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World's youngest drummer puts out CD

By Mary Beth Almond
C & G Staff Writer

At only 3 months old, Julian Pavone, of Bloomfield Hills, was already reaching for his father's drumsticks.

Three months later, Julian was playing his father Bernie Pavone's DC Collector series drum set on his own from his high chair, pacifier in mouth.

Now, the 2-year-old boy, whom renowned musicians call a musical prodigy, plays beats that his father can't and has even released his first CD, titled "Go Baby!" with tracks from legendary jazz bassist Ralph Armstrong and Cleveland Cavaliers drum coordinator William Winfield III.

According to Bernie, "Go Baby!" was recorded differently than most CDs in that Julian and Armstrong recorded at the same time.

"Typically, what happens is the drummer lays down his beats and then the other musicians come in and work around the drummer. I didn't want that to happen because critics may say, 'Ralph' — who is one of the greatest bass players around today — 'made it sound good.' So I said, 'let them play at the same time and play together,'" said Bernie.

Armstrong said Julian is the reincarnation of drummers like Buddy Rich or Tony Williams, with whom he's played.

"It frightens me, he is so good," said Armstrong.

Winfield, who invited Julian to join the Cleveland Cavaliers Drumline at the age of 15 months, agrees.

"Julian is amazing with his syncopation, timing, and rudiments. He is able to follow me in different patterns," said Winfield.

Julian's talent has even been recognized on several national and network television shows, including "Good Morning America," and "Inside Edition," and in newspaper articles from as far away as Italy, China and Brazil.

Most recently, Julian played at the House of Blues in Cleveland and had a CD release party with De'Mario "Raz" Thornton — former member of the popular teen R&B/pop group B2K — who recently came out with his debut album, "Raz: Revealer of Secrets."

Thornton said he was shocked when he saw Julian play for the first time

"I was like, 'Oh my God.' It was unbelievable. No offense, but he looked like a doll. I wondered who was moving him," he said.

For more information, or to purchase "Go Baby!" visit www.littledrummerbaby.com, or e-mail info@littledrummerbaby.com.

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