

Product Spotlight: Yamaha EAD 50



# MODERN DRUMMER

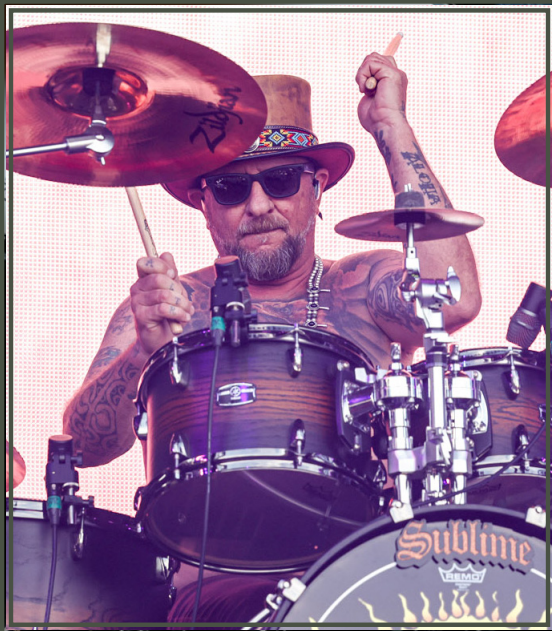
THE WORLD'S #1  
DRUM COMMUNITY  
SINCE 1977

APRIL 2026

W/ THE  
WARNING

# PAULINA VILLARREAL

Sublime's  
**Bud Gaugh**



Mitski's  
**Bruno Esrubilsky**

LANY's  
**Jake Goss**

**20 PAULINA VILLAREAL**  
**Drummer of The Warning**

By Mark Griffith



Photo by Alex Klufft

**28 BUD GAUGH**

Living in the Moment  
with Sublime

By Danny "Ziggy" Laverde

**36 BRUNO ESRUBILSKY**

Serving the Song with Mitski

By Danny "Ziggy" Laverde

**42 JAKE GOSS**

The Groove Powering LANY

By Danny "Ziggy" Laverde

**48 A DIFFERENT VIEW**

Bruce Gust: Broaden Your Base

By Mark Griffith

## LESSONS

### 56 BASICS

Bending Time

By Chris Lesso

### 52 TRANSCRIPTION

Sublime's "Santeria" drummer Bud Gaugh

Transcription by Marc Atkinson

### 57 ROCK PERSPECTIVES

Progressive Drumming Essentials: Torturous Septuplets

By Aaron Edgar

### 60 JAZZ DRUMMERS WORKSHOP

Master Studies II: Sticking Variations in Groups of Seven

By Joe Morello

### 64 TEACHERS' FORUM

The New Breed: (More) Advanced Reading

By Gary Chester

### 54 STRICTLY TECHNIQUE

Silent Drum Practice: Who is Leading Who?

By Micha Fromm

---

## EQUIPMENT

### 16 PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

The Yamaha EAD 50

By Jason Mehler and David Frangioni

### 12 NEW AND NOTABLE

New Products from Latin Percussion, Pearl, and Meinl

### 14 PRODUCT CLOSE UP

Reviews of New Products from GM Designs and SJC Drums

---

## DEPARTMENTS

### 6 EDITOR'S OVERVIEW

Lucky Sevens

By Mark Griffith

### 7 KIT OF THE MONTH

Tama Starclassic, Beautiful Inside and Out

### 8 JAZZ INSIGHTS

Peregrine

By Peter Erskine

### 66 COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Steve Ferrone's Tom Petty Gear

By Donn Bennett

### 72 EYE CANDY

Felix Lehrmann's Steve Hackett Touring Kit

### 68 OUT NOW

New Releases Featuring the Drumming and Percussion playing of: Gregory Hutchinson, Jeff Hamilton, Matt Garstka, Arthur Hnatek, Arman Mnatsakanyan, Nate Wood, Rogerio Boccato, Facundo Colman, Kweka Sumbry, Lewis Nash, Thomas Glass, Rudy Royston, Kyle Swan, Ulysses Owens, Maximilian Hering, Cassius Goens III, Colleen Clark, Karina Colis, Chris DeCarmine, Monte Croft, Steve Kroon, Willy Rodriguez, Jim Zimmerman, Lee Charlton, and a new book by Timo Ickenroth.

