

SONOR DAYS FESTIVAL 2010

The first Sonor Days Festival was held on May 29 and 30, 2010, in Bad Berleburg, Germany. The program offered a variety of performances and master classes by an international array of artists, including Gavin Harrison, Dave Langguth, Benny Greb, the Carl Orff Ensemble, Ritmo Del Mundo (Stephan Emig, Néne Vásquez, and Rodrigo Rodriguez), Wolfgang Schmitz, Robert Brenner, and Jörg Lesch. Day one concluded with a set by the German AC/DC cover band Jailbreaker. Highlights of the event included Sonor factory tours, which were enjoyed by hundreds of visitors. For more information, go to sonor.com.

Text and photo by Heinz Kronberger





ITALY'S GROOVE DAY 2010

The second installment of Groove Day was held near Milan, Italy, this past April 18, with a diverse lineup occupying three stages. (Sadly, Horacio "El Negro" Hernandez's flight was grounded by Iceland's volcanic-ash cloud.) Several duets were featured: Christian Meyer and Giovanni Giorgi played a melodic and sophisticated double-drumming piece, Federico Paulovich and Riccardo Lombardo exalted their soloist side, and Roberto Gualdi and Stefano Bagnoli showed what kind of fun can happen when a metal drummer meets a jazz brush specialist.

Ronald Bruner Jr. drove his drumming to an interstellar speed, focusing on a blend of energy and musicality. Mylious Johnson, who's popular in Italy as a session and live drummer, played hip-hop and dance pieces with his band. And Dave Weckl showed his extraordinary style, enhanced by new chops and techniques. Other sessions featured pedal specialist Marco lannetta, teacher Gigi Morello, Andrea Beccaro on a Yamaha DTX electronic kit, and Gianluca Palmieri. In the grand finale, Terry Bozzio and Pat Mastelotto, along with bassist Tony Levin and guitarist Allan Holdsworth, played a meditative set of improvised music, writing a new page in the avant-garde rock story.

Text and photo by Mario A. Riggio

