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#### The Drummer Loves Ballads ... and you will, too

Forty years ago, John Armato played one of his first jam sessions. That's where the story behind *The Drummer Loves Ballads* — and the album itself — begins. This debut project by Armato is a fresh soundtrack for Sunday afternoons, romantic evenings, and melancholy midnights, but it plays like a long-loved jazz favorite. It features more than 25 musicians, including the legends Houston Person and Warren Vaché. Together they've created an album that ranges from intimate quartet settings to sweeping orchestral arrangements. It's a unique full-album listening experience and you'll find *The Drummer Loves Ballads* is as rewarding to listen to closely as it is relaxing to listen to casually.

*CD cover design by John Armato and Tricia Juanitas. Photo credit: Andy Amyx*



#### Boy meets drum

John Armato with his cherished 1964 Ludwig "Symphony" model snare drum. Part of the set used in the teaching studio of Eddie Oyer, Armato's first drum teacher, it was the first "real" drum Armato ever played, at his first lesson in 1972 when he was just eight years old. In 2012 Armato paid a visit to the retired Oyer and casually asked whatever became of those old drums, thinking they were long gone. They weren't. They were just upstairs. Armato now owns the drums and used the snare in the recording of *The Drummer Loves Ballads*. "That drum is special," said Armato. "We were both 'born' the same year. But it's not only a priceless memento of the start of my journey as a musician," he said. "It's also an exquisite instrument and my favorite snare for jazz."

*Photo credit: Andy Amyx*



#### John Armato – the drummer who loves ballads – in session

John Armato, behind the scenes during a tracking session for *The Drummer Loves Ballads*. The album was recorded by more than 25 musicians in 10 sessions across four cities over three years. Most tracks were recorded in Kansas City, Missouri. Some guest artist tracks were recorded in New York, Nashville, and Bremen, Germany. Producer: John Cushon. Primary recording engineer: Justin Wilson. Mixing engineer and co-producer: Howie Lindeman. Mastering engineer: Greg Calbi.

*Photo courtesy John Armato*



#### Three-fourths of the TDLB quartet

John Armato confers with (L to R) Rod Fleeman, guitar, and Wayne Hawkins, piano, before recording a take for *The Drummer Loves Ballads*. Not pictured is bassist Gerald Spaits.

*Photo courtesy John Armato*



#### John Armato, loving ballads live.

John Armato plays the 2019 Roseville Jazz Festival in a set with vocalist Rebecca Hardiman, her husband Ray Hardiman on piano, and Diana Krall alum Paul Keller on bass. Rebecca called Armato "top-shelf... one of THE best around!"

*Photo credit: Thomas Blackburn, courtesy Roseville Jazz Festival*

