

Paiste

DAVE MCAFEE SIGNATURE COUNTRY

Dave McAfee has been actively working in the Nashville music scene for over 22 years. Since 2000, he's been the drummer for the multi-Platinum Country star Toby Keith. He recently played on and co-produced Jamey Johnson's album "That Lonesome Song", which was nominated for 3 Grammy awards including Best Album. Dave quotes the track "In Color" from this recording as a great showcase for his beloved Paistes. Dave also won the 2009 Modern Drummer's Reader's poll as Best Country Drummer. This Paiste artist is *ridin' high* in Signature Country and we recently talked about his choice of cymbals and what makes them so special to him.

Rich Mangicaro: Dave, when you first started playing the Signature sound family, what was the first thing that hit you about them?

Dave McAfee: Back in the late '80s, Jeff Porcaro had just begun playing what was to become the Signature line and like everyone, I liked his sound. When I heard them in the stores, it was a significant difference from what I'd heard with any other cymbal. I couldn't put my finger on exactly what it was other than they just sounded better and cleaner. Even today, it's hard for me to describe it other than they just sound *right* to me.

RM: What's some of the feedback you get, both live and in the studio, from other players or engineers and producers you work with?

DM: I'll give you a great example. About a week ago, I was down in Muscle Shoals at "Fame" recording studios, working for an artist named Wayd Battle, who's the guitarist for the Jamey Johnson records and also a singer/songwriter. He particularly likes my drums and cymbal sounds. So, when I got to the studio, it was about 7:30am and the engineer for the session already had his kit with his Zildjians— all miked up. At first, I wasn't sure what to do so they had me try his kit first, even though I had my drums and my recording Signatures with me. So, we dabbled a bit on his kit and the drums sounded OK, but the cymbals just were not gonna work. Just then, the artist came in and asked me to set my kit up with my cymbals and although

the engineer wasn't very happy at first, we ended up cutting 9 tracks that day and by the end of it all, he was complimenting me and asking about the cymbals, calling them "Paste-eez" and becoming a new fan. Now this was an experienced, New York engineer, but he acted like he had never worked with Paiste cymbals before and was very impressed.

RM: What's your setup?

DM: My hats are 14" Dark Crisp. I have the 20" Dry Ride – it's my favorite, I have 3 of them...it's just so very versatile. Crashes are 17" and 18" Full Crash, 15" Mellow Crash and I also use the 19" 2002 Wild Crash, which I like for crash-riding.

RM: Have you ever gotten into discussions with other drummers who play other companies cymbals? What was that like?

DM: Yeah – One particular, well-known accomplished drummer here in Nashville, who will go un-named, a Zildjian guy and an incredible player ended up on my kit one time when we were sharing a showcase gig. He said, "Man that's not the first time I've been up on your rig, but I absolutely love your cymbal sounds...can you get me an array of Paistes for me to use in the studio?" So you can imagine why I can't say his name here...I don't wanna blow his Zildjian deal!

RM: Well, it's not the first time I've heard that kind of story! Dave, has Toby Keith or other leaders you work with ever commented about what you use and if so, can you share some of what they've said?

DM: From Toby's standpoint, when his whole thing is firing on all cylinders, he totally trusts everyone around him, his musicians, his crew...his entire team. He feels that everyone in his band is just doing their thing and delivering. Since I've been with him, he has noticed the consistency with which I offer, from the drum chair...both playing-wise and sound-wise. When we're traveling and using cymbals that aren't my personal ones, but are still Paiste – he has asked how it's possible that they sound just as good. So, that speaks volumes that he notices and about what Paiste is doing right.