

= Eddie Bayers =

Eddie Bayers (born January 28 , 1949) is an American session drummer who has played on 150 gold and platinum albums . He received the Academy of Country Music ' Drummer of the Year Award ' for eight straight years , and has three times won the Nashville Music Awards ' Drummer of the Year ' . He is also a member of two bands : The Players , and The Notorious Cherry Bombs .

= = Early life = =

The son of a career military man , Bayers moved around as a child , originally from Maryland then spending time in Nashville , North Africa , Oakland , and Philadelphia . His early musical training was as a classical pianist studying Bach , Beethoven , and Mozart . During his college years in Oakland , California he jammed with future stars Jerry Garcia , and Tom and John Fogerty and developed an appreciation for the creative aspects of music . After a short stint in a New Jersey show band he decided to move to Nashville .

= = Session work = =

Arriving in Nashville in 1973 , Bayers became the house keyboard player at the Carousel Club where he met drummer Larrie Londin who inspired him to take up drumming . His drumming was influenced by soul drummers such as Al Jackson , Jr. and Clyde Stubblefield . He became the staff drummer at Audio Media Studios along with guitarist Paul Worley , keyboardist Dennis Burnside , and bassist Jack Clement playing on records by Tanya Tucker , John Denver , Ricky Skaggs and George Strait . He has since worked with the likes of The Beach Boys , Garth Brooks , Glen Campbell , Kenny Chesney , Peter Frampton , Vince Gill , Rebecca Lynn Howard , Julio Iglesias , Alan Jackson , Elton John , Mark Knopfler , Uncle Kracker , Bob Seger , Sting , Steve Winwood , and Trisha Yearwood . He has also produced Rosanne Cash 's album Interiors , A Glen Campbell Christmas , and the soundtrack for A Thing Called Love .

= = Bands = =

= = = The Players = = =

In 2002 Bayers formed a band , The Players , with fellow studio musicians Brent Mason , Paul Franklin , John Hobbs , Michael Rhodes . The group released a live DVD , Live in Nashville , featuring their own performances along with guest appearances by Peter Frampton , Shawn Colvin , Travis Tritt , Vince Gill , and Jim Horn .

= = = The Notorious Cherry Bombs = = =

Bayers replaced his former mentor , drummer Larrie Londin , in a reunited Notorious Cherry Bombs for a 2003 ASCAP Country Awards dinner . The band decided to stay together and has released The Notorious Cherry Bombs which was nominated for Grammys in both the ' Best Country Performance By A Duo Or Group With Vocal ' and ' Best Country Song ' categories . Along with Bayers the band consists of Vince Gill , Rodney Crowell , Hank DeVito , Richard Bennett , and Michael Rhodes .

= = = The Medallion Band = = =

An all @-@ star lineup was assembled to be the backing band at the 2010 Country Music Hall of Fame induction ceremony dubbed the Medallion Band . Bayers served as drummer and was accompanied by keyboardist and music director John Hobbs , pedal steel player Paul Franklin ,

electric guitarist Steve Gibson , bassist Michael Rhodes , fiddler Deanie Richardson , tuba player Larry Paxton , background vocalists Dawn Sears and Jeff White , and acoustic guitarist Biff Watson . Later that year Bayers and a slightly revamped Medallion Band accompanied Shawn Camp in honoring Hall of Fame inductee Jimmy Dean . Bayers played the same role for the 2011 Country Music Hall of Fame induction ceremony with the band now dubbed the Medallion All @-@ Stars .

= = Accolades = =

Bayers received the ' Academy of Country Music Drummer of the Year Award ' 13 times , ' Nashville Music Awards Drummer of the Year ' three times , and one of the 10 greatest session drummers of all time by Drum ! magazine . He has been nominated for the ' CMA Musician of the Year ' ten times but has yet to bring home the prize .

= = Music industry = =

In addition to his work as a musician , Bayers has contributed to the recording industry as a 12 @-@ year member of the Board of Governors for NARAS . He is also the part @-@ owner of the Money Pit recording studio . The number one singles " What I Really Meant to Say " by Cyndi Thomson and " Blessed " by Martina McBride were both recorded at his studio .

= = Selected discography = =