# Bruce Gust: Broaden Your Base

By Mark Griffith

If you're an NHL hockey fan, you may have heard about the "Bongo Anthem." It is a unique version of the National Anthem sung by Bruce Gust, a nine-year veteran of the USMC and a former national recording artist. While it's been referenced in multiple news outlets, it got another boost by appearing on ESPN's TikTok platform where in the space of only three days, it got over three million views.

As it turns out, Bruce has an interesting resume' and an interesting career that includes singing and playing with a band that broke the Country Music Top 40 and serving in the USMC for nine years. Five of those years were as a Drum Instructor at the Armed Forces School of Music. Bruce credits his career path to a piece of advice he got from a retired Marine Corps Major when he was getting ready to graduate High School. This is the story behind Bruce Gust and his "Bongo Anthem."

## High School Graduation

"Years ago, when I was getting ready to graduate High School, I sat down with a retired Marine Corp Major who gave me some advice in navigating my options after graduation. He suggested that I 'broaden my base.' He explained that when you broaden your base, you're making choices that afford you more opportunities, rather than decisions that unnecessarily regulate



and restrict you to a limited number of options.

Given my dad's recommendation, I decided to enlist in the Marine Corps. I wanted to serve, and I was determined to go to college. I figured the military could help finance this aspiration in some way, though I wasn't completely sure what major I wanted to pursue. However, it was my audition for the Marine Corps band program that initiated a professional trajectory that truly 'broadened my base.'

I had been attending the Eastman School of Music Preparatory Department (now the Eastman Community School) and studying under Ruth Cahn, one of the principal percussionists with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. Under her guidance, I was exposed to mallet percussion as well as orchestral snare. That, coupled with my involvement with my high school's music program made me a strong candidate for training as a military musician."

## The Marine Corps

"I went to Parris Island and then reported to the Armed Forces School of Music. In addition to qualifying with your rifle and keeping your physique in line with military fitness requirements; graduating from the School of Music, requires completing courses in Theory and Ear Training. As a non-commissioned officer, the Intermediate Course trains you in traditional harmony and how to arrange for a stage band. It's a phenomenal program and several drumming icons including Steve Gadd and Billy Cobham have served as military musicians.

As a drummer in the military, you are required to function in a variety of playing situations. In the morning, you may do a colors ceremony playing rudimental snare. Later that day, you'll play

bells, orchestral snare, and timpani in a concert band rehearsal. Later that night, you're behind the kit playing songs that require a familiarity with swing, and Latin styles.

I spent two years in Hawaii and then came back to the school and became a Drum Instructor. *Modern Drummer* actually did an article about the school while I was an instructor there. As an instructor, you have to be able to teach and lead by example. What is expected from your students has to be personified in both your appearance and your musical skills. It's both an inspiring and sobering responsibility that provides a huge incentive to be more than just adequate.

It was while I was serving as a Drum Instructor that I earned my college degree in Business Management by attending night school. My study habits were more focused because of the way the Marine Corps emphasizes discipline.

I was about a year away from my discharge when I was introduced to Norman Miller who hired me for a project featuring his wife, successful Contemporary Christian Music artist Sheila Walsh, who was co-hosting the *700 Club* with Pat Robertson. That led to becoming his drummer for another project called the *Young Messiah Tour*, featuring an entire roster of Contemporary Christian music icons.

What began in high school and Boot Camp was now a chance to tour with people whose albums I owned. After the tour, I moved to Nashville and joined the church orchestra at Two Rivers Baptist Church. There, I met some talented musicians who were looking to start a country band."

## Western Flyer

"Together we formed the band Western Flyer. Initially, I was a little hesitant, however, having cut my teeth on jazz fusion, I had been part of a jazz trio that played music by Spyro Gyra, David Sanborn, Jeff Lorber, and others. And while I had played and sang in a Top 40 band in Virginia, country music was not part of my musical vocabulary and singing harmony parts was uncharted territory.

