

Gabriel Bar-Cohen is a drummer and educator based in Tel Aviv, known for his open, dynamic approach to swing and modern improvised music. Rooted in the exploratory spirit of 1960s and '70s jazz, his playing reflects a deep sense of contrast, spontaneity, and sonic depth, bringing a distinct contemporary voice to the Israeli jazz scene.

Originally from Princeton, New Jersey, Bar-Cohen's passion for jazz developed through his selection as drummer for the acclaimed Princeton High School Studio Band. During his time with the ensemble, he was recognized as an Outstanding Soloist and Superior Soloist at the Berklee High School Jazz Festival in 2016 and 2017, toured Spain and Portugal, and performed with the University of the Arts High School All-Star Big Band. In 2018, he was named a YoungArts Winner.

Bar-Cohen earned his Bachelor's Degree in Jazz Performance from the Manhattan School of Music, where he studied with renowned educators John Riley, Rogério Boccato, and Ian Froman. During his college years, he became an active presence in the New York and Philadelphia jazz communities, performing regularly as a sideman and bandleader at venues including the 55 Bar in NYC, Chris' Jazz Café in Philadelphia, and the New Brunswick Jazz Project in New Jersey.

Since relocating to Israel in 2021, Bar-Cohen has become a prominent voice in the Tel Aviv jazz scene, leading his own trio and quartet while collaborating with many of the country's leading musicians, including Mordy Ferber, Yuval Drabkin, Guy Mintus, Hila Kulik, and Deborah Dery. He performs regularly at venues such as Beit Ha'amudim, Amama Jazz Room, Jazz Kissa, and Shablul Jazz Club.

Alongside his performing career, Bar-Cohen is a dedicated educator. He teaches jazz drums at the Be'er Sheva Conservatory and offers private instruction from his Tel Aviv studio. His students have gone on to participate in prestigious programs including the Princeton High School Studio Band and the Manhattan School of Music Precollege Division. He has also served on the faculty of the Philadelphia Jazz Orchestra Summer Camp.