2013 Chicago Drum Show
Post Show Press Release

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The 23rd Annual Chicago Drum Show was held May 18 and 19 at the Kane County Fairgrounds in St Charles, Illinois. Show organizer Rob Cook reports that the paid attendance was 1,041 with exhibitors, staff and guests bringing the total attendance to 1,378. “Our exhibitor count was 108 this year,” reports Cook. “Many of our exhibitors reserve multiple spaces, so there were a total of 144 10x10 spaces filled.”

Jane Boxall kicked off the clinic program. Lennie Dimuzio was scheduled to appear next but suffered a health emergency and was not able to attend. Paul Wertico saved the day by presenting a clinic with less than 30 minutes notice, “I was astonished,” said Cook. “Paul Wertico was picking up his credential and I mentioned to him that I had almost phoned to ask him about doing a clinic, but thought this notice was too short. He demonstrated that he is always ready.” Another last-minute development was the first public unveiling of a portrait of Louie Bellson. The painting was done by Michael Del Priore who brought it to the show to present to Francine Bellson. When the painting was unveiled, Francine explained to the clinic crowd that the portrait is destined for the Smithsonian Institution along with drum equipment that she is donating.

Other featured clinicians were Daniel Glass and Rick Latham, both of whom also conducted Master Classes.

The Rebeats Cafe provided a “second stage” that featured a presentation by Neil Boumpani who explained (with the help of his multi-media presentation) the difficulties he overcame in constructing “Big MO,” the world’s largest bass drum for the University of Missouri. Dick Markus, (Percussion Products Manager for Evans) explained the new Evans 360 Systems in another Cafe presentation. Rounding out the Cafe presentations was Jon Cohan who spoke about (and demonstrated) drum tuning considerations for the recording studio.

A special program was in the clinic hall was presented by the Ho Etsu Taiko group of Chicago. “They certainly live up to their Mission Statement, which is to spread joy and vitality through each and every drumbeat,” says Cook. “The Taiko presence added a whole new and exciting dimension to the Chicago Drum Show.”

Daniel Glass came up with an idea for a new type of event at this year’s Chicago Drum Show; an educational and entertaining All-Star roundtable discussion held in the Master Class conference room. Along with William F. Ludwig III and Denny Brown, Daniel discussed the history of the Trap drum kit. Drawing from his recently released DVDs The Century Project and Traps, Glass had plenty of images for his AV support. The event drew a near-capacity crowd of about 50 which has Glass and show organizers contemplating a follow-up event for 2014.

Raffle and door prize donors included DW, Sabian, Custom Tank Drums, Zildjian, Tempus, Mayer Brothers Drums, NotSoModernDrummer, Cympad, Ludwig, Firth, DrumArt, Taye, Holland Drums, RC Percussion, and Kelly Shu. Clinician sponsorship came from Ludwig, DW, Evans, Zildjian, Istanbul Agop, Sabian, ProLogix, ProMark, and Firth. Rob Cook: “This show is enhanced greatly by the generosity of so many people. Exhibitors and sponsors are real mainstays, but certainly not the only ones who donate to the raffle and door prize programs.”

The 24th Annual Chicago Drum Show is scheduled for May 17 and 18, 2014.
Former Gretsch plant manager Bill Hagner turns 90 this summer; the Chicago Drum Show sent a giant birthday card.
Jane Boxall

Roundtable: Wm F Ludwig III, Daniel Glass, Denny Brown

Ho Etsu Taiko

(L-R) Rob Cook, Michael Del Priore, Francine Bellson

Daniel Glass clinic

Michael Del Priore and Francine Bellson

Rick Latham clinic