

PercFest 2006

The annual PercFest drum festival, presented in the village of Laigueglia on the Italian Riviera, hosts some of Europe's top jazz players, as well as the cream of Italy's drummers and percussionists. This year's event, held between June 27 and July 2, offered six days of shows, with sixteen hours of music every day, plus fantastic beaches and a warm sun. And it all was for free!

Every day featured drum lessons led by Italian session ace Ellade Bandini, as well as by Marco Fadda (Billy Cobham, Noa), Marica Pellegrino, Dado Sezzi, and Marco Cavani. Brazilian percussion was taught by Gilson Silveira (Miguel Bosé, Ana Torroja), Cuban percussion lessons were led by Ivan Bridon Napoles (Italuba), and other courses focused on Arabian and Flamenco percussion.

PercFest also featured several clinics. Up-and-comers Riccardo Lombardo and Stefano Incani demonstrated their complicated double drumming technique, based on odd

rhythms. Luca Capitani taught rock drumming, while Walter Calloni and Giorgio Palombino played Latin drums and percussion, as did Argentinean drummer Alex Battini. But perhaps the most impressive clinic was held by another newcomer, Marco Iannetta, who used a multiple-pedal setup during an impressive display of speed, sound, and independence.

PercFest's evening jazz concerts featured performances that included former Bill Evans drummer Eliot Zigmund, Dutch percussionist Jeroen De Rijk, Scottish singer Nick The Nightly with Ellade Bandini on drums, a quintet led by drummer Roberto Gatto, the award-winning Paolo Fresu quintet with Ettore Fioravanti on drums, and frame drum specialist Massimo Carrano. The series concluded with the Jazz Art Orchestra big band performing some of Buddy Rich's hits, with drumming by Roberto Gatto, Ellade Bandini, and Tullio De Piscopo.

Mario A. Riggio

Each day started with a percussion-and-fitness session on the beach. From left: Dado Sezzi, Luca Capitani, Marco Cavani, and Ellade Bandini 2. Italian session great Ellade Bandini 3. This is Marco Iannetta's monstrous pedal setup. His foot technique increases speed in metal applications, and offers new performance opportunities in Latin and ethnic styles 4. Italian jazz great Roberto Gatto played as a bandleader and with the singer Gino Paoli 5. Dutch Percussionist Jeroen De Rijk added color to several concerts 6. Luca Capitani is one of Italy's most popular rock teachers 7. American jazz drummer Eliot Zigmund

