# CHICAGO DRUM SHOW

May 20 and 21, 2023 KANE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS St Charles, Illinois Saturday & Sunday 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Adult admission \$20.00, Ages 5-12 \$10.00

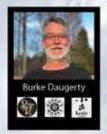
#### MEET THE SMITHS

8 of the top independent cymbalsmiths are attending the show: Each will appear on the clinic stage Saturday, and meet all 8 at a public reception Sunday hosted by Maxwell Drums.

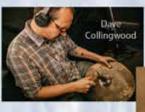
















Scott Pellegrom DW. GEWA, Remo. Paiste



Bobby T Torello WFL-III, Humes & Berg, XCel, Trick



Gary Astridge Ringo's gear archivist



Ramy Antoun Building the world's largest bass drum



**Gerry Brown GEWA Drums** 



Paul Wertico Drum Workshop



Eric Binder Introduction to custom cymbals



Jeff Davenport (in association with Remo) Speed tuning a drum kit

A&F Drum Company, AR Drums, AT Drums, Ken Anderson, Artisan Customs, Austrian Drum Head Company, Baker Drums, Baltimore Drum, Matt Barba, Eric Binder, Bloo Goose Classic Percussion, Joey Boom, Bop Drums, Breslow Drum Co., Om Brogan, Bronze Pie, Byrme Cymbals, Cardinal Percussion, Cercleter Cymbals, Chicago Drum, Chicago Brum, Brum, Chicago Brum, Brum











HUMES & BERG

















# HUMES & BERG









FAMILY-LEGACY SINCE

1935

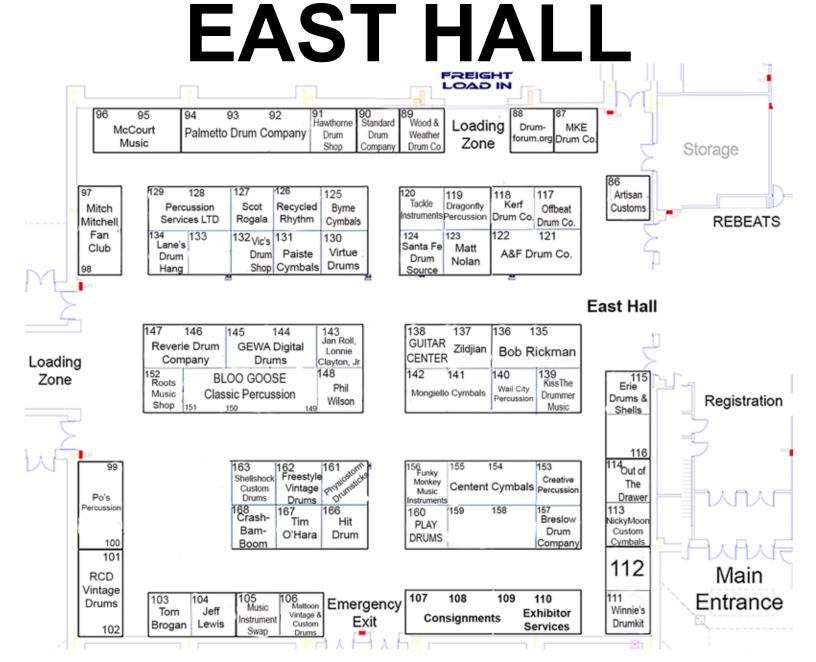
FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED

#### 2023 Chicago Drum Show Schedule

Doors open daily at 8:00 A.M. for Exhibitors and VIP attendees.

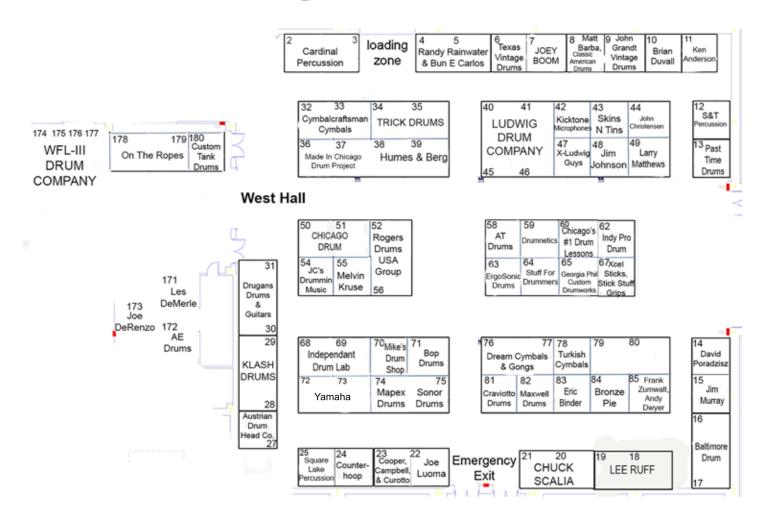
All Clinics are in the Clinic Building (except where noted)

