen Lê** (Vietnam/France).

Notably, the Sirkis/Stavi/Reuter/Wingfield album 'Lighthouse' was selected as one of the best releases of 2017 at the Downbeat magazine.

**2021** – In June this year Asaf will release his new Trio album '**Solar Flash**' featuring keyboardist **Gary Husband** and bassist **Kevin Glasgow** on Moonjune records as well as preparing for the recording of a brand new solo project.



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## ASAF SIRKIS - ARTIST C.V.

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During covid times Asaf has expanded his online work as a teacher, giving workshops and lessons online to students around the world as well as writing a **book about rhythm ('Mastering Rhythm With Konnakol')**.

He continues his collaboration work with artists such as **Tim Garland, Natacha Atlas**, Indian bassist **Shri Shriram** and pianist **Gwilym Simcock**.



# ASAF SIRKIS

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## ASAF SIRKIS - EDUCATOR C.V. P6

**1991 to 1996** (Israel) Teaching drums at Kibutz Netzer Sireni and Kibutz Gezer as well as private students

**1996 to 1998** (Israel) Teaching drums at Mizra School of music as well as teaching private students

**1999 – 2016** Teaching private students, running workshops, master classes and seminars around the world (see list below)

**2017-2019** Asaf Starts teaching at Leeds college Of Music (LCM)

**2017- to date**, Asaf Starts teaching at the Trinity College Of Music in London, UK.

**2018 to 2020** Asaf launches the 'Mastering Rhythm With Konnakol Online course on YouTube

**2021** – Asaf is currently in the process of writing his book 'Mastering Rhythm With Konnakol'.

### **Master classes include:**

Yearly/on going:

**Royal Academy Of Music (London)** – Yearly Rhythm and composition workshop for Junior Academy

**Royal Academy Of Music (London)** – Yearly external examiner for student's final recitals.

**Leeds College of Music (Leeds, UK)** – Yearly Konnakol Rhythm workshop at the Intercultural Music Week (every October-November)

**Morley College (London)** – Yearly beginner's Konnakol workshop

**Middlesex University (London)** – Yearly Konnakol Workshop

**Planet Drum (London)** – Occasional drum workshop at the Planet Drum School Of Drumming

**Saarvelingen Music week (Germany)** – Yearly Summer Music Workshop

**The Breathing Rhythm Workshop** (Asaf Sirkis With vocalist Sylwia Bialas) – on - going workshop in various places

**Melody-Harmony-Rhythm workshop** (Wuerzburg, Germany) – Yearly Music workshop





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## ASAF SIRKIS - EDUCATOR C.V. P7

Other workshops (to name a few):

Royal Welsh College Of Music (Cardiff, UK)

Hull University (Hull, UK)

Surrey University (Surrey, UK)

Roth Academy (Guilford, UK)

Brighton School Of Jazz (Brighton, UK)

Rimon School Of Music (Tel-Aviv, Israel)

Bangor University - (Wales, UK)

Leeds College Of Music - Sirkis/Bialas International Quartet Master class and ensemble work.

Silpakorn faculty Of Music (Bagnkok, Thailand)

Jarasum Jazz Festival (South Korea) - Asaf Sirkis' Trio Workshop

**\*\*Numerous other workshops in the far East with the Asaf Sirkis Trio.**

**From 2018 to date** - Asaf expands his YouTube Channel and creates three educational video modules:

1. He releases his Konnakol course '**Mastering Rhythm With Konnakol**' - a 46 video part series designed to help musicians of all levels, instruments and genres enhance their understanding of rhythm. This series is considered one of the most comprehensive rhythmic training programs on YouTube to date.
2. He releases a **16 part series of interviews with masters of rhythm** both from the Indian and western worlds such as; **Trilok Gurtu, Vijay Iyer, Steve Smith, Ari Hoenig, B C Manjunath, Trichy Sankaran** and many more.
3. He releases his drums-play-along series '**Time For Space**' - currently a **21 video part series** of his **own compositions**.



