



## **Curtis Nowosad Bio (360 words)**

Nearly 100 years after the Harlem Renaissance shook the world, there's a whole new cultural and spiritual awakening in that corner of the jazz world. A key player in galvanizing this fresh and dynamic sense of cultural awareness, drummer/composer Curtis Nowosad has been a major force in The Harlem Sessions, organized by renowned pianist Marc Cary.

Having made his home in Harlem since 2013, the 31-year-old Canadian native emerges as a powerful musical force for social justice on a groundbreaking self-titled jazz and blues-driven collection that illuminates past and present history while creating some profound history of its own. Co-produced with Cary, it is the drummer's first collection to feature the explosive and intuitive chemistry of his NY-based ensemble that has held court in NYC everywhere from Smalls, Fat Cat and Rockwood Music Hall to The Jazz Standard and full week residencies at Dizzy's Club at Jazz at Lincoln Center.

The foundation for this current release was laid with two previous critically acclaimed collections, his debut *The Skeptic & the Cynic* (which spent two weeks at #1 on the Canadian Jazz charts and featured Grammy-nominated pianist Taylor Eigsti and saxophonist Jimmy Greene) and the WCMA-winning and JUNO-nominated *Dialectics (Cellar Live)*, which made *DownBeat Magazine's* "Best of 2015" list, reached #3 on the CMJ jazz charts and spent ten weeks on the JazzWeek charts.

Curtis has played in the bands of Philip Harper, Craig Harris, Brent Birkhead, rising star saxophonist Braxton Cook and Cary (who both make major contributions to the album) while headlining major jazz festivals in Canada and several in the U.S. He has also performed with four NEA Jazz Masters: Candido Camero, Dave Liebman, Jimmy Owens and Kenny Barron.

Curtis is an alumnus of the University of Manitoba, where he studied with Terreon Gully and Quincy Davis, and holds a master's degree from Manhattan School of Music, where he was a student of John Riley, and performed with the multi-Grammy nominated MSM Afro-Cuban Jazz Orchestra, under the direction of Bobby Sanabria. He currently serves on MSM's Precollege jazz faculty and is an endorser of Canopus Drums.