



Sticks 'n' Skins

A PHOTOGRAPHY BOOK ABOUT THE WORLD OF DRUMMING



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A Gift of Untold Worth

by Zoro



While in the midst of a 32-bar drum break to a crowd of nearly one million, I was struck by a majestic realization. As I played to the sea of humanity that moved in tandem to the beat, I understood for the first time that I had been given a great gift. It was the divine ability to release immense emotion into the spirit of others through the power of rhythm.

It suddenly dawned on me that I did nothing to deserve this gift, but that I was merely a recipient of its goodness and a chosen vessel for its expression. At that moment, I knew that I was freely given untold riches by God, a loving King who had entrusted it to me as His servant. I was humbled and my heart was filled with gratitude.

Every drummer knows the sheer inexplicable joy of playing. It moves beyond the realm of the physical or intellectual and into the deep realm of the spiritual and supernatural. The power of this rhythm is undeniable.

Eternal time is a vast mystery that cannot be fully comprehended in our current finite human state. But finite time can be measured. We understand the precepts of millions of years, hundreds of thousands of years, then thousands and so forth. From there we have months, weeks, days, hours, and seconds.

Amazingly, this vast labyrinth of time and space can be dissected even further and ultimately resolves to the measurable pulse of time within music—the groove, the beat, the tempo, or beats per minute. Thrust upon this blank canvas are God’s chosen warriors of rhythm who were graced with the intuitive ability to assemble time in a manner that touches upon the hearts.

Like knights of old we have been empowered with a mystifying gift and have been bestowed a great privilege. We have been entrusted as stewards over the groove that inspires and soothes the soul. We speak an ancient language of time that needs no words and knows no cultural limitations.

Man’s unlimited capacity to be a creative spirit is perhaps God’s greatest gift to His children and the proof that we are most certainly made in His image. As a demonstration of His great love, he has endowed each of us with limitless creativity for boundless joys of expression. He gives us the capacity to create something out of nothing but sheer imagination, and whatever is imagined is allowed to be possible.

There is no ownership of this divine flow, and no one individual holds the patent on creativity, because by intelligent design it was given to all mankind. It was put here for us to discover. The Bible puts it this way: “It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings” (Proverbs 25:2).

We have much to be grateful for, and therefore, should steward with all diligence, love, and gratitude the role as the gatekeepers of time. We are called to pierce the darkness with the light of God’s love through the power of His eternal rhythm. By responding to His call, we fulfill our purpose and bring glory and honor to the one true King and freedom of expression to all His people.

A GROOVE FOR THE GENERATIONS

He is the consummate definition of the rare man who marches to the beat of a different drum.

Zoro has sat on the drummer's throne commanding some of the most famous stages in the world of rock and R&B music. One of the funkier drummers on the planet, Z has toured and recorded with Lenny Kravitz, Bobby Brown, Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons, New Edition, Jody Watley, Philip Bailey of Earth, Wind & Fire, Angie Stone, Vanessa Paradis, Sean Lennon, Lisa Marie Presley, and many others.

Throughout his career, he has consistently been voted #1 R&B Drummer and Clinician by premier music industry publications such as *Modern Drummer*, *Drum!*, and *Rhythm* magazines.

Often called the "Minister of Groove," Zoro authored the #1 award-winning and best-selling book and DVD package, *The Commandments of R&B Drumming* (Alfred Publishing), which was awarded industry accolades as the ultimate lesson from the master. His latest effort, a collaboration with Daniel Glass, *The Commandments of Early Rhythm & Blues Drumming* is another milestone and masterpiece work of biblical proportions that delves deep into the 1940s and '50s shuffles. The book was the winner of a Drummie! Award for Best Drumming Book in *Drum!* magazine.

"Zoro wrote the book on dynamics, touch, control and groove," says *Modern Drummer* magazine. One of Z's most inspiring performances can be seen on the DVD *Modern Drummer Festival 2005* (Hudson Music).

Z is all heart and a sought-after player, clinician, instructor, and motivational speaker simply because he's real, relevant, and relatable, and connects with all generations. He is passion personified, and motivated to serve people and inspire his audience with all that he has.

Zoro is a kinetic bundle of human energy and enthusiasm. His heartbeat is in the groove itself and his is "a groove for the generations."

Zoro