	Saturday May 20	at they the bear	Sunday May 21
10:00	Doors Open at 10:00 A.M.	10:00	Doors Open at 10:00 A.M.
10:30	RAMY ANTOUN The Making of the World's Largest Bass Drum	10:30	SCOTT PELLEGROM Clinic
11:00	ERIC BINDER A Focus on Cymbals	11:30	JEFF DAVENPORT The Art of Speed Tuning a Drum Kit
	Meet The Smiths: Cymbal Smiths		
12:00	RAY BYRNE	12:00	Maxwell Drums presents: a MEET THE SMITHS reception
12:30	DAVE		Main Building Conference Room (Upstairs)
1:00	BURKE DAUGHERTY	1:00	BOBBY T TORELLO
1:30	PAUL FRANCIS		Clinic
2:00	MIKE MONGIELLO	2:00	GARY ASTRIDGE
2:30	NICKY MOON		Ringo's Gear Archivist
3:00	MATT NOLAN	3:00	PAUL WERTICO
3:30	TIMOTHY ROBERTS		Clinic
4:00	GERRY BROWN Clinic	4:30	RAFFLE DRAWING 4:30 in the Main Building Lobby
5:00	Show Closes at 5:00 P.M.	5:00	Show Closes at 5:00 P.M.



A&F Drum Company (121-122), AR Drums (172), AT Drums (58), Ken Anderson (11), Artisan Customs (129), Austrian Drum Head Company (27), Baker Drums (42), Baltimore Drum (16,17), Matt Barba (8), Eric Binder (83), Bloo Goose Classic Percussion (149-150-151), Joey Boom (7), Bop Drums (70-71), Breslow Drum Co. (157), Tom Brogan (103), Bronze Pie (84), Byrne Cymbals (125), Cardinal Percussion (2,3), Centent Cymbals (154-155), Chicago Drum (50,51), Chicago's #1 Drum Lessons (60), John Christensen (44), Clausell Percussion Academy, Cooper, Campbell, & Curotto (23), Counterhoop (24), Crash Bam Boom (168), Craviotto Drum Co (81), John Christensen (12), Classic American Drums (8), Clausell Percussion Academy (181), Creative Percussion (153), Custom Tank Drums (180), Cymbal Craftsman Cymbals (32-33), Dragonfly Percussion (119), Joe DeRenzo (173), Les DeMerle (171), Dream Cymbals (76-77), Drugans Drums & Guitars (30,31), Drum Factory (56,57), DrumForum.org (88), Drumnetics (59), Brian Duvall (10), Ergosonic Percussion (63), Erie Drums & Shells (115), Excel Drumsticks (67), Freestyle Vintage Drums (162), Funky Monkey Musical Instruments (156), Georgia Phil Custom Drumworks (65), GEWA Digital Drums (154-155), John Grandt (9),

## **WEST HALL**



Guitar Center (137-138), Hawthorne Drum Shop (91), Hit Drum (166), Humes & Berg (38,39), Independent Drum Lab (68,69), Indy Pro Drum (62), JC's Drum Center (54), Jim Johnson (48), Joey Boom (7), Kerf Drum Co. (118), Kicktone Mics (24), KissTheDrummerMusic (139), Klash Drums (28,29), Melvin Kruse (55), Lane's Drum Hang (134), Jeff Lewis (104), Ludwig Drum Co. (40,41,45,46) Joe Luoma (22), MKE Drum Co (87), Made In Chicago Drum Project (36-37), Mapex (74), Mattoon Vintage & Custom Drums (106), Larry Matthews (49), Steve Maxwell (82), McCourts Music (95-96), Mikes Drum Shop (70), Mitch Mitchell Fan Club (97-98), (Mongiello Cymbals (141,142), Jim Murray (15), Music Instrument Swap (105), NickyMoon Custom Cymbals (113), Matt Nolan (123), Offbeat Drum Co. (117), Tim O'Hara (167), On The Ropes (178,179), Out of The Drawer Percussion (114), Paiste Cymbals (131), Palmetto Drum Co (92-93-94), Past Time Drums (13), Percussion Services Ltd (128,129) Physiostorm Drumsticks (161), PlayDrums (160), Po's Percussion (99,100), David Poradzisz (14), RCD Vintage Drums (101,102), Randy Rainwater & Bun E Carlos (4,5), Recycled Rhythm (126), Reverie Drum Company (146-147), Bob Rickman (135-136), Scot Rogala (127), Rogers Drums USA Group (52,56), Jan Roll/Lonnie Clayton Jr (143), Lee Ruff (18-19), S&T Percussion (12), Santa Fe Drum Source (124), Chuck Scalia (20,21), Shellshock Custom Drums (163), Skins N Tins (43), Sonor (75), Square Lake Percussion (25), Standard Drum Co. (90), Stick Stuff Grips) (67), Stuff For Drumers (64), Texas Vintage Drum (6), Trick Percussion (34,35), Turkish Cymbals (78), Vic's Drum Shop (132), Virtue Drums (130), WFL-III Drum Company (174,175,176,177), Wail City Percussion (140), Wood And Weather Drum Co (89), Phil Wilson (148), Xcel Sticks (67), x-Ludwig Guys With Drum Stuff (47), Yamaha (72-73), Zildjian (137), Frank Zumwalt and Andy Dwyer (85)



