

DVDs

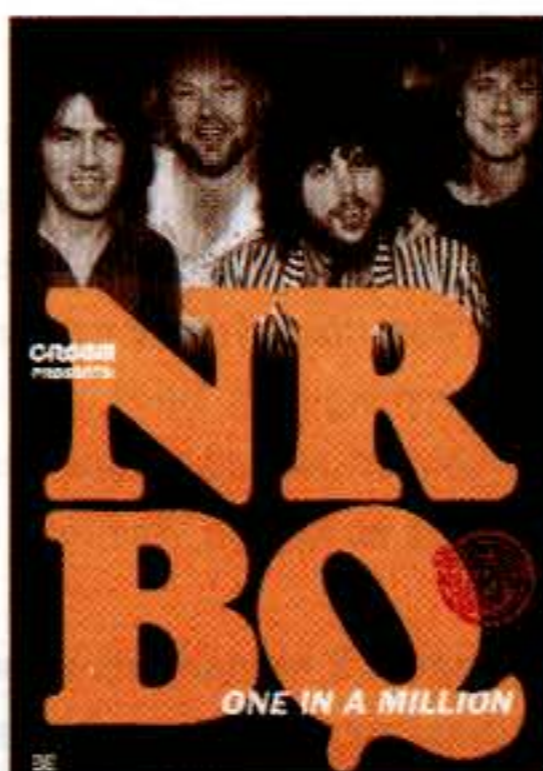
NRBQ One In A Million (MVD)

level: all, \$16.95



I've always insisted, You *gotta* see them live. Watching NRBQ, it gradually becomes clear: These guys sound unique not only because they think differently but also because they *physically* play differently. Case in point is this charged, albeit brief (forty-minute) 1989 concert from Montreal. Driving his eclectic rocker mates, **TOM ARDOLINO** flails his rubber forearms, lending rootsy grease to the rollicking pulse. It's truly intuitive grooving. Few drummers would find the key to corralling this eccentric bunch. Maybe that's why Ardolino's quirky, commanding kit work has led the charge for three decades. Good Boys Gone Wild.

Jeff Potter



Rush: Legendary Licks featuring Jamie Borden (Cherry Lane)

level: intermediate to advanced, \$24



Jamie Borden clearly has an understanding of Neil Peart's fills and exciting drum parts. But this DVD could have benefited from a great deal more attention and budget. The overall sound, which includes original Rush tracks, is fair, but with the exception of a few multiple-angle moments, most of the performances look like they were first takes. We can't completely fault Borden's effort on this project; the playing is consistently good. But only three years' worth of Peart's thirty-year career (represented by eight songs) is explored. Also, though he demonstrates some classic Neil licks and then breaks them down into digestible parts, Borden offers sparse explanation. Written charts or examples would go far to help in this regard. This is an interesting subject that deserves more educational power.

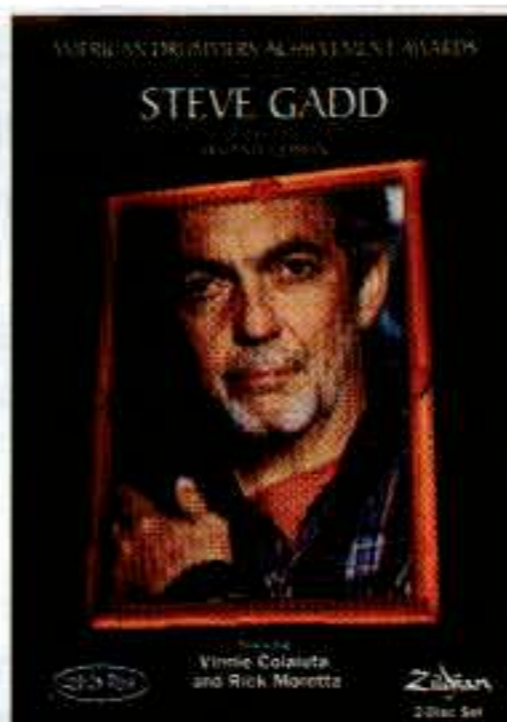
Sean Enright

American Drummers Achievement Awards Honoring Steve Gadd (Hudson Music)

level: all, \$49.95 (2 discs)