But instead of restricting my opportunities to only those styles that resonated as familiar, I again chose to 'broaden my base.' As it turned out, although we were categorized as a country band, we all had influences that extended beyond a singular genre. Instead of being compelled to follow a conventional template, I was encouraged to apply concepts I had gleaned from some of Dave Weckl's instructional content to our title cut. Steve Gadd's approach to the Chick Corea song "Friends" informed my drumming on another tune from our first album. In addition, the ear training I learned at the School of Music helped me when it came to singing harmony.

Western Flyer toured all over the country and was featured on national television. However, while it's tempting to think that a record deal translates into a career, that's not always the case. Regardless of how many arenas you play, or how popular your songs are, the business side of things can sometimes override your aspirations and you must reinvent yourself in order to pay your bills.

It's here where the counsel of that Marine Corps Major would surface once again. While being a former national recording artist is a prestigious credential, it doesn't necessarily guarantee





**Western Flyer - Music City Tonight Appearance 4**

you opportunities as a studio musician or even a position as a touring drummer. Instead of resolving to define myself exclusively as a drummer, I chose to 'broaden my base' yet again."

### More Opportunities

"I became a Corporate Trainer and taught myself web programming and I expanded my portfolio so I could secure a position as a full-time web developer. I also wrote a book called *The Starting Line* on how to play the drums. That book became the basis for clinics that occurred throughout the country. I made my activity known to Pintech, Peavey, and TAYE Drums and they responded by providing the necessary gear to perform at these events. By drawing on my training in arranging and theory at the School of Music, I created a drum play-along series based on arrangements of different hymns.

Given my military background and a commitment to fitness, I got certified as a Group Fitness Instructor and developed an audio workout system called Loose Cannon Fitness featuring... *the drums!*

My 'Bongo Anthem' performance for the Nashville Predators was the result of a conversation with the mother of one of my drum students who worked for the Nashville Predators. She put me in contact with the people who put me on the ice at the Bridgestone Arena playing bongos and singing the National Anthem in front of 17,000 people, and that performance has gone viral."

### Your Signature

"Many of those who pick up a drumstick see their musical fulfillment defined according to a very narrow collection of criteria. They will, in some cases, make unhealthy sacrifices in pursuit of a goal that might be illusive or less than satisfying. But there's a prize and a level of fulfillment that doesn't always depend on circumstances and opportunities. This fulfillment is both accessible and motivating, and it all comes down to 'broadening your base.'

Benjamin Franklin was an incredibly accomplished individual. He signed the Declaration of Independence, he was a part of the Constitutional Convention, and he was there to sign the Treaty of Versailles. In addition, he invented the Franklin Stove and was revered throughout the world for developing the lighting rod. Benjamin Franklin created the public library, the

postal service, and organized the very first volunteer fire department. Given all these accomplishments, it's interesting to note that he often signed his name, 'B. Franklin, Printer.'

As musicians, we are similar. We have the capacity to contribute in ways that go beyond a solitary passion yet maintain a signature that acknowledges our favored pursuit. Some of the most successful musicians are not only singers or instrumentalists, they're also entrepreneurs that maintain successful business ventures. They don't see multiple obligations as distractions, they see them as additions to a platform characterized by healthy priorities and a variety of professional accomplishments. They have 'broadened their base.'

When you do that, you're no longer restricted in seeing your craft as either a full-time effort or a side-hustle. Rather, you see yourself as a conglomeration of skills and talents that, taken together, translate to a full-color resume' and the resulting opportunities."

*Modern Drummer* thanks Bruce for his military service and congratulates him on his on-going musical and drumming career. We can't wait to hear and see the "Bongo Anthem" again at an upcoming Nashville Predators game. Bruce's advice and his example of broadening your base, will be helpful to younger musicians looking to build and create a career. For more information about Bruce, go to [brucegust.com](http://brucegust.com). 