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Custom leather stick bag hand-crafted by Winnie Mensink



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Humes & Berg Enduro Snare Drum Cases with Custom Drum Show plate



Austrian Drumhead Company



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Donated by Joe Luoma
New Old Stock Rods



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Stick Stuff drumstick grip



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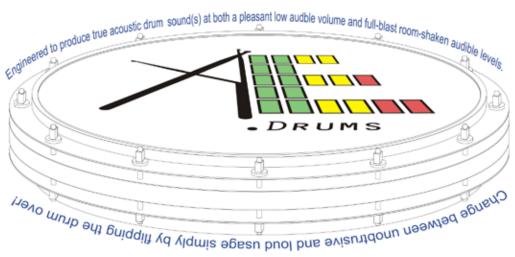
PLAY IT AT BOOTH #172





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### IN REMEMBRANCE



Mike Layton passed Nov 16, 2022 at age 57



Bill Platt Nov 10, 1944 – Sept 5th, 2022



Jim Kinsey, (Ludwig production) passed May 15, 2022 at age 79



Carl Woldman March 19 1939 - Sep 25 2022



Robbie Bachman 2-18-53/1-12-23



Dino Dinelli 7-23-44/12-15-22



Alan White 6-14-49/5-26-22



Jeremy Berman passed January, 2023



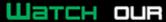


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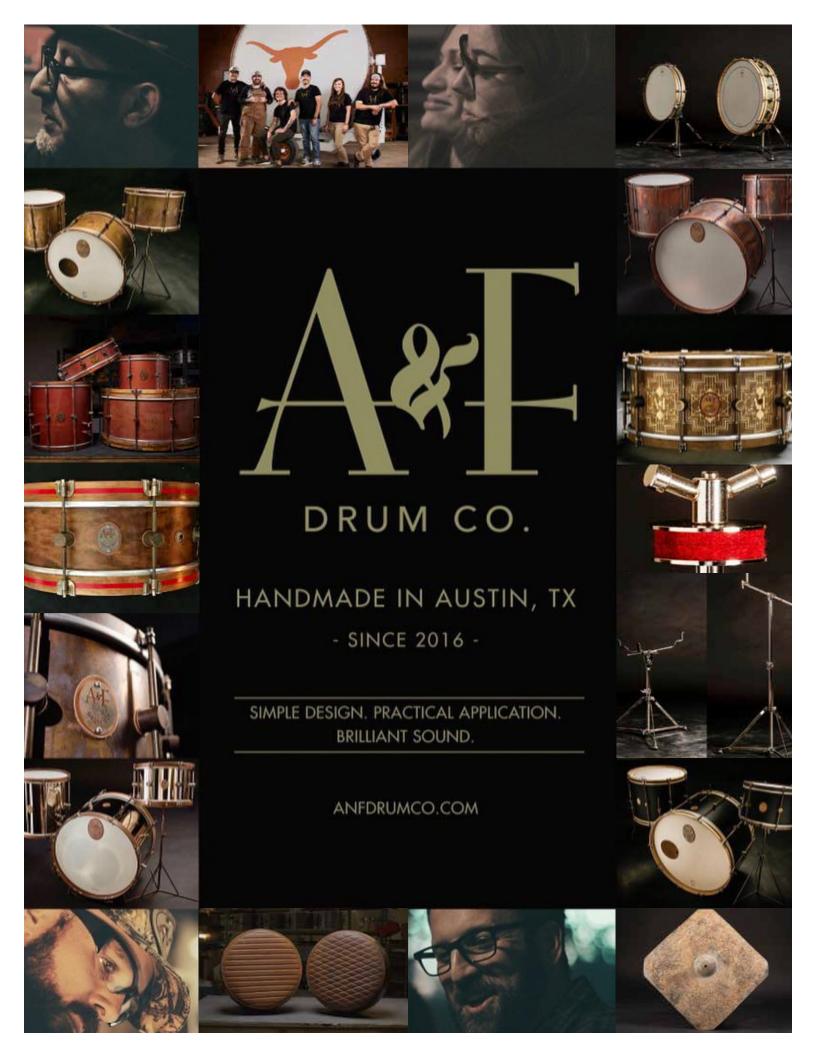




Пеш ViDeo!