Renowned record producer Phil Ramone sums up this much-deserved, six-plus-hour tribute by stating, "You've got to study Steve Gadd for a long, long time to realize how brilliant he is." This lengthy program, from the Zildjian-sponsored 2003 American Drummers Achievement Awards, allows the viewer to do just that. A biographical documentary on Steve's amazing career and a heartfelt video tribute to the late Armand Zildjian are informative and inspiring. Guest speakers include bassist **Anthony Jackson** and **Louie Bellson**. Musical highlights include performances by **Rick Marotta** and **Vinnie Colaiuta** driving an all-star band. The show culminates in a dynamic performance by Gadd with **James Taylor**. High-profile interviews (**Eric Clapton**, **Chick Corea**, etc.), rehearsal footage, and a lengthy discussion with Gadd make this a valuable piece of drumming history, well worth the investment.



Mike Haid

Godsmack Changes (Coming Home Studios/SRS Labs)

level: all, \$19.98



Road life ain't easy—particularly if you're slated as the supporting act on Metallica's *St. Anger* tour, working overtime to appease one of metal's most demanding audiences. However, Boston's Godsmack accepted the gig and had their successful *Faceless* tour superbly documented on this DVD. Though there's nearly an hour of show footage, *Changes* also splices in plenty of backstage and interview clips. For drummers, the DVD's highlight is drummer **SHANNON LARKIN**'s dueling eight-minute solo with vocalist (and impressive drummer) **Sully Erna**. Launching with Erna's bongo and conga solos, the pair eventually trade fours, exchanging fills, rudiments, and stick visuals with deft precision. While the solo is a superb segment, it might not be enough to appease the casual drummer. But for the Godsmack fan, *Changes* is a must-have.

Waleed Rashidi

BOOKS

The New Method For Afro-Cuban Drumming

by Jimmy Branly (Hudson Music)

level: intermediate to advanced, \$19.95 (with CD)



This is a challenging and reasonably priced package for those interested in learning advanced modern drumset concepts in Afro-Cuban music. Using son, rumba, and 6/8 clave, Branly builds from the basic clave patterns and gradually structures complex polyrhythmic ideas. Several of these examples also incorporate the left-foot cowbell technique. You'd better have your reading chops together for many of these lengthy and complicated examples. Every example from this well-designed book is heard on the accompanying CD. Branly's play-along solos are inspiring, as he exposes a larger world of already intricate Afro-Cuban rhythmic ideas.

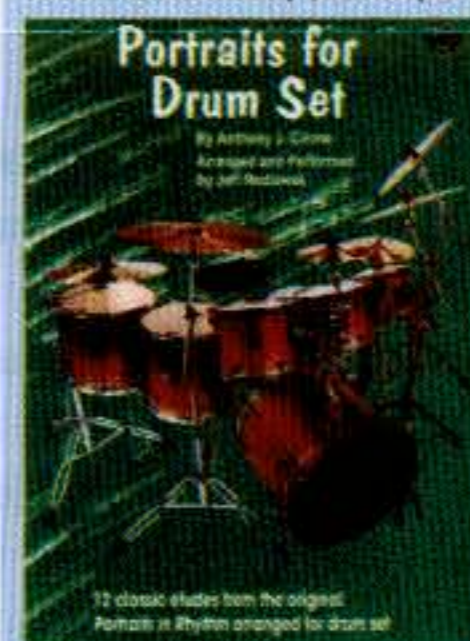
Mike Haid



Portraits For Drum Set

by Anthony J. Cirone and Jeff Redlawsk (Warner Bros.)

level: advanced, \$14.95 (book & CD)



Finally, an etude book that blends the worlds of classical percussion and contemporary drumset playing. Co-author Jeff Redlawsk has arranged twelve etudes from Anthony Cirone's classic *Portraits In Rhythm*

for the drumset, placing each solo in a distinct style and feel. Second-line, odd-metered funk, jazz, linear shuffle, and several different Latin styles are all explored. Plus, other etudes are in a more soloistic, multiple percussion setting. It's challenging material that addresses a range of musical skills, perfectly suited for end-of-the-semester juries or auditions. Whether used in conjunction with the original or as a stand-alone study, this book is highly recommended.

Michael Dawson

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