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Amazing 8-Year-Old Drummer Boy Julian Pavone





Musical prodigy set world record at age 5



- Adam Baudoux

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by **Marti Attoun**


May 28, 2012

Julian Pavone, 8, drummed up a world record at age 5, and the musical prodigy from Macomb, Mich. (pop. 79,580), keeps earning fame and acclaim for his innate and incredible rhythm.

“He’s a phenomenal player,” says percussion coach George Dunn, 59, about Julian, who in 2010 was certified as the youngest professional drummer by Guinness World Records. “He plays songs that a pro would play, note for note, from beginning to end.”

On his 22-piece custom drum set with 17 cymbals, Julian lays down the groove on Chicago’s “Make Me Smile” during one of his thrice-weekly lessons. His hands and feet are a blur as he drums one classic rock hit after another: Paul Simon’s “50 Ways to Leave Your Lover,” Toto’s “Rosanna” and Rush’s “Tom

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Sawyer." He knows the beat, rolls and clashes to more than a thousand songs.

"I have a lot of fun," says Julian, who performs with other musicians and also plays solo concerts and for charitable events.



Julian Pavone

The World's Youngest
Professional Drummer

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Julian revealed an uncanny sense of rhythm before he was born, according to his mother, Lisa, 36, a medical doctor. "When I was pregnant, I'd take my headset and put it on my stomach," Lisa says. "I remember listening to 'Strawberry Fields Forever' and I felt him kicking. It was so regular it was like a metronome. I'd take off the headset and he'd stop. He really liked the Beatles."

Julian's father, Bernadino, plays drums and was practicing one day with 3-month-old Julian nestled in a baby carrier on his chest. "He just reached up and grabbed the drumsticks and started playing," says Bernadino, 47.

By 6 months, the little drummer baby was playing drum rolls on his high chair, and at 9 months received his first drum set. At 15 months, Julian auditioned with the Cleveland Cavaliers United Drum Line and was offered a contract, becoming the youngest member by 16 years. Four months later, the toddler performed with the group before a crowd of 20,000 during a halftime show.

That publicity led to Julian recording his first CD, *Go Baby!*, with legendary Detroit bassist Ralphe Armstrong, and to television appearances, including *Good Morning America*, *The Martha Stewart Show*, *Maury* and *The Oprah Winfrey Show*.

All that attention doesn't unnerve the drumming wonder boy. "I sometimes make a mistake, but barely," says Julian, who practices five hours a day, seven days a week.



Julian Pavone - TV Highlights

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Julian's talents go beyond music. The second-grader, who attends University Liggett School in nearby Grosse Pointe Woods, has received patents for *Abracadabra Stain Cover-Up*, a correction fluid in a drum-shaped container with a drumstick applicator, and *Julian's Drum Gloves*, which feature interchangeable fingertips that produce different sounds.

"I was watching Led Zeppelin, and John [Bonham] was playing drums with just his hands and I said,


“Why doesn’t he have drumstick tips on his fingers?” says Julian, who sketched the original drawing of the gloves.

Bernadino manages Julian’s career, which has become a full-time job and includes product endorsements. For instance, Vic Firth, owner of a Boston company that manufactures drumsticks and mallets, designed Julian Pavone Signature Series drumsticks in the boy’s honor.

“I met Julian’s dad at a drum corps affair and Julian must have been about 2,” recalls Firth, 81, a former timpanist for the Boston Symphony Orchestra. “His dad told me Julian was a drummer and I said, ‘uh, huh,’ but then I saw him play. It’s definitely a God-given talent.”

His instructor agrees that Julian was born with a musical gift. “He’s a natural player,” Dunn says. “He just sits down and hears music and makes sense out of it. What he’s done with his life in seven years is pretty remarkable.”

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