Special pricing for chicago drum show





## **Scott Pellegrom**

10:30 A.M. Sunday







Drummer on 6x EMMY award winning documentary, The Last Artifact with EMMY award winning producer, Sheridan Tongue. Scott is known throughout the drumming community as the "mad scientist." His playing as a soloist and band leader exudes creativity, from surprising ideas to blinding hand speed, using found objects to pulling unconventional sounds from conventional instruments. Videos of his hyper-creative playing can be seen on Drumeo, the Dream Cymbals and PDP/DW Drums social media channels, Scott's Instagram (@scottpellegrom), and numerous other places around the web. Incorporating elements of drum and bass, jungle, and fearless improvisation into his playing, this "drummer's drummer" defies expectation and genre, whether it's playing jazz standards or today's most experimental music. In March 2020, Modern Drummer recognized Scott as one of the top five soloists in the world and top five clinician/educators in the world.

Scott currently leads his own band, SP3, drummer DJ duo, Remedy, and his new project, Nocturnal Lights. He works as a chameleon-like head of percussionist and session drummer at studios worldwide, and is an in-demand sideman for renowned artists spanning genres and styles. His reputation as an exciting, dynamic player has helped him cultivate a globetrotting career as a clinician and educator, teaching private students, masterclasses, and performing at drum festivals around the world.

With a recent Drumeo video passing 6 Million views, 34 thousand Instagram followers, a final four finish in the Guitar Center Drum-Off, and a nomination for Modern Drummer's "Best Up-and-Coming Player," Scott's ability on the kit speaks for itself.



### **Paul Wertico**

3:00 P.M. Sunday





Hailed in the press as "One of the most versatile and musical drummers in music today", Paul Wertico was born January 5, 1953 in Chicago. He gained worldwide recognition as a member of the Pat Metheny Group from 1983 to 2001. During his tenure with Metheny, Wertico played on ten recordings and four videos, appeared on numerous television shows, and frequently toured around the world. He also won seven Grammy Awards (for "Best Jazz Fusion Performance," "Best Contemporary Jazz Performance," and "Best Rock Instrumental Performance"), magazine polls, and received several gold records.

In recent years, Wertico has continued to tour and perform around the world, as well as around the Chicago metropolitan area, where he is based. This led to the creation of his own band (the Paul Wertico Trio) and collaborations with jazz notables such as Larry Coryell, Kurt Elling, and Jeff Berlin. These collaborations enabled Wertico to be featured on group recordings in a variety of musical genres, and also gave him an opportunity to produce records. In 2009, Wertico's trio joined forces with Marbin, which consisted of Israeli musicians Danny Markovitch (saxophone) and Dani Rabin (guitar). The group performed as Paul Wertico's Mid-East/Mid-West Alliance, and recorded an album for the Chicago Sessions label that received accolades from publications such as the Chicago Tribune, DRUM!, and Modern Drummer. Wertico's current group is Wertico Cain & Gray, featuring multi-instrumentalists David Cain and Larry Gray. A 2013 recording by Wertico Cain & Gray, entitled Sound Portraits, won "Best Live Performance Album" in the 13th Annual Independent Music Awards (2014).



## Bobby T

1:00 P.M. Sunday

#### Biography (From the NotSo Modern Drummer Magazine Article January 4th 2015 written by David Barsalou)

- In 1972, Bobby's big break came after re-locating to Laurel, Mississippi, replacing drummer Keith Thibodeaux who had just left 'David & the Glants', The group was touring non-stop while Bobby's reputation kept on growing.
- The following year, Bobby T joined 'Paper Steamboat'. Steamboat was a precursor to the now legendary group. Thunderhead. At that time,
  Thunderhead was busy opening for every major southern rock group on the circuit. Numerous big name artists also jammed with them when
  they were in town. One such legendary notable was Johnny Winter, who was a big fan of Thunderhead. With the help of Johnny and Edgar
  Winter they were signed to ABC/Dunhill Records in 1974.
- Johnny agreed to produce their first album. All was going well until company executives decided the original tracks Johnny Winter had
  produced needed to be re-recorded, it was not the sound Johnny and Thunderhead had originally envisioned. Although somewhat disappointed
  with the final product, they did have a hit single with 'Busted In Georgia'. When their album was released in 1975, ABC/Dunhill gave
  Thunderhead very little backing. Due to this lack of support, the record achieved only moderate succ.
- In 1976, Bobby replaced Tommy Aldridge in Black Oak Arkansas. He also began the first of two stints with fellow New Haven native Michael Bolton. At the time, Michael's career was exploding with two new RCA albums. Bobby was also touring extensively with Johnny Winter opening for Aerosmith, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Molly Hatchet, Ted Nugent, and ZZ Top. He also recorded two albums with Johnny Winter on Blue Sky Records White, Hot & Blue in 1978, and 'Raisin' Cain' in 1980. Bobby also recorded an album with Jefferson Starship's Grace Slick, 1981's 'Welcome to the Wrecking Ball' on RCA.
- When not on tour with Johnny Winter, he kept busy gigging with Michael Bolton, appearing in two MTV music videos Everybody's Crazy, and
  Fool's Game. The Bolton tour also found Bobby sharing the stage with numerous other celebrities including...Bob Seger, Cyndi Lauper, Electric
  Light Orchestra, George Thorogood, Robert Palmer, Stevie Ray Vaughan, and .38 Special. In 1985, he returned to Black Oak Arkansas. Cheap
  Trick's Robin Zander, encouraged him to write more originals, leading to the formation of The Bobby T Band in Chicago. Later on he moved to
  Nashville for a two-year gig with "Tony Stample" and the "Southern Renegades".
- The number of bands and musicians Bobby T has worked with over the years reads like a "Who's Who" of the music business. With no signs of slowing down, he appears busier than ever before. 'T' is presently gigging with four different groups. The Sin Sisters: 8 And Up, Fairly Famous, and the Jay Willie Blues Band. Thunderhead has also recorded a new album entitled 'Alive Again' with the title track written by Bobby T Torello.
- Bobby's longevity in a tough business is a testament to his dedication and love for music. Like any professional musician he has had to
  overcome a few obstacles along the way. None of these have prevented him from achieving his rightful place in drumming history.



