

PAISTE'S PERCUSSIONISTS – PAINTING MUSIC WITH SOUNDS

by Rich Mangicaro

With such a diverse and expansive collection of different sounds, it's no wonder that some of the most influential and amazing players on the planet play Paiste. From cymbals, to gongs, to eclectic sounds, Paiste has virtually everything a percussionist could want...and more. We decided to highlight these incredible artists and find out how they color music, add the sonic spice and make what we listen to more fun!

For the past 50 years, **Emil Richards** has been Hollywood's *first call* percussionist and has performed on over an astounding 2000 soundtracks! Along with his studio work, Emil has performed with true legends in our business including George Harrison, Frank Zappa and Frank Sinatra. Too many to mention, the list is as long as his career. Emil has influenced virtually every percussionist living today...period.

Emil: "Back in 2002, for Danny Elfman on his Spiderman score, he wanted to hear a different cymbal for every suspended cymbal part, even within the same cue! So that meant the 4 of us each had to have 3-4 cymbals up and the same for gongs and hand cymbals. Since then, we never use the same cymbal twice, which gives such a freshness and variety to each cue. Paiste is great for this...they make so many different sounds and colors, that we can cover it all. Speaking of gongs, on the original Star Wars... in the beginning of the film when the ship was entering the screen, coming over your head and you heard that low, eerie roar, that was me, softly playing a Paiste 60" gong!"

The term *virtuoso* is not only accepted but also encouraged to describe the multi-talented **Paulinho Da Costa**. Originally from Brazil and since moving to the States, Paulinho has played on the biggest selling hit records in history, including "Thriller", "We Are The World" and "All Night Long". For over 40 years, he's appeared on Grammy award-winning albums and hit movies that number in the thousands and is considered one of the most recorded percussionists in history. Paulinho is a master of placement and sound...it's no wonder why Downbeat Magazine labeled him as "one of the most talented percussionists of our time". Paulinho: "The magic sound of Paiste cymbals inspire my work."

For the past 30 years **Lenny Castro** has been one of the world's most in-demand live and recorded percussionists. From his early days with Diana Ross or Boz Scaggs to his most recent work with Joe Sample or Stevie Nicks, Lenny has played with just about everyone. He has natural ability, amazing technique, perfect feel and sound, but most importantly he possesses an uncanny ability to know just what to play, right in the perfect place. Just listen to Toto's "Africa" which features Lenny and Jeff Porcaro. Case closed. About Paiste, Lenny says, "Their wide spectrum of sounds and instruments, along with their great quality gives me a large musical palette to express myself in countless ways."

Brad Dutz, who plays on many films and TV shows including the mega-popular, animated series, *Family Guy* says, "The massive sound library that Paiste offers is what's so great. I love the strange, exotic sound effects and eclectic metal sounds. Last year, I got their Twenty Series Mini Chinas and they opened a whole new world for me. Every year it's like Christmas with Paiste...they're always coming up with some new invention!" Other Paiste artists behind our favorite shows and films that we must make mention and thank for all their creative ideas and talent are **Michael Fisher**, **Bob Zimmitti**, **Gordon Gottlieb** and **Steve Forman**.



Emil Richards



Paulinho Da Costa



Lenny Castro



Brad Dutz



Perhaps one of the most respected percussionists in Jazz, R&B and Popular music is Los Angeles' own **Munyungo Jackson**. Munyungo has performed with the most influential artists in music including Miles Davis, Stevie Wonder, Sting and Herbie Hancock. Munyungo: "I use a lot of the smaller cymbals, to blend better with the drummer. I like the higher pitched sound colors, the smaller Signature Series splashes, the small chinas...so many choices for us that it's great to experiment and combine different things."

In the Latin world, **Eric Velez** plays with two matrimonial giants...Mark Anthony & Jennifer Lopez. About Paiste, Eric says, "I love the way my Signature and Alpha crashes speak right away and then decay naturally and quickly. I'm also comfortable knowing that they're durable and can take it, out on the road."

In Nashville's busy recording scene, **Eric Darken** and **Tom Roady** have commanded the percussionist's chair for many years. Eric's credits include Taylor Swift, Keith Urban, Carrie Underwood and Bon Jovi. Eric: "Paiste offers me the widest variety of cymbal and sound effect choices. I'm always covered no matter what the musical situation is." Tom Roady's talents have graced recordings with the Dixie Chicks, Brooks & Dunn, Trisha Yearwood and James Brown. Tom says, "When I saw Stewart Copeland with his Paiste Percussion Set, I knew that company was the one for me. The eclectic sounds in that rack are what brought me to Paiste. All the other cymbal companies have been playing catch up since."

R&B giants *Earth, Wind & Fire* have been making us dance for decades and through all their years of grand success, Paiste percussionist and *E,W&F* founding member **Ralph Johnson** has been there, always loyal. Speaking of R&B giant, the Queen of Soul - *Aretha Franklin*, for years, has grown accustomed to **Larry Fratangelo** as her percussionist. Lately, Larry has been hittin' the road with another one of Detroit's own - *Kid Rock*. Speaking of dancing and the road, mega-hit TV show "Dancing With The Stars" toured last year and percussionist **Carlos Lopez** juggled the many musical styles required to keep the contestants happy. And, when it comes to road shows, one of Broadway's longest-running, "The Lion King" features the multi-talented Paiste perc player **Pete Korpela**. Once a student of master teacher, veteran Paiste artist **Jerry Steinholtz**, Pete quotes Jerry as a main influence. Also one of Jerry's students, multi-published author/folkloric percussion expert **Kalani** has performed at huge shows, like the Acropolis with *Yanni* and many others, while conducting countless workshops on community drumming. And, when it comes to Jam bands, *String Cheese Incident* keeps the Grateful Dead torch lit and percussionist **Jason Hann**, armed with his exotic array of Paiste sounds and electrifying solos, always gets a standing ovation. Finally, speaking of ovations, New York's **Daniel Sadownick** is most deserving, as he is the 2009 winner of the Rising Star Percussionist Award in Downbeat's Critic's Poll.

With so many wonderful percussionists in our family and because space is limited, we'd also like to pay homage to the following great artists and say thank you:

Frank Colón (Manhattan Transfer) **Steve Shehan** (Hadouk Trio) **Sue Hadjopoulos** (Joe Jackson) **Ed Roscetti & Maria Martinez** (World Beat Rhythms Ensemble) **Jeff Moore** (Educator) **Frank Kumor** (Educator) **Morris Palter** (Redfish Bluefish) **M.B. Gordy** (Doobie Brothers) **John Bergamo** (Master teacher/Hands On'Semble) **Randy Gloss** (Educator/Hands On'Semble) **C.G. Ryche** (Benise) **Roger Squitiero** (Vanessa Williams) **Rock Deadrick** (Tracy Chapman) **Eddie Drayton** (Jeff Kashwa) **Bobby Matos** (Afro Latin Jazz Ensemble) **Paris Escovedo** (Escovedo Project) **Shakerleg** (Soloist) and **Trè Balfour** (Michael Bolton).

Thank you to all the percussive artisans, for adding their creative strokes to our favorite songs and soundtracks, using the ever-expanding Paiste paintbrush!



Munyungo Jackson



Eric Velez



Eric Darken



Tom Roady