

JULY 2023

DRUM CHANNEL.COM

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DC PLAYALONG CONTEST

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BINGE-WORTHY ENTERTAINMENT

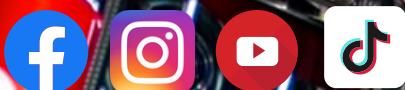
DCTV SUMMER LINE-UP

JR'S NEW TRIO 'SRT'

"ROCK WITH YOU" PLAYALONG CHART
FUN FACTS YOU MAY NOT KNOW

JOHN "JR" ROBINSON

EXCLUSIVE SRT LIVE PERFORMANCE AND INTERVIEW: WATCH NOW!



SUPPORT@DRUMCHANNEL.COM

COMING SOON

GLEN SOBEL, JP BOUVET

FOUNDER'S DOWNBEAT

Welcome to our first monthly newsletter, where we will keep you informed about everything Drum Channel and what's happening in the drumming community. As you can see, our featured artist for July is the legendary JR Robinson.

On DC, we not only want to show you what great drummers play, but we also want to get into their heads to know what they are thinking that makes them sound so great. And JR let us in. You will learn a lot, and be blown away when you hear him tear it up with his new band SRT where he is not playing for the artist...HE is the artist! You get to be a fly on the wall in the SRT recording session.

Be sure to also check out JR's 3-hour documentary, The Time Machine, now included in your DC membership.

Don't forget to jump into our Playalong contest. If you don't win, we will give you some feedback that can make you a better drummer, so in a way, everyone's a winner.

Let me know if you have any questions or suggestions at Donlombardi@drumchannel.com. Lots of exciting things coming up for DC. I hope to share them with you!

Don Lombardi



Keeping Time

NEW RELEASES COMING SOON!



GLEN SOBEL



Glen Sobel, renowned as the drummer for Alice Cooper and The Hollywood Vampires, delves into the art of drumming, focusing on developing the three-stroke ruff using double bass. With his wealth of expertise and precision, Sobel imparts invaluable knowledge and insider tips, revealing the secrets to crafting mesmerizing grooves and explosive fills that are tailor-made for rock and metal drumming.



JP BOUVET



JP Bouvet will guide you through the intricacies of drumming, unveiling the secrets to creating an infinite flow of rhythmic ideas. This course is designed to expand your drumming vocabulary by pushing the boundaries of a simple idea and expanding it — making you a better and more musical drummer. Through innovative techniques and groundbreaking ideas, Bouvet will empower you to unleash your creativity and unlock a world of rhythmic possibilities.

DC CONTEST. ENTER TO WIN ONE OF \$3,000+ WORTH OF PRIZES

PLAYALONG TO YOUR FAVORITE SONG OR TO THE DRUM CHANNEL THEME SONG FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!



Playalong Contest





FEATURE

SRT

In an era where music is created virtually in bedrooms and basements, SRT is creating modern music the old-fashioned way: live together in the studio. Session ace Andrew Synowiec, drumming legend John "J.R." Robinson, and jazz phenom Mitch Towne have formed a power trio with one foot in the past and one foot in the future. **SRT**, short for **Synowiec, Robinson, and Towne**, recently stopped by Drum Channel to record three songs for their new album and to chat with Don Lombardi about forming the trio, their upcoming album, and their tour.

JR: Even before I met Mitch and Andrew, I did so many recordings and live things, but I've always fantasized and enjoyed playing in a trio because it's triangular. It's a small number of people, and it's stronger being three. As time went on and a couple of years ago, I was getting hungry for putting a trio together. I put together a Rufus and Chaka Khan clone band, and we incorporated a lot of my hits. We did a couple of concerts in Omaha at this beautiful club called The Jewel, which is owned and managed by our manager Brian McKenna. During that time, Mitch asked if I had ever considered making an organ trio record. Mitch said, 'I know an organ player,' and I said, 'I know a drummer.' We ran stuff by each other, and then Andrew became the third member of our trio when we did the Brad Pitt movie *Bullet Train* a few years ago. Bringing together the three right guys let me bring out a part of me that I needed to expose during my 50th-anniversary in the industry.

Mitch: When we formed SRT, I was helping JR rewrite his bio, and he sent me an Excel spreadsheet with all his work. As I scrolled through the very long list, the fans on my fairly new computer kicked on because the document was so large. There was so much memory needed to cover his career. (His work has brought in more than \$500 million in sales.)

JR: I became a chameleon at Berklee. I moved to Los Angeles. I was very influenced by Billy Cobham to the point where it was overkill. I joined Rufus in 1978, and everyone sat me down and said, 'Don't play like that.' Then I got with Quincy, and Quincy said, 'You're dancing too much.' One of my great instructors, Ed Soph, one of the greatest teachers of all time and one of the greatest musicians, mainly did jazz. He didn't want to crossover. With no disrespect to Ed, my thought was, would you rather be in one band for your whole life or in 1,000 bands? For me, SRT is band number 1,000.