HUMES & BERG









## **Gerry Brown**

4:00 P.M. Saturday

This musical journey started in Philadelphia with fellow schoolmate Stanley Clarke who introduces him on stage as "the first musician I ever played with, master drummer, Gerry Brown." Together they crafted the revolutionary "School Days" recording that perennially inspires drummers and bassists worldwide. Since those early days, Gerry's reputation has only expanded as the "groove master" while playing with legendary artists including Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder, Lionel Ritchie, Chick Corea, George Benson, Larry Coryell, and many others.





### **Eric Binder**

11:00 A.M. Saturday

Dr. Eric Binder's clinic will focus on cymbals as a lead-in to the Chicago Drum Show's "Meet The Smiths" program.

Along with other topics, he will explain why "old K's" are bringing top dollar, and how to talk to a cymbalsmith.

Dr. Binder is nationally recognized drummer, educator, composer, and author who has performed professionally in quartet and trio in locations such as New York, Pennsylvania, and Florida.

Binder's educational background includes a Doctorate of Jazz
Performance from the University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign, where he served as a graduate teaching
assistant while completing his advanced degree, as well as a
Masters of Jazz Studies from the University of the Arts, a
Bachelors of Music Education from the College of Saint Rose,
and an Associates of Classical Music Performance from SUNY
Schenectady County Community College.

Prior to his graduate studies, Dr. Binder performed as a classical percussionist, participating in wind and percussion ensembles, as well as orchestral and other chamber groups. In spite of his classical training, Binder began has musical career as a marching band tenor drum player, and later became a section leader on the snare line. Throughout his career, Dr. Binder has performed with well-known artists, including Joel Frahm, Christos Rafalides, Malcolm Cecil, Michael Davis, Larry Gray, and Clint Holmes, and continues to build his professional profile by playing and recording in locations around the country.

Dr. Binder has recorded professionally as both a sideman and as a leader, and two of his records have been selected as DownBeat Magazine Editor's Picks. As a composer, Binder specializes in small group compositions, but has written works for solo piano, voice, and big band. In 2016, Dr. Binder was honored as a finalist for the BMI Future Jazz Master composer competition. As an author, Binder recently published An Introduction to Bebop Drumming - A Concise Historical Overview and Practical Exercises, along with 10 Snare Drum Etudes for Improvisation - Rudimental Snare Drum Etudes Featuring Jazz Vocabulary





# MEET THE SMITHS

The Chicago Drum Show is pleased to shine some light on the rapidly changing landscape of cymbal production by hosting 8 of the leading independant cymbalsmiths in 2023.

SATURDAY, May 20: Noon to 4 P.M. CLINIC PRESENTATIONS

All 8 of our guest cymbalsmiths will appear on the clinic stage to talk about their backgrounds, training, experience, and approach to their craft.

SUNDAY, May 21: Noon to 1 P.M.

Maxwell Drums hosts a "Meet The Smiths" reception

All of our special guest cymbalsmiths will gather in the exhibit hall conference room for a meet and greet. Come share a cup of coffee and a cookie, and have your photo taken at this historic gathering.