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## ASAF SIRKIS - PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

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"Listening to Asaf at work, two things are immediately obvious: passion and commitment. Blessed with technical skills that are disarmingly under-played, his middle-Eastern sensibility balances the potentially volcanic with the meditative and reflective. A master of creative surprise, it's on the edge of your seat listening when Asaf's in town." —**Bill Bruford**

"Since arriving in London from Israel at the end of the end of the '90s, Asaf Sirkis has earned a reputation as one of the world's premier drummers" —**Ian Patterson, All About Jazz**

"Israeli-born drummer and London resident Asaf Sirkis unleashes with thunderous abandon on this hard-hitting fusion offering that harkens back to a time before the genre became codified, diluted and reduced to a critical joke." —**Bill Milkowski, Jazz Times (USA)**

"The more subtle virtuosity of a Bill Stewart or a Jack DeJohnette is rooted in the subsoil of the music from which it came: it's something other than athletics. In that context, some really interesting young players to watch are Mark Guiliana from Avishai Cohen's group in the USA, and Martin France and Asaf Sirkisin the UK." —**Bill Bruford in Bill Bruford: The Autobiography, 2009, Jawbone Press**

"Drummer Asaf Sirkis' Letting Go is marked by cerebral melodies played as cosmic echoes. Sirkis' trio takes his finely honed compositions and sets them free to dance upon a universal landscape." —**Walter Kolosky, author of the book "Follow Your Heart- John McLaughlin song by song"**.

"Asaf Sirkis sounding creatively freer and more dramatically inventive than ever on drums." —**John Fordham, The Guardian**

"Sirkis is not only an inventive drummer but also a composer of rigour, wit and surprising delicacy" —**Chris Ingham, Mojo Magazine**

"Letting Go" goes back to instrumental jazz-rock before it ironed out the creases and became an f-word'. 'Sirkis' magnificent presence is always tempered by an acute sensitivity to group principles. " —**Selwyn Harris, Jazzwise**

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## ASAF SIRKIS PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

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"Sirkis continues to grow as a composer and leader, balancing subtly alluring introspection with dramatic release. This record will add to his reputation as an original and captivating voice."

—**Ian Patterson, All about Jazz**

"Sirkis is just a joy throughout, whether surging at speed or adding delicate cymbal accents amid the brush strokes. Like all the best drummers and especially those who lead bands, he manages to enhance the playing of his band members while always determining the overall sound and character of the music through his distinctive rhythmic feel and strong musical character."

—**Peter Bacon, Jazz Breakfast**

"Sirkis himself drums with a good mix of power, intelligence and sensitivity and the album represents his strongest set of compositions to date." —**Ian Mann, Jazz man**

"Asaf Sirkis, the world class drum phenomenon reminiscent of Jack DeJohnette and Tony Williams at the height of their powers that's taken the British scene by storm over the last few years..."

— **Renaissance man**



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## ASAF SIRKIS - BIOGRAPHY

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Born in 1969 in Petah-Tikva, Israel, Asaf later moved to the town of Rehovot, where he spent his teens and early twenties. This was an influential move for him, as it was here amongst the diverse cultural influences he found in Rehovot that Asaf began to show an interest in music and rhythm. In Rehovot he lived amongst people from North Africa, east and central Europe, and the Middle East. Living in Shaarayim, the Yemenite neighbourhood in Rehovot, Asaf was particularly drawn to **Yemenite culture**, music and rhythms.

At the age of 12 Asaf began drum lessons, while also having a strong interest in playing electric bass.

The music that influenced Asaf at the time still influences his writing and playing till this day; **The Beatles, Police, Yes, Genesis, Mahavishnu Orchestra, Allan Holdsworth,** and **Weather Report** to name a few.

Between 1987 - 1990 Asaf did his compulsory national service at an air-force base near Rehovot.

Out of the army in 1990, Asaf started his professional career as a musician playing with many different young Jazz-Rock, Kleizmer, world music, and Free improv. bands. During that time he co-operated with Israel's local Jazz/world luminaries such as **Harold Rubin, Albert Beger, Yair Dial and Eyal Sela.**

Many of those early projects were recorded and released by a pioneer Jazz record label in Israel called **Jazzis** (founded by Adam Baruch).

Around those years Asaf started to write music but it wasn't until 1995 when he formed his first trio that he found an outlet for his writing. In 1993 moved to Tel-Aviv. While making his living playing mainly **Jewish music** Asaf continued to develop his own voice as a Jazz drummer and composer until, in 1995, formed his own trio featuring N.Y.C keyboardist Kobi Arad, bassist Gabriel Mayer and recorded his first solo album 'One Step Closer' (Independent).

