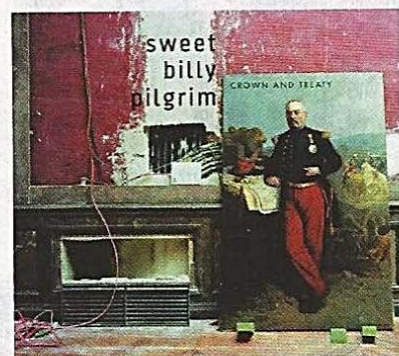


INBOX WHAT'S BANGING YOUR DRUM THIS MONTH...

WRITE IN & WIN!

The writer of the Star Letter each month wins a box of Vater drum sticks



SWEET BEATS

I've been subscribing to your great mag for over a decade now, and so does my son. I only normally get in touch when I've got something 'real' to say, so I thought I'd tip you off about the drummer with Sweet Billy Pilgrim, who are currently 'breaking through'. The band's previous album was a Mercury finalist in 2009, and their current offering - *Crown And Treaty* - is picking up great reviews without exception.

Point is, the band's beautiful, melodic and profound songs are underpinned by a drummer of rare skill, who would be well worth a feature in your illustrious publication. Al Hamer is an experienced performer and plays with great feel and touch, in accordance with the mood of the song. He has a Gadd-like pocket, a busy left hand (when needed), extreme competency in odd time and polyrhythm, plays with two ride cymbals and 'barks' the hi-hat in three different places (edge, bow and cup) routinely. And that's not mentioning his imaginative use of every inch of the snare.

He's a real 'drummer's drummer'. He's also a really down to earth guy (having met him), and absolutely deserves his 15 minutes. The feeling is that the band are about to become more in the public eye, so it might be a real coup to be 'quick off the blocks' to feature him. Check them and him out. You won't be disappointed.

Phil Ollerenshaw, Bristol

Quite the endorsement Phil! I have taken a listen and you are absolutely right. A great new band and we hope to bring you something with Al soon - CB

YOUR TWEETS

Listening to The Band after reading a great tribute to Levon Helm in @RhythmMagazine. '...Dixie...' brings back some great childhood memories.

@rooftopsonfire

Working for @RhythmMagazine would be such an awesome job!

@Mrs_Nezzbitt

Great edition this month's @RhythmMagazine I really enjoyed it BUT left my copy in a plane so can't re-read it. Hope the stewardess is a drummer

@bobknight1

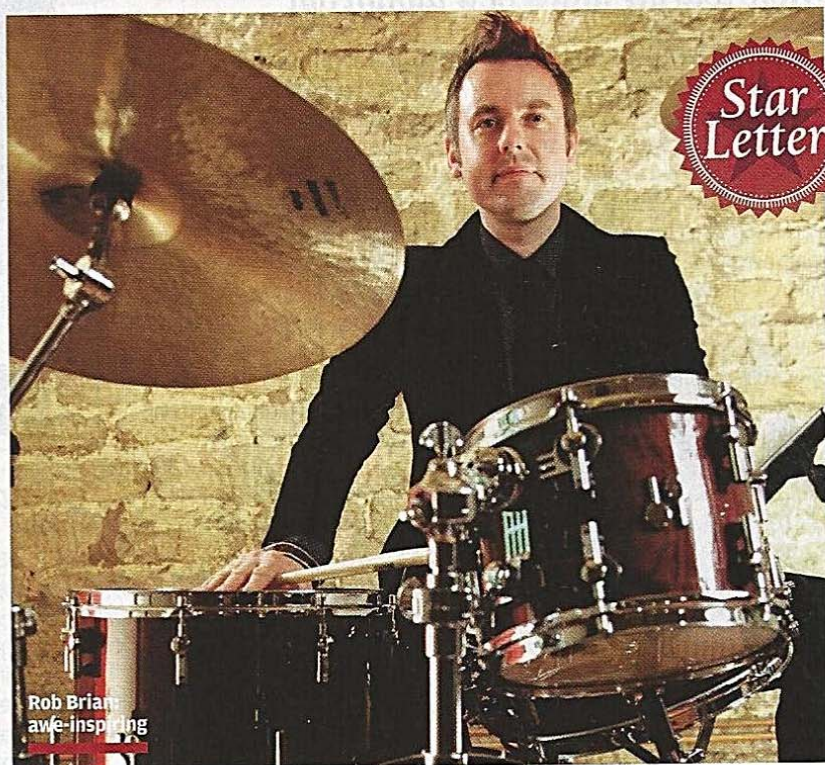
I guess it's too late to request you ask Roger Taylor about his snare solo in Dragon Attack? It's very good.

@andyuk71

BRILLIANT!!! Free Vater drum sticks with this month's mag!! Can I have a 22"x20" bass drum next month?

#ineedadrumkit

@simonstockton



Rob and roll

Last week (after numerous attempts) my parents convinced me to accompany them to see Innes Sibun play in my hometown, with the promise that he was a fantastic guitarist. Although they were certainly not wrong, I could not help but be transfixed on the drummer instead. He played with such a cool and laid-back style (demonstrated by the fact he kept his jacket on for three-quarters of the show until a female member of the audience demanded he take it off), but still managing to pull off such amazing playing. The highlight of the show by far was the drum solo, which was one of the best drumming feats I have had the chance to witness so far in my life.

Anyway, after getting home and still in awe, I decided to look him up. To my surprise it turned out he was quite a famous drummer by the name of Robert Brian, who has played with many greats such as Peter Gabriel and Siouxsie Sioux as well as having a DVD out and being quite the clinician. Being an 18-year-old drummer wanting to expand his musical tastes and education, it is great to discover a new inspiration and I am now determined to learn traditional grip as a result. It would be great if you could run a little feature on him.

Rory Wiltshire, Devizes

Rob is indeed one of the UK's drumming gems and his playing is sublime. We're hoping to hook up with Rob later in the year to discuss a special project he has been working on. If you can get hold of the issues, we featured some fantastic video guest lessons with Rob in the September, October and November 2009 issues - CB