RAY BYRNE Booth 125



DAVE COLLINGWOOD



BURKE DAUGHERTY
Booth 84



PAUL FRANCIS Booths 32-33



MIKE MONGIELLO Booth 142



NICKY MOON Booth 113



MATT NOLAN Booth 123



TIMOTHY ROBERTS
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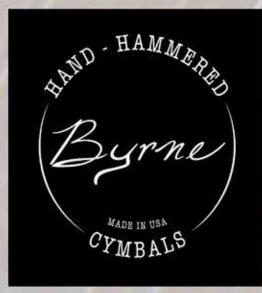
# MEET THE SMITHS

### RAY BYRNE

Ray Byrne has been making cymbals under the brand Byrne Cymbals since 2016. As an alumnus of The Roberto-Venn School of Lutherie Ray already had an extensive background in instrument building and repair. Drumset was always his first passion but when it came to instrument building the process of cymbal-making always seemed so elusive. However, after years of experimenting and research, Ray was finally able to take the first steps towards cymbal smithing after watching the well-known Spizzichino mini-documentary which opened the door of possibility. Ray's business approach focuses on making small batches of custom orders for a curated clientele, and working with select drum shops.

https://byrnecymbals.com/







# MEET THE SMITHS DAVE COLLINGWOOD







I'm Dave Collingwood, a full-time independent cymbalsmith based in Bristol, south west UK. At 31 my first child arrived, and I decided to stop touring. I'd heard that making cymbals by hand was a possibility, and read all I could about the masters of the time - some sadly no longer with us. The mixture of creativity and practicality appealed, and I decided it was something I was going to do. Something I HAD to do.

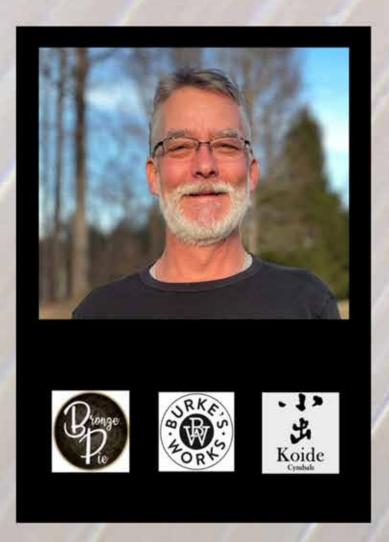
With whatever information was available at the time, I started preparing tools and sourcing material. I decided I was going to learn this craft the hard way - 100% self-taught through trial-and-error. A decision I sometimes (almost) regret - I wasn't ready for the steep learning curve and counter-intuitive nature of some of the processes involved. I persevered, making mistake after mistake, determined to figure out where I'd gone wrong, and how to make it right.

I make cymbals because I can't not make cymbals. It's a passion and an obsession. The more I learn about it, the more I see there is to learn. I'm forever challenging myself to find new techniques and uncover new processes, and with more and more people showing an interest in the craft, I've decided to pass on my knowledge by teaching others how to find their own way through the ever-branching pathways of knowledge.

https://www.collingwoodcymbals.com/



# MEET THE SMITHS BURKE DAUGHERTY



https://www.bronzepie.com/



My search for the perfect Jazz ride is what ultimately led to the creation of Bronze Pie.

Years ago, I spent many hours lurking around on Cymbalholic.com reading post by and about cymbalsmiths such as Craig Laurenston, Robert Spizzichino, Matt Bettis, Mike Skiba and Matt Nolan, I was trying to learn as much as possible about what was involved in making superb cymbals. That site was wonderful, between the knowledgeable players, enthusiast and cymbalsmiths it

was pure inspiration to me. I set out on modifying cymbals, for better and worse, some down right tortured in the quest for fundamental cymbal knowledge. Then to hammering some stainless steel because it's so readily available. Yeah, I wanted an old Zildjian K, but couldn't justify the cost.

Next up was a cymbal made by Robert Spizzichino, then he passed away RIP, so that put his cymbals out of reach. I do admit to cymbal snobbery here. Acquiring those two cymbals were what kept me up at night, and admittedly overlooking the wonderful cymbals being made by todays best cymbalsmiths. I eventually purchased two wonderful Matt Bettis cymbals and that cured my obsession for a handmade cymbal for a while...the term cymbalholic will resonate with those that have the condition. The horizon just moved further away.

**BOOTH 32-33** 

# MEET THE SMITHS PAUL FRANCIS

paul@cymbalcraftsman.com









Paul Francis, from Quincy, MA.started playing a snare drum at the age of 10, then got his first drum set when he was 11.He took private lessons on the set until he was 28.

Paul attended Berklee College of Music in 1986-1987 and later completed the Drummers Collective 10-week certificate program in 1998.