In 1996, Inspired by his love for the **Church Organ** sounds and by the music of French Organ composers such as **Olivier Messiaen, Maurice Durufle' and Cesar Frank,** he formed a unique new band **The Inner Noise** consisting of Church Organ, Electric Guitar and Drums featuring Adi Goldstein on Organ and Amir Perelman on Guitar. The Inner Noise' first project was commissioned by the Tel-Aviv City Council and was performed around Israel in 1997-8. This project is still considered by many reviewers and musicians around the world as ground breaking. In October 1998 Asaf left Israel to the Netherlands, then to France, and eventually settled in London in April 1999. He soon became part of the UK Jazz and world music scene, and started working with **Adel Salameh**, a Palestinian Oud player/composer with whom he recorded the album 'Nuzha' which featured Asaf's Middle Eastern frame hand drum playing.

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## ASAF SIRKIS - BIOGRAPHY

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Soon after arriving in the UK Asaf re-formed the **Inner Noise** band with **Steve Lodder** (Church Organ) and **Mike Outram** (Guitar). In 2000 Asaf met Gilad Atzmon, which was the start of a major creative collaboration. With Atzmon they formed **The Orient House Ensemble**, and this band went on to record 7 albums ('Orient House', 'Nostalgico', 'Exile', 'Musik', 'Artie Fishel & the Promised Band', 'Refuge', and 'In Loving Memory Of America'). O.H.E's album 'Exile' won the 'Best CD of the Year' category at the BBC Jazz Award 2003 and nominated for the 'Best Band' category in 2004.

Asaf performed with The O.H.E in many prestigious festivals and venues in the UK and in Europe until April 2009 when he left the band to focus on his own writing and work with his trio. In 2003 Asaf recorded the Inner Noise' first album ('Inner Noise', Konnex KCD 5113). 'Inner Noise' is widely considered a groundbreaking album and the music has been described as a new gender - 'Gothic Jazz'. The CD was chosen as one of the best albums of 2005 at the CHUOFM89 radio jazz station in Canada. In 2006 Asaf started a unique collaboration with the highly acclaimed saxophonist/composer **Tim Garland** and has enjoyed making seven albums with him so far; notably 'The Mystery' (featuring **Chick Corea & the Northern Sinfonia Orchestra**), 'Lighthouse' (released on A.C.T, featuring Gwilym Simcock on piano) and 'One' which was chosen as the best release of 2017 at Jazzwise magazine. Asaf still records and tours around the world with Garland's various projects.

With the Inner Noise band Asaf made two more albums, 'We Are Falling' (Konnex 2005) and 'The Song Within' (SAM Productions/Egea 2007) which was selected as one of the best albums of 2007 at the 'All About Jazz' website by John Kelman. While further developing his own compositions, he formed the Asaf Sirkis Trio in 2007 which featured Greek guitarist **Tassos Spiliotopoulos** and Israeli bassist **Yaron Stavi**. This trio has released three albums; 'The Monk' (SAM Productions/Egea, 2008), 'Letting Go' (Stonedbird Productions, 2010) and 'Shepherds Stories' (2013, Stonedbird Productions) which has been selected twice as one of 2013's best Jazz albums of the year at the All About Jazz website.

Since 2014, Asaf has been co-leading the **Sirkis/Bialas IQ** together with Polish composer/singer extraordinaire **Sylwia Bialas** (with **Frank Harrison** on keyboards & **Kevin Glasgow** on bass). Their debut album 'Come To Me' has received some rave reviews and been selected as one of the best of 2015 by Mark Sullivan at the All About Jazz website. Their latest album, 'Our New Earth', (released on Moonjune 2019) has, again, been selected by many reviewers as one of the best releases of 2019.

The band has been touring extensively up to pandemic times.

