

SOUND ADVICE

HEAR THIS!



EACH ISSUE, JMC ACADEMY WEIGHS IN WITH SOME HELPFUL TIPS FOR PLAYERS AND MUSIC PROFESSIONALS LOOKING TO TAKE THEIR CRAFT TO THE NEXT LEVEL.

DRUM PERSPECTIVES

Drums play an integral part in a song, and are often noted as the most important element to get right when mixing. They provide the rhythm and tempo, and are also quite dynamic in their ability to be played soft or loud at an instant. Before getting into the technical specifics of drum mixing, we must first work out if the drums should be featured in the musical piece from the drummer's perspective, or the audience's perspective. What does this mean?

THE DRUMMER'S PERSPECTIVE

This would mean that you want to present the drum mix to the audience from the perspective of the drummer playing on stage. Doing this, you have positioned the listener behind the drum kit, facing out toward the crowd. When wearing headphones, you would hear the hi-hats slightly to the left, with the rack toms appearing centre, then slowing moving to the right, and the floor tom will be featured far to the right also. Most drummers make mention that this method of

drum placement is most preferred, as it has more of a natural feeling. Many of the "air drummers" would also agree that this movement from left to right be better suited (unless you play drums left handed).

THE AUDIENCE'S PERSPECTIVE

Doing it this way, you are placing the listener in the crowd facing the band on stage. In a live music environment, this would make sense as you now have a visual element to map with the sound on stage. The drummer would be playing around the kit from left to right, but you would see it as from right to left (not confusing at all, is it?). As your eyes follow the band members on stage, you have a much better sense of their presence, and can locate the sounds quite easily. Both of the drum placement methods are neither correct nor incorrect. The decision making would come down to a few factors: the preference of the mixing engineer, the client's preference, or perhaps the record label's preference. If you haven't taken notice of this previously, listen to some of your favourite albums with headphones on to pick which perspective the drums have been mixed in, and make your own decision on which you prefer.

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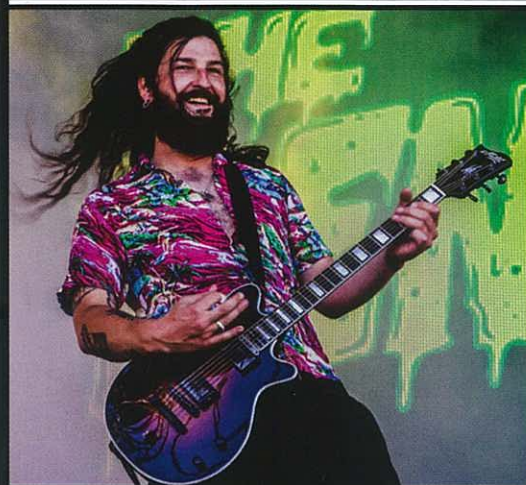
SYDNEY - MELBOURNE - BRISBANE



MAROON 5 GUITAR TAKES #1

The Ernie Ball Music Man James Valentine Signature Series guitar has taken out the Best In Show award at this year's NAMM festival. James was involved in the design, looking for a guitar that he could use through the band's entire live set. The "Valentine" guitar features a slab ash body, two Ernie Ball Music Man designed pickups (1-humbucker/1-single coil), with 3-way custom wired lever switch, coil tap, modern hardtail bridge with vintage bent steel saddles, 25.5-inch scale, oil and wax rubbed roasted maple neck with 10-inch radius maple fingerboard, 22 stainless steel frets, oversized 4-over-2 headstock and compensated nut, designed for superior tuning stability.

GUITARIST TO WATCH



JULIEN 'FORCE FIELDZ' ROZENBERGS

CURRENTLY PLAYING WITH:

The Bennies.

USUALLY FOUND PLAYING:

On stage or on a couch in Oz and abroad.

YEARS ON THE FRETBOARD:

Way more than than it should to sound like this... 20 years.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR PLAYING STYLE?

I'm pretty much a rhythm/lead player. We incorporate a bunch of styles in the Bennies, so I need to be able to switch it up. This has helped to define my sound - that, and being the only guitarist in the band.

FIRST AXE:

An Aussie made Wayne nylon string; dates/model unknown.

CURRENT AXE:

Maton Guitars got behind me a while back and introduced me to their MS2000TB. It was developed with Troy Brady (The Amity Affliction). It's basically a regular Maton MS2000DLX with hotter Maton custom pickups, an extended scale, and stripped back wiring and controls. Only a handful have been made - it's a beautiful piece of wood and it's my main axe.

RIG/PEDALS:

Mesa Boogie Stiletto Ace, Marshall 1960A quad box. Pedals! Polytune tuner, MXR 7 band EQ, Ibanez tube screamer, EH Deluxe Memoryman, Gordon Dennis Switch Plus Wah, Ibanez flanger.

SECRET WEAPON:

Hmmm, not much of a secret but I use the MXR EQ to suck power out of the pre's of my amp. When I want to boost, I disengage the EQ, letting the amp rip.

FAVOURITE GUITARIST OF ALL TIME:

Jimi Hendrix, Peter Black, Bob Stinson, Billy Zoom, Steve Edgerton, Tony Iommi.

FAVOURITE CURRENT LOCAL PLAYER:

Peter 'Blackie' Black, John McKeering.

CURRENT RELEASE:

Full length LP, *Wisdom Machine*, will be released in March 2016.