

Wesley Sumpter, Assistant Principal Percussion, LA Phil

September 2025

Wesley is one of the most in-demand percussionists in the United States. He has performed with some of the world's leading orchestras: Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco, National, and Atlanta Symphonies, Mainly Mozart Festival Orchestra, the Cabrillo Festival, Lakes Area Music Festival and the BBC Philharmonic. He has played under renowned conductors such as Gustavo Dudamel, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Zubin Mehta and many more.

As a recording musician, he can be heard on a number of the LA Phil's recordings including their 2021 Grammy-Award winning *Charles Ives Symphonies*, the BBC Phil's *Pierre Sancan: A Musical Tribute*, and the film soundtracks of *West Side Story (2021)*, *Transformers: Rise of the Beasts (2023)* and Disney's *WISH*.

As a contemporary and chamber musician, Wesley has worked regularly with the *LA Phil New Music Group*, *Alarm Will Sound* (NYC), *The International Contemporary Ensemble* (NYC), and *The Gateways Chamber Players* (Chicago). He is also a founding member of the trio, *Lineage Percussion*.

Wesley is one of two drummers/percussionists for *Misnomer*, a 9-piece, band based in Atlanta, GA. He has shared the stage with some of the biggest stars in music: Macy Gray, Christina Aguilera, H.E.R., Katy Perry, Herbie Hancock, Barry Manilow, Wynton Marsalis, John Williams, and Snarky Puppy.

Wesley received his bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia and started his master's at the University of Southern California before beginning the inaugural *Resident Fellows* program with the LA Phil. His teachers include Timothy Adams Jr., Kimberly Toscano, James Babor, Joseph Pereira, and Matthew Howard.