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## ASAF SIRKIS - BIOGRAPHY

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Since 2011 Asaf has been studying **Konnakol** - the south Indian vocal percussion language - with master mridangamist **Paramasamy Kirupakaran** and has been integrating this system in his teaching, composing and rhythmic approach. Asaf has developed an easy, **step-by-step method of practicing Konnakol** that can help any western instrumentalist or vocalist of any musical genre and level to increase rhythmic awareness and focus. Nowadays, Sirkis is involved in a variety of educational work, pioneering the use of Konnakol as a useful tool of understanding rhythm to western music education. Notably, he has given many workshops and seminars around the world since 2012 on the subject and has released the 'Mastering Rhythm With Konnakol' online course on his YouTube channel. This course is still considered as one of the most comprehensive introductions to Konnakol for western musicians as well as Indian musicians.

Since 2015 Asaf recorded more than 12 albums for the visionary N.Y.C record label **MoonJune** with international artists such as **Dwiki Dharmawan (Indonesia), Mark Wingfield (UK/USA), Dusan Jevtovic (Serbia/Spain), Markus Reuter (Germany)**, and more. Notably, the Sirkis/Reuter/Stavi/Wingfield album 'Lighthouse' (Moonjune 083) has been selected as one of the best releases of 2017 at the Downbeat magazine.

Asaf has been collaborating with many other artists such as: **Dave Holland, Jacob Collier, Tim Garland, Celine Bonacina, Gwilym Simcock, Larry Coryell, Nicolas Meier, Jeff Berlin, John Abercrombie, Bob Sheppard, Norman Watt-Roy** (of the Blockheads), **Wilco Johnson, Soft Machine, Robert Wyatt, Mark Egan, Mark Wingfield, Natacha Atlas, Dave Liebman, David Binney, Gary Husband, pianist John Taylor, Norma Winstone, Kenny Wheeler, Andy Sheppard, Lenny Stern, John Law, Peter King, Stan Sulzman, Yuri Goloubev (Russia), Klaus Gesing (Austria), Eyal Maoz (N.Y.C), Simon Fisher Turner, Phil Robson**, and **John Etheridge** to name only a few.

Currently, Asaf is preparing for the release of his new Trio album '**Solar Flash**' featuring keyboardist **Gary Husband** and bassist **Kevin Glasgow** on Moonjune records as well as preparing for the recording of a brand new solo project. He continues his collaboration work with artists such as **Tim Garland, Natacha Atlas**, Indian bassist **Shri Shriram** and pianist **Gwilym Simcock**. Concerts have been scheduled around Europe for this year's summer festivals.



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## ASAF SIRKIS - APPROACH TO TEACHING AND EDUCATIONAL SKILLS

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### GENERAL APPROACH TO TEACHING

Firstly, it is important for me that each of the students gets constant personalized feedback and feels 'seen', cultivating a sense of trust between the student and teacher.

Secondly, I put an emphasis on communicating ideas and concepts in the most simple and understandable way possible so that the students gets a solid foundation, especially of the basics, which is so essential to growth and development.

Thirdly, I put an emphasis on vocalizing the instrument and getting deep into 'groove', 'swing' and improvising solo phrasing.

Fourthly, I like to use elements of teaching approaches such as Flow Psychology (Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, Steven Kotler), Deliberate practice (Anders Ericson), and other techniques such as meditation and mental training, which enhances the student's engagement and performances.

### EDUCATIONAL SKILLS

#### 1. DRUMS (JAZZ, WORLD MUSIC, IMPROVISATION & MEDIA)

Co-ordination, Jazz vocabulary, world rhythms, listening & analysing, transcriptions, free Improvisation concepts, vocalizing the instrument, composition, drum tuning, drum history, project mentorship, goal setting, motivational work.

Media awareness – focusing on being a drummer in the modern age and how to release music on social media. Asaf has created a series of play along songs, which the students can play to and make their own videos.

Course length: aprox 1- 4 years

#### 2. AN APPROACH TO DRUM TECHNIQUE

Asaf has been studying the Freddy Gruber Approach to hand and feet technique with L.A based drummer Bruce Becker for the last 5 years.

Asaf provides students with solid foundation to hand & feet movements, stick 'housing', posture & sitting positions, a sense of flow in playing, sound refinement on the instrument and preventing future strain and injury which are quite common amongst drummers.

Course length: aprox 1- 2 years



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## ASAF SIRKIS - APPROACH TO TEACHING AND EDUCATIONAL SKILLS CONT.

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### EDUCATIONAL SKILLS CONT.

