

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.

USING A COMPRESSOR

When you are recording and mixing music, understanding how to use a compressor is an important factor towards achieving a cohesive end product. Compression is a powerful tool, and is commonly used to control the dynamic range of a sound source. This means the difference in volume (dB) between the softest and loudest part of the recorded performance. For example, the human voice is an extremely dynamic instrument; it can go from a whisper to a scream in a very quick timeframe. By controlling the loudness peaks, you are then able to get a more balanced and consistent volume from the sound source, rather than something that continuously moves between louder and softer. A compressor has a range of settings to help deal with these issues, some of which are:

THRESHOLD – This is the level at which the compressor will start to operate, e.g. -24dB. Any sound passing through the compressor below this level will not be affected, and any sound above this threshold will trigger the compressor into operation.

RATIO – This setting will determine how much gain reduction will occur to the signal once it has gone above the predetermined threshold. For example, if a 4:1 ratio has been selected, this will mean that for every 4dB that passes the threshold, only 1dB will be heard.

ATTACK – This setting will determine how quickly the compressor will activate. Depending on the instrument or style of music, a fast attack time may be needed, meaning that compression will take place as soon as the signal passes the set threshold. Attack time is calculated in milliseconds.

RELEASE – This setting will determine how fast or slow the compressor will let go of the signal being processed. This is also calculated in milliseconds.

Combining your understanding of these settings, in relation to the music or dynamic you are looking to control, as well as large amounts of trial and error, will give you a more familiar understanding of how compression is used effectively. Practice makes perfect. 🎧

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GUITARIST TO WATCH



PETER DIXON

CURRENTLY PLAYING WITH:

Diddley Bo Dixon

USUALLY FOUND PLAYING:

Festivals, pubs and community halls.

YEARS ON THE FRETBOARD:

40 years (I started young!)

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR PLAYING STYLE?

Improvised blues rock with a hint of hip hop!

FIRST AXE:

An Italian-made Marinucci Electric Guitar, which my dad bought for me for \$50 when I was 11. I loved it!

CURRENT AXE:

'80s Epiphone Les Paul (made in Japan). It's cherry/candy red and plays so smoothly.

RIG/PEDALS:

Boss Delay and Overdrive plus an Ibanez Tube Screamer, which I run through my 1967 Fender Blackface amp.

SECRET WEAPON:

Playing blues rock over hip hop beats. Oh, and having a girl drummer!

FAVOURITE GUITARIST OF ALL TIME:

Jimi Hendrix.

FAVOURITE CURRENT LOCAL PLAYER:

Peter Mitchell.

CURRENT RELEASE:

My single "Gibson By My Side", and my EP *Shine Your Light On Me*.

ZEPPELIN SPOTTED IN SYDNEY AND CENTRAL COAST



Australia's longest-running Led Zeppelin celebration concert, Whole Lotta Love, returns to Sydney's State Theatre on Saturday 5 September and the Aycock Street Theatre in North Sydney on Friday 28 August and Saturday 29 August.

The magic and mystique of Led Zeppelin will once again be recreated by another sensational group of guest vocalists including Jeff Martin (The Tea Party), Sarah Cleod (The Superjesus), Simon Ieli (The Widowbirds), Dallas Rasca and Frank Lakoudis (The Oice). Coinciding with the 40th anniversary of the release of Led Zeppelin's seminal *Physical*

Graffiti double album this year, Whole Lotta Love is an unrivalled concert experience that has toured all over Australia and built a peerless reputation for exceptional interpretations, stunning musicianship and spine-tingling moments throughout its 11-year history, and 2015's vocalist line-up will be sure to have audiences needing coolin', way down inside.

Joined by a nine-piece band featuring some of the country's best rock musicians under the creative direction of Joseph Calderazzo, this show will deftly traverse the back catalogue of the biggest band in rock history. Universally recognised as one

of the world's most influential bands since forming in 1968, Led Zeppelin produced nine studio albums, three live albums, and have sold a staggering 300+ million records worldwide featuring guitarist Jimmy Page, singer Robert Plant, bass player John Paul Jones and drummer John Bonham.

Passionate interpretations of "Stairway to Heaven", "Rock and Roll", "Kashmir", "The Rain Song", "Black Dog", "Ramble On", "Battle Of Evermore", "Immigrant Song" and more take the audience on a three-hour journey through a collection of hits and rarities from the band's infamous career. 🎧