Mitch: This is a really exciting time to put together a trio and to get out and play in front of people, especially after 2020, and for me, to get to play with guys like Andrew and JR is a dream come true. The joy of our trio is that we are all listening. It's really a great mix of arrangement and then freedom. For the three tunes we recorded here, we met over Zoom once, and we first talked about the song, Stayin' Alive, and thought about what we could do differently with Stayin' Alive. We talked through an arrangement. Andrew made a quick demo. I wrote up a chart ignoring his demo, and then (laughing) he reminded me what was on the demo, so I fixed the chart.

Andrew: We put it together, and it was the best of both worlds.

Mitch: In a group like this, there is arrangement and improvisation. That's basically what jazz is. Jazz is a form, and you stick to it, but then there is the freedom to go wherever. We are all listening. JR has huge ears. When I do a little thing, like drop down on the bass part on a tune, JR changes what he's doing and it creates this lift, and that's happening under Andrew's solo, and all of a sudden, that gives Andrew a new idea. It's a great melding of minds focused on creating an excellent final product that's not just, 'This is my solo, and I'm doing my thing.' It's like we are really trying to create a great musical conversation.

JR: We've all studied the masters. We're always listening to Dexter Gordon or anything from the past, and when you listen to these records, you understand that they listen to each other. They had to listen. The concept is that we aren't out there just thrashing even though we can and have, but with this, we are listening and creating.

Andrew: I wrote one of the tunes we recorded here called, Insomnia, based on an idea that we can all play that is notey, up-tempo, and impressive sounding.

JR: It was hard to play, but it was fun and more fun once we all became one.

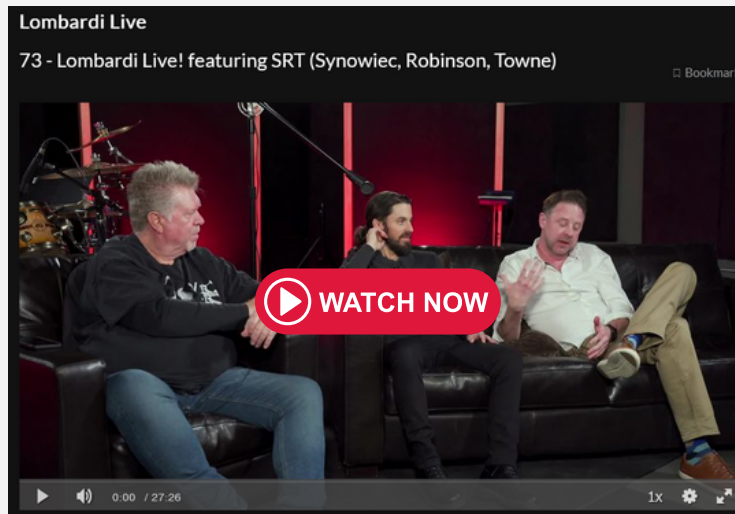
Mitch: With Insomnia, all we had was a demo of Andrew playing with a click at about 130, and so I learned the head with him so I could play it in unison, but I had no idea what feel JR was going to put with it. That really affects me when it comes to figuring out what I am going to play for the bass part. I didn't know if JR was going to swing it. I didn't know if I was going to walk it, half-time it, or what I was going to do with it. I had to be ready for a few different things. JR came in and played, and then I knew the bass part to put with it...and then it became ours.

JR: The third tune, You Got the Love, was written by Ray Parker. It was from our old band, Rufus. It's a big song, and it's a song for vocals, so we had the challenge of making that fit us and also making it our own. It turned out unbelievably. We went through a couple of takes. We didn't use a click on this one, and it turned out killer.

For more of this interview, check out Lombardi Live, Episode 73, on DrumChannel.com, and be sure to check out SRTGroove.com for everything SRT, including tour dates. Special thanks to the "Vanguards of Groove," Andrew, JR, and Mitch, for joining us on DrumChannel.com.



Live Shows **Every Week** on DrumChannel.com



JOHN "JR" ROBINSON **THE MOST RECORDED DRUMMER IN HISTORY** **SPEED ROUND**

Favorite Vacation Destination?

HAWAII

Favorite Food?

SLOPPY JOES

When are you most creative?

MORNING POST-COFFEE

Favorite Treat?

FUDGE

Favorite song to play?

MANTECA

What time do you go to bed?

2AM

Dream Collaboration?

HERBIE HANCOCK & PAUL MCCARTNEY

Words of wisdom to share with upcoming drummers?