#### **3. RHYTHM COACHING/KONNAKOL (SOUTH INDIAN VOCAL PERCUSSION) FOR INSTRUMENTALISTS AND VOCALISTS OF ALL GENRES**

Asaf has been studying the art of Konnakol from South Indian Mridangamist Paramasamy Kirupakaran for more than a decade and has been one of the pioneers of propagating the use of Konnakol for enhancing rhythm for western musicians online. He has developed step-by-step method of enhancing rhythmic abilities for all instrumentalists and vocalists of all levels and genres of music with the help of this ancient art form.

This aspect of teaching is enhanced by Asaf's 'Mastering Rhythm With Konnakol' free online course on YouTube (see link below), which students can refer back to at anytime.

Course length: aprox 1- 2 years

#### **4. RHYTHM SECTION AND ENSEMBLE WORK FOR JAZZ IMPROVISERS**

Asaf runs small to medium size ensembles focusing on group dynamics, cultivating creativity, original thinking, music producing, arranging and a sense of teamwork.

Course length: aprox 1- 2 years

#### **5. LEADERSHIP AND BAND MANAGEMENT**

Asaf has been running his own bands, projects and record label for many years and is happy to share his knowledge with aspiring bands and bandleaders about getting concerts, record labels, touring, management, etc.





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## ASAF SIRKIS ADDITIONAL SKILLS

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### INSTRUMENTAL:

- PERCUSSION (FRAME DRUMS, UDU, HANG DRUM)
- KONNAKOL
- KEYBOARDS
- LEADERSHIP AND BAND MANAGEMENT

### SOFTWARE:

- SIBELIUS
- I MOVIE
- WEVIDEO
- GARAGE BAND
- WORD
- PAGES



**Asaf holds a German residency/work permit card and is looking forward to move to Germany in the coming months.**

# ASAF SIRKIS

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WWW.ASAFSIRKIS.COM

## STUDENTS TESTIMONIALS & RESOURCES

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"To my mind, Asaf is a superb drummer whose focus is very much on musicality and what the song requires, rather than blistering displays of technique for its own sake. Having seen Asaf playing on the BBC TV (young jazz musician of the year), I'd nervously approached him for lessons to develop my jazz playing. I've been studying with Asaf for about six months, during which time we've covered a wide range of subjects including technique, exercises to develop grip, phrasing, musicality, timekeeping, vocalising drum parts and even tuning tom-toms for jazz. It's been a fascinating and enjoyable experience, where the focus is on your individual playing and style, and approaches to developing this through specific exercises, tailored to your current ability. There's also been some discussion about drumming philosophy, conceptual approaches and getting the best from practice sessions. Asaf does set the bar high, and seeks quality in all aspects of practice and playing, but this is essential for progress. Asaf is very generous with his time (some sessions are over two hours!) and sharing knowledge and experience, which is really appreciated. His easy, approachable manner (and deep patience) is also appreciated (I'm not the easiest student!). I suggested to Asaf that I wrote this testimonial, not least to say that whether you're a beginner or advanced, there's much to learn from him.

### **Garry Champion (PhD), student**

A lesson with Asaf Sirkis, a feature on London jazz News online magazine (July 8th, 2019)

"Singing is an inside-out learning process. It's giving a voice to something that is already inside of you. In the 25 years I've been teaching, I've never seen two students use the same rhythms, nor the same syllables." Asaf Sirkis explained his teaching process to Luke Franc.

### **Read the full review:**

<https://londonjazznews.com/2019/07/08/a-lesson-with-asaf-sirkis/>

### **The 'Mastering Rhythm With Konnakol' YouTube Series:**


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLTDfoneAJ0&list=PLaq6h18rnEfXp7LSp>


### **Press quote from a review of a Konnakol masterclass**

"This masterclass was an excellent introduction to the Konnakol system."


