



Photo contributed

Drummer Kenny Aronoff, who has played with the likes of Elton John and Bob Dylan, is seen at Beyond Audio, where he played on three tracks for local singer Lindsay May, who is recording a new CD to be re-released this fall. Aronoff was in Kelowna to perform with John Fogerty at Prospera Place.

Star drummer plays with locals

■ Kenny Aronoff gives drumming clinic, plays on three tracks for local singer in recording studio

By **DON PLANT**
The Daily Courier

Local drummers got to hit the high-hat with rock 'n' roll royalty this week.

Kenny Aronoff, drummer for John Fogerty, shared his expertise with 18 musicians at a two-hour class Monday night before performing in concert with Fogerty at Prospera Place. His main advice: approach drumming the way an Olympic athlete approaches sport, said Mike Ohman, who organized the master class.

"He said you have to bring your entire game to

live your life well so you're in shape, get enough sleep and proper nutrition."

Aronoff may not be a household name, but Fogerty fans know it now. The former front man for Creedence Clearwater Revival introduced him Tuesday night by saying, "We're all very lucky to be in the presence of the greatest rock 'n' roll drummer in the world."

Aronoff has played on 30 Grammy-nominated recordings, including John Mellencamp's chart-topping Jack and Diane.

"He thought he'd be replaced by a drum machine," Ohman said. "The song starts with a drum machine, then a real drum solo and then the vocal. He was amazed they wanted to start with a drum solo."

Aronoff, 54, has also worked with A-list musicians like Bob Dylan, the Rolling Stones, Alanis

Ohman, charging only a nominal fee for the drum workshop.

After the class, Aronoff went back to his hotel to answer e-mails and returned to the Beyond Audio studio at midnight.

He had agreed to play the drum track for three songs recorded by Kelowna singer Lindsay May for \$200 a song.

"He didn't charge the same rate he'd charge Sony Records," Ohman said Wednesday.

"Having him on the record . . . elevates everyone else involved . . . One of the bass players is re-recording one of the tracks today because (Aronoff) works at a higher level."

May's CD will be released this fall.

Ohman was able to arrange the class and recording session through his friend Bob Bachtold, who had Aronoff's e-mail address.