**ALWAYS BELIEVE IN YOURSELVES
AND FOLLOW YOUR HEART.**

If you weren't a drummer, what instrument would you focus on?

PIANO OR THE EYES

Book recommendations?

LEONARD NIMOY

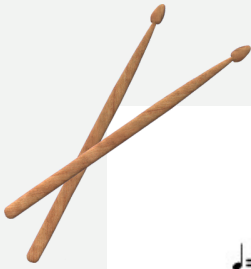
THE KING OF GROOVE - THE JOHN JR ROBINSON STORY

Starbucks order?

CARAMEL MACCHIATO WITH WHIP

ROCK WITH YOU

BY MICHAEL JACKSON



JR Robinson

Rock With You

♩=92

Intro

4

7

Verse

10

13

18

22

Chorus

26

2

30

Detailed description: This block contains the drum notation for the song 'Rock With You' by Michael Jackson, arranged by JR Robinson. The music is in 4/4 time with a tempo of 92 beats per minute. The notation is presented on a single staff with a double bar line at the beginning of each line. The Intro section (measures 1-9) features a complex rhythmic pattern with a triplet of eighth notes in measure 1, followed by eighth and sixteenth notes. The Verse section (measures 10-25) consists of a steady eighth-note pattern with occasional accents and rests. The Chorus section (measures 26-33) features a consistent eighth-note pattern with a double bar line and a '2' above it in measure 27, indicating a two-measure rest. The notation includes various rhythmic symbols such as beams, accents, and rests.

PRACTICE ROOM

ROCK WITH YOU

BY MICHAEL JACKSON

2 Verse

34

38

42

46

Chorus

50

54

Bridge

58

62

66

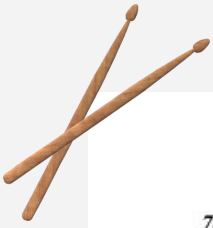
70

The image displays a drum score for the song 'Rock With You' by Michael Jackson. The score is organized into sections: Verse (measures 34-46), Chorus (measures 50-54), and Bridge (measures 58-70). The notation uses a standard drum set layout with a double bar line on the left. The score includes various rhythmic patterns, rests, and dynamic markings such as accents (>) and breath marks (o). Measure 66 features a double bar line followed by a '2' and a repeat sign, indicating a two-measure rest. The score concludes with a final double bar line at measure 70.



ROCK WITH YOU

BY MICHAEL JACKSON



74 3

78

Chorus

82

86

90

94

97

Rock With You
0:12 / 3:33

WATCH NOW

PLAYALONG ON DRUMCHANNEL.COM

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE



**Chad Wackerman's
Drum Room**

- Step-by-step lessons Chad learned from the legendary **Murray Spivack**, whose students included David Garaboldi, Brooks Wackeman, Louie Bellson, Vinnie Colaiuta, and many more.
- Learn **HOW** to play! Chad's course makes technique easy.
- Learn Wrist Stroke, Rebound, Flam, Closed Roll and Outside Release Motions – **everything** you need to know.



**Gregg Bissonnette's
Drum School**

- In **Classic Beats**, learn how to play legendary songs.
- In the **Vocabulary** course, learn grooves and fills you can use in almost any song.
- The **Song Form** course will take your playing to the next level when you play with a band.



**Terry Bozzio's
Art of Drumming**

- In this **Rhythm** course, Terry explains the permutations of eighth-note triplets and sixteenth notes. Learn how to orchestrate them on a drum set and use them in an **ostinato**, which will expand your coordination and rhythmic capabilities.
- Rhythm is one of 5 elements that Terry will be covering as he expands his "The Art of Drumming" series throughout the year.



**Thomas Lang's
Drum Camp**

- Learn step-by-step lessons Thomas uses to develop both his **speed** and ability to play relaxed.
- Learn warm-up and **endurance** exercises, the rudiments, his exclusive "Chops Builder Program," and much more.
- Enjoy 10+ hours of content that is guaranteed to take your hand **technique** to the next level, no matter what level you are currently at.
- Get access to new bonus lessons and his library of live masterclasses!



Get faster, master the rudiments, add to your vocabulary, and learn the secrets of their success!

DC MUST-SEE

» DCTV: ALWAYS ON THE AIR.
STREAMING 24/7.



» MONA TAVAKOLI
CAJON AS A DRUM SET



» CHAD SMITH, GREGG BISSETTE
& NANDI BUSHELL



» FRED ARMISEN & THOMAS LANG
DRUM JAM



» CHUCK WACKERMAN TRIBUTE CONCERT



» LOMBARDI LIVE! FT. DARU JONES



» LIVE STREAMS EVERY WEEK