**Charley Anderson, Essex Jazz Magazine**


## YOUTUBE CHANNEL COMMENTS:


 **Lenwood Turner IV** 3 months ago  
This video is excellent!! I studied with Jamey Haddad a while ago and I'm trying to get back into it. This was great!!  
👍 1 🗨️ ❤️ REPLY  
[View reply from Asaf Sirkis](#)


 **Tom Gur** 3 weeks ago  
Brilliant!  
👍 1 🗨️ ❤️ REPLY  
[View reply from Asaf Sirkis](#)


 **Darren Altman** 2 years ago  
Wonderful Asaf. Beautifully explained and demonstrated.  
👍 2 🗨️ ❤️ REPLY


 **Connor Martin** 11 months ago  
Great video, tension subject was put very well  
👍 2 🗨️ ❤️ REPLY  
[View reply from Asaf Sirkis](#)


 **tubular167** 2 years ago  
Absolutely brilliant 😄😄  
👍 2 🗨️ ❤️ REPLY

 **John Anderson** 1 month ago  
Thank you 🙏

 **Varoujan Merdjanian** vor 5 Jahren  
Thank you Asaf. That's what I needed, a very simple and natural way of explaining every move and sound that's happening in musical phrase, that someone with my listening ability can understand and apply it to his music. Wish you the the best.  
👍 2 🗨️ ANTWORTEN

 **RatRaceAce** vor 8 Jahren  
Asaf, enjoyed your great konnakkol tutorials. One point for those who don't speak Indian languages: in ta-ki-Ta, the two "ta" sounds are distinctly different. The first ta (a "soft" sound) is produced as usual by touching the teeth with the tongue. The second Ta (a "hard" sound) is a retroflex tongue sound made by bending the tongue ...  
[Mehr anzeigen](#)  
👍 5 🗨️ ANTWORTEN

 **rgab** vor 1 Jahr  
I am wondering why there are no comments in the last 4 years, this video is simply amazing. I am just subscribing and will go through all the lessons.  
👍 1 🗨️ ANTWORTEN

 **Theodor Yemenis** vor 5 Jahren  
Asaf, thank you very much! The best konnakkol instruction I have ever seen!!!  
👍 11 🗨️ ANTWORTEN

You  
Tube

**ASAF  
SIRKIS**  
DRUMMER, COMPOSER  
BAND LEADER  
EDUCATOR

**REFERENCE 1  
GWILYM SIMCOCK**

**P18**

**London, May 1, 2021**

Dear Sir or Madam,

Asaf is one of the most complete and wise musicians I've ever had the pleasure to make music with. He combines a very diligent and hard-working approach to practice and development with a truly unique and joyful creativity - and this makes him stand out as an extremely important musician in our little special world.

Aside from his playing, Asaf has developed a great career for himself as a teacher and mentor - not only in traditional Jazz music, but also in many aspects of music from around the world, and specifically the study of Konnakol music. His broad range of musical expertise, and endless enthusiasm, energy and patience make him a very special and important person in the world of jazz/world music education. I would not hesitate for even a second to recommend him for any role in the world of music education - and in fact I genuinely can't think of anyone I've ever met who I would rather recommend for such a job in the field of rhythm.

Please feel free to contact me at [gwilymsimcock@hotmail.com](mailto:gwilymsimcock@hotmail.com) if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

**Gwilym Simcock**



**ASAF  
SIRKIS**  
DRUMMER, COMPOSER  
BAND LEADER  
EDUCATOR



[www.ASAFSIRKIS.COM](http://www.ASAFSIRKIS.COM)

**REFERENCE 2.  
YURI GOLOUBEV**

P19

**Moscow, April 20, 2021**

To whom this may concern

I have known Mr Asaf Sirkis for at least 20 years or more by now, and have toured with him internationally on countless occasions. We have also recorded over 30 albums together with Mr. Sirkis, including my latest release "Two Chevrons Aprat" which has been listed amongst the best albums of 2020 by the prestigious Downbeat magazine.

I cannot praise highly enough the work of Mr Sirkis: he is an extremely sensitive and versatile musician with a fine touch and an amazing energy and technique, always very prepared and very thorough. In my opinion, he is one of the most dedicated music professionals I have come across in my career.

In addition to that, since many years, Mr Sirkis has been devoting lots of his time to education – teaching both privately and at music colleges and conservatoires. It is worth noting that Mr Sirkis also runs his own YouTube channel where he shares lots of valuable in-depth insights into the Indian vocal percussion techniques as well.

I believe that Mr Sirkis would truly be an amazing find for any high-level school of music.

Best Regards,

**Yuri Goloubev**

**Yuri Goloubev**  
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