Paul started working for a major cymbal maker in 1988 and was there for 32 years. Over the course of those 32 years, Paul designed many of the cymbals that drummers play today. Paul worked together with Armand Zildjian (who taught him proper cymbal sounds and cymbal designs) on designing the K Constantinople's, A. Zildjian & Cie Vintage series, and 21" Sweet ride among others. Other mentors included Lennie DiMuzio and

Paul has worked with countless artists on their cymbal sounds and cymbal designs, among them Elvin Jones, Tony Williams, Louie Bellson, Steve Gadd, Bill Stewart, Adam Nussbaum, Peter Erskine, and Steve Smith/

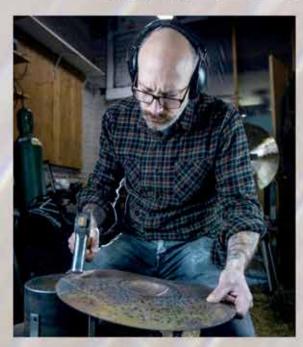
Leon Chiappini .

In a recent development, Paul Francis and Sarah Hagan have announced the formation of a new cymbal company, Royal Cymbals.



# MEET THE SMITHS

## MIKE MONGIELLO



Mike Mongiello is an Independent Cymbalsmith hailing from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He began his journey as a maker after obsessing over his own cymbal sound palette while playing in bands across many styles for over 20 years.

Having no prior experience in metalworking, Mike began creating exclusively in the stainless steel format to teach himself the basics of cold-impact shaping. Before long he graduated himself to work in Turkish b20 bronze, attracting the attention of Master Cymbalsmith Francisco Domene, who extended an invitation to study traditional methods at his factory in Avaré, Brazil.



Now, operating in a small workshop in South Philadelphia, Mike crafts each instrument from start to finish by hand with the finest materials available.

After years of blood, sweat and bronze, having sold hundreds of cymbals to drummers all over the world, Mike Mongiello is proud to be one the few full-time professional Cymbalsmiths currently working in the United States.

Examples of Mike's work can be found on his website, mongiellocymbals.com, or through Instagram at @mongiello\_cymbals.

https://mongiellocymbals.com/



# MEET THE SMITHS NICKY MOON





Nick Magarite:

I started making cymbals because I could never find the sounds I heard in my head anywhere in the stores. Even with the vast amount of cymbal choices on the market, there is a particularly human element missing from the cymbals available. I decided to change that and create my own unique instruments. With some courage and a few randoms bits of information that I gathered through my research, I set out on my journey to learn this craft. For my first real training I was lucky enough to spend a couple days learning the basics of hand hammering and the fundamentals of lathing from Heather Stine, a talented independent cymbalsmith in California. Following this, for quite some time my learning was self-guided (trial and lots of errors). Eventually, my work caught the attention of Brazilian master cymbalsmith Franciso Domene, who invited me to beautiful Avare, Brazil to continue my training. There I learned the traditional Turkish method that has been passed down for generations since the original K Zildjian factory, as well as Domene's own method which he has modified and improved upon over the

I was born and raised in the Boston area suburbs of Massachusetts, and now reside and make my cymbals by the water on the beautiful New Jersey Shore, just about an hour drive south of Manhattan. I have been playing the drums since age six, and have spent my life creating music with top level musicians in various styles and genres. I attended Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA and have shared the stage and the recording studio with some of the finest and most unique musicians alive. I have an ear for music and an ear for cymbals.

Bronze is my canvas.

The hammer and lathe are my brushes.

I found my voice.

https://www.nickymoon.com/



# MEET THE SMITHS

## MATT NOLAN



https://www.mattnolancustomcymbals.com/



Matt Nolan is a British cymbalsmith and maker of other metal percussion instruments, many of them bespoke. Matt has created
instruments for drummers, orchestras, composers, museums and
galleries. Notable clients include Bjork, Danny Elfman, King Crimson,
Massive Attack, Sebastian Rochford, Dame Evelyn Glennie, Mike
Patton's Mondo Cane, Stella Artois, Louis Vuitton, Zappa Plays
Zappa, Danish underwater art-music group "Between Music: Aquasonic", and German Turner Prize winning artist Wolfgang Tillmans.
Matt's work has been displayed in galleries in London and New York,
including MOMA, The Rubin Museum and Somerset House Many of
the world's top Opera and Symphony Orchestras use Matt's instruments.

Matt has been a drummer since his early teens but followed an academic education and career path into the world of microelectronics and semiconductors – designing parts of silicon chips for digital TV and movie equipment, broadband wireless systems, and secure encryption, authoring a number of granted patents along the way.

Around 2005, the cymbal bug really started to bite and by the end of 2008, Matt had left the high tech world to combine his artistic and engineering sensibilities to start a one-man business making metal percussion instruments using just hands, ears and simple tools: off-the-shelf, customised or completely self-constructed.

Matt is self-taught, from tinkerer to hobbyist to professional. He started out mostly with cymbals and gongs – making them from pieces of or whole existing but broken cymbals, and with an eye for sculptural form. Shortly after that, he started more from scratch with industrial sheet metals of various alloys, and finally using the age-old tried and tested cymbal and gong alloys. Matt still employs a wide variety within the traditional metals – selecting blanks from Turkey, China, Germany or Japan depending on the specific sonic or working properties that best suit the desired musical outcome.

