The 29th Chicago Drum Show was held at the Odeum Expo Center in suburban Chicago on May 18 and 19, 2019. Show organizer Rob Cook reports that the show’s pattern of growth continued, with just under 2,000 people present for the 2 day show.

During the exhibitor setup on Friday before the show, Jim Catalano was honored with a special cake and engraved cutlery. The 2019 Chicago Drum Show was Catalano’s final event as a representative of Ludwig drums, marking the end of a remarkable 36-year term at Ludwig. “Jim has always been supportive not only of the show, but of numerous Rebeats projects and publications,” said Cook. “He has already agreed to be a part of the 2020 show with a Q&A session and collection of Ludwig memorabilia.”

The 2019 clinic program was kicked off by local 14-year-old sensation Jake D. Jake’s teacher Hannah Welton was next; her clinic drew a standing-room-only crowd. Hannah’s former instructor Paul Wertico then presented his record fourth Chicago Drum Show clinic. First-time clinicians Perry Wilson and Glenn Kotche rounded out the Saturday clinic schedule. “As usual, the generous support of the manufacturers who are endorsed by our clinicians made this program possible,” commented Cook. “We are especially grateful this year for the help of DW with their 4 artists and for Sonor, who made the Glenn Kotche appearance possible. Sunday’s clinic program included Ringo gear archivist Gary Astripe, Carl Allen, and Denny Seiwell. “Another way we fund the clinic program is with the proceeds from the raffle,” explained Cook. “This year we had snare drums from EDG Drumworks, Holloman, George Way, Klash, and Stone. There were cymbals from Sabian and Centent, Humes & Berg cases, a Yamaha EAD10, and a Zoom Q2N-4K video recorder.”

Master Classes were presented by Carl Allen, Paul Wertico, and Denny Seiwell. A number of special presentations (free to show attendees) were conducted in the Master Class room, including: Jeff Davenport on Tuning Vintage Drums, Jason Edwards of Prologix Percussion on practice pad technique, a Q&A with industry icon John DeChristopher moderated by Donn Bennett, and a program by Bennett in which he briefly explained his involvement with Elvin Jones’ gear and presented a tribute to the late Hal Blaine.

“I often get compliments on the show’s vibe,” said Cook. “First-time visitors are usually astounded when they find that this show is indeed a drummer’s family reunion and within a couple of hours newcomers feel like part of that family. I give my staff a huge amount of credit for that- it all starts with a great bunch of friendly people.”

The 2020 (30th Annual) show is scheduled for May 16 and 17, 2020 and will again be held at the Odeum Expo Center in Villa Park, Illinois. The clinic program will feature Gregg Potter, Mike Clark, and Donn Bennett.
2019 CHICAGO DRUM SHOW
the drummers’ family reunion
Post-Show Press Release

tuning expert Jeff Davenport
Jason Edwards, Prologix

Les DeMerle; lessons in his booth

John D

Some first-time exhibitors...........

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