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Boy, just 20 months old, gets attention for his drumming

3/7/2006, 12:36 p.m. ET

The Associated Press

BLOOMFIELD HILLS, Mich. (AP) — He still uses a high chair and a pacifier, but musicians who have seen and heard Julian Pavone pound on a set of drums already are touting the 20-month-old as a musical prodigy.

The toddler has even recorded a CD with jazz bassist Ralphe Armstrong and William Winfield III, drum coordinator for the Cleveland Cavaliers. "Go Baby" will be released in a month.

"It's spooky. The kid's a genius. When I play with him, I feel he is the reincarnation of a Buddy Rich or Tony Williams, with whom I played," said Armstrong of Grosse Pointe. "And he has phrasing, mathematical phrasing. It seems the harder the arrangements, the better he plays."

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Armstrong has played with such artists as singer Aretha Franklin, guitarist Carlos Santana and blues performer B.B. King.

Julian is 32 inches tall and weighs 30 pounds and can't reach the bass drums or the high-hat pedals. In fact, he is hardly visible behind a full drum set. Headphones protect his ears when he plays.

His father, Bernie Pavone of Bloomfield Hills, has been a drummer for more than 30 years. He discovered his then-3-month-old son's natural talent when he was practicing.

"I'd just hold him in my lap in a harness, and he'd reach up and try to grab the sticks. So I took his hands in mine, and we played the drums," Pavone told The

Oakland Press of Pontiac for a story published Tuesday. "By 6 months, he was doing it all on his own."


The Pavones have applied to the Guinness Book of World Records for their son to be named "The World's Youngest Drummer."

Julian's favorite bands include the Beatles, Led Zeppelin, Chicago and Rush.

He has performed at a Cavaliers game and plays from 30 minutes to two hours daily.

Information from: The Oakland Press, <http://www.theoaklandpress.com>

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