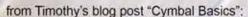
Under the brand "Matt Nolan Custom", he now produces other instruments, mostly for the orchestral world, including triangles, tubular bells (chimes), tuned gongs, bell plates and triangle beaters. Sound relaxation and therapy practitioners come to Matt for gongs and other resonating metals. Starting a few years ago, drummers and orchestral percussionists began to commission research projects for Matt to re-create favourite instruments that were either broken or saved only for special occasions, or unique but in reasonable demand for more of the same. This reverse engineering and experimentation to unlock the secrets of the original, long-gone artisans has led to replicas and homages mostly in the realms of triangles and cymbals (both jazz and orchestral), but also recreations of bygone instruments from Ancient Rome and Ancient Egypt for example.

Cymbals remain a favourite, and Matt believes there will always be more to learn, more to discover and more to master. There is an infinity of possibilities even in something as simple as a single piece of metal.

#### **BOOTH 146-147**

# MEETTHE SMITHS TIMOTHY ROBERTS

Timothy is a professional studio and live musician with 50+ album credits and extensive work as an on-call musician. His passion for sound exploration led him to crafting the instruments that he plays.



A cymbal is made up of a combination of metals that is shaped using heat, pressure, and stress. Different cymbal materials include brass, steel, b8 bronze, and b20 bronze to name a few. However, b20 bronze is the most common cymbal alloy for mid to high-end cymbals.

A cymbal makes a sound due to the tension that it's held in through the pressing, hammering, lathing, and burnishing processes. Think about how a guitar string is tensioned up. If you detune it, at a certain point it becomes limp and makes no sound. The tighter you tension it, the higher pitched it gets and at a certain point it will snap. Cymbal metal acts in a similar manner. Little to no tension equals little to no resonance and a low pitch. The more tension a cymbal has, the tighter the feel and the higher the pitch.

Then there is the thickness of the cymbal (determined by its weight) and the taper (where the thickness/weight is distributed). This aspect is hugely important as well. The thicker/heavier a cymbal is, the higher the pitch will be. Heavy, bright cymbals are loud and cut very well in a mix, but many drummers nowadays seek darker, more complex tones. Many vintage and high-end cymbals were designed to be thinner and more expressive. That doesn't necessarily mean that one is "better" than the other. It all comes down to preference and musical application.

The next aspect is the profile (or shape) of the cymbal. There is the bow, the cup (bell) size, and the circumference. They all affect the sound in various ways. Essentially the flatter the cymbal's bow, the lower the pitch, the darker, and the longer sustain will be. If the bow is more extreme (or "umbrella" shaped), the effect is a higher pitch and shorter sustain. The bell size affects the resonance of a cymbal (among other things). This is why flat rides (w/ no bell) tend to have a very short sustain. The bell allows the cymbal's pitch to ring out and the size/shape of the bell determines just how that pitch sounds and how it resonates. The circumference is one of the simplest aspects; the smaller the cymbal, the higher the pitch and vice versa.

These aspects (alloy, tension, thickness, taper, and profile) combine to create the overall sound of a cymbal. Every element affects every other and that is why cymbal-smithing is no easy task.

Big cymbal companies can produce thicker, machine-hammered cymbals for cheaper and with more consistency than they can produce hand-hammered cymbals. That distinction is evident in the cost and accessibility of "brighter" cymbals in today's market. That, combined with the advent of amplified instruments and louder music in the 70s and 80s, created the perfect environment for these kinds of cymbals to take center stage in the product catalogs of many big cymbal companies.

However, many drummers these days are looking for more expressive cymbals. That's partly why I started "Timothy Roberts Handcrafted Cymbals". I was consistently unsatisfied with the cymbals I purchased online, and I found that the sound in my head didn't exist.



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#### **GARY ASTRIDGE**

Ringo's gear archivist 2:00 P.M. Sunday







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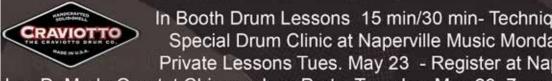
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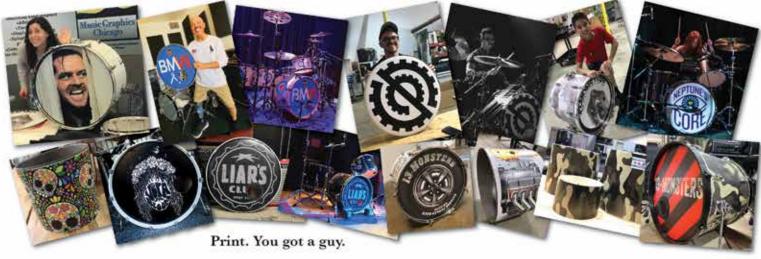
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