

DEAN GILES MUSIC EDUCATION

Steve Gadd



One of the most influential drummers of the modern era, Steve Gadd grew up in Irondequoit, New York, a suburb of Rochester. His uncle was a drummer with the U.S. Army and introduced him to drumming. He would eventually follow in his uncle's footsteps by also playing in the Army band.

Prior to being drafted into the Army Gadd attended both the Manhattan School of Music and the Eastman School of Music in Rochester. After college he played regularly with brothers Chuck and Gap Mangione. His first recording was on Gap Mangione's debut solo album, *Diana in the Autumn Wind* (1968).

Steve Gadd has played on some of the most iconic drumming songs ever recorded, his list of credits is enormous and his influence on drummers worldwide has been ongoing for over 40 years. His touch, groove, musicality, knowledge of the instrument and musicianship is highly regarded by drummers, bandleaders and vocalists. A complete command of the rudiments of drumming, an excellent time feel, a mastery of musical styles, rhythmic reading skills, comfort with odd meters and an excellent sense of dynamics come together to create one of the greatest musicians ever. A small list of his most famous recordings follows.

“My goal is to give something to the artist that’s going to be meaningful to them.” Steve Gadd

“50 Ways to Leave Your Lover” - Paul Simon (Still Crazy After All These Years 1975)

“Aja” - Steely Dan (Aja 1977)

“Chuck E.’s In Love” (Rikki Lee Jones 1979)

“Late In The Evening” - Paul Simon (One Trick Pony 1980)

“Spain” (Vocal Version) - Al Jarreau (This Time 1980)

“Blue Rondo al a Turk” - (Vocal Version) Al Jarreau (Breakin’ Away 1981)

“He’s able to take a piece of music and actually compose something for it that makes total sense, that actually brings the music to a completeness.” “Every drummer wants to play like Gadd because he plays perfect ... He has brought orchestral and compositional thinking to the drum kit while at the same time having a great imagination and a great ability to swing.”-Chick Corea

Gadd has also played with; Paul McCartney, Steve Kahn, James Taylor, Eric Clapton, Mike Mainieri, David Sanborn, Joe Cocker, Chet Baker, Bonnie Raitt, George Benson, Dave Grusin, Jim Croce, Aretha Franklin, Ringo Starr, Tracy Chapman, Art Garfunkel, Etta James, Earl Klugh, Al DiMeola, Michael McDonald, Wayne Shorter, Claus Ogerman, Peter Gabriel, Jim Hall, Jaco Pastorius, Quincy Jones, Christopher Cross, and the list goes on and on. Steve has been on the cover of several music and drumming magazines many times, has led his own band and was named to the Modern Drummer Hall of Fame in 1984.

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