

Patrick Carttar student tenure: September 2003 - May 2011

Patrick began lessons in 5th grade at the age of 11 and continued as a regular weekly student in the studio throughout his entire middle school and high school years. He excelled particularly at drum set and this became a focal point in his lessons, especially during his high school time. His accomplishments include:

- Lawrence Free State High School Jazz Ensemble I, drum set (2009, 2010)
- Lawrence Free State High School Marching Band, snare line (2008, 2009)
- Lawrence Free State Symphonic Band, First Chair percussion (2009, 2010)
- Southwest Middle School, First Chair nerrussion (2003-2008)
- Lawrence All-City Honor Band (2006)
- continued actively with drum set in college and was a lead vocalist/keyboardist in his own band

Patrick graduated from The University of Kansas in 2015 with a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering. Following his college studies, he landed a job with BranchPattern, an engineering firm which specializes in extremely efficient and environmentally friendly building system design. Patrick's specialty with the firm is designing and modeling HVAC and plumbing systems. He still remains active as a drum set player and plays every chance he gets. He now lives in Denver, Colorado with his wife Lia and dog Brona.

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Some reflections about Patrick from Steve Riley...

Like many private music teachers, I always have a very special place in my heart and memories for those students who were regular weekly students for at least 5 years or longer. For me, there's always been a certain depth of camaraderie that develops with a student past that 5-year mark which transcends the typical student-teacher relationship... and Patrick was no exception.

When Patrick started lessons, he was quite young and perhaps a late bloomer in terms of size and stature, even for that young age. He loved drum set from the very beginning though, and I remember I'd have to lower all the drums as much as possible so he could reach the pedals and drums. But his passion and work ethic was always there, right from the very beginning. Sometimes I found myself wishing he would start to grow a little quicker than he was, because there were things he was wanting to do on the drum set that his young, constantly changing muscles were having trouble adapting to, and I could tell it was frustrating him. But I could see early on what a great drum set player he was going to become. Once he finally had that inevitable growth spurt, his playing really took off and he was always nailing the drum set spots for his concert band pieces, and quickly became the first chair drum set player for the majority of his high school years at Free State High School. He also was very talented at snare drum, making snare line in the competitive Free State drumline his sophomore year. Over the years, I also developed a close relationship with his mother and father, Mary Frances and Paul. Patrick will always be one of those very special long-tenured students that I'm proud I had the opportunity to teach and have in my studio for nearly 8 years.

P.S. I have a great picture of a shirtless, celebrating Patrick and me standing outdoors at his high school graduation party in 2011, while a storm is rolling in and the picture was taken just moments before a tornado warning was issued. Someday when I locate that picture I'll update and add it to this page! \bigcirc