

ARTIST'S STORY



CHRISTIAN NATIVO

Freelance Drummer and Educator, Social Media Demonstration Videos for Endorsement Companies

Christian Nativo is a freelance drummer and educator based in Melbourne, Australia. Christian has studied at The Victorian College of the Arts (Improvisation), regularly performing in Jazz quartets and big bands. During his studies, Christian was also giving drum lessons, playing in original bands touring all around Australia and doing studio sessions. Christian has since toured Australia, New Zealand and Europe with the Australian band Vanishing Point (2007 - 2014) supporting international bands - Iron Maiden, Dragonforce, Joe Satriani, Helloween and Sonata Arctica. Christian has also toured Japan (2012, 2013, 2014 and 2016) with Melbourne based band Lucy's Crown.

One of Christian's main national touring positions since 2016 is with the tribute band "Bjorn Again" performing the hits of ABBA. Christian's drum teaching appointments at various Secondary Schools as well as owning his own music school keep him connected to the grass roots of music education. Christian is an endorsee of Pearl drums, Zildjian cymbals, Vic Firth drumsticks, Remo drum skins, Big Fat Snare Drum, Cympad and Porter & Davies.



Can you tell us about some of your live/studio experience highlights or current activities?

Currently drumming with Bjorn Again for their 30th Anniversary Australian tour. I have recently returned from playing Summer Sonic Festival in Japan with Bjorn Again. I also freelance for different bands all over Australia as well as teaching 85 drum students per week.

Have you had any previous experiences with the brand Mackie?

I have been exposed to a lot of different Mackie products over the years and I've always been impressed with the sound, build quality and price point. So when I was ready to purchase my first digital desk (DL1608), the Mackie range was the obvious choice.

What made you choose the Mackie DL16S?

I recently upgraded from the Mackie DL1608 to the DL16S to take advantage of the "Virtual Sound Check" feature when shooting content for my social media channels. I'm using the DL16S with the Virtual Sound Check feature to dial in my mixes - the iPhone video then uses the DL16S for the audio.

How will the product assist/improve your workflow?

The DL16S has improved my work flow immensely. By being able to use the Virtual Sound Check feature, it means I can dial in my mixes for social media videos using my iPhone more efficiently.

When using the Mackie Virtual Sound Check, the process is:

- Record a section of drumming in Pro Tools with MacBook Pro using the DL16S >> USB/multi track out
- Using the Virtual Sound Check feature, I'm then able to send the recorded sample audio from Pro Tools back into the DL16S (via the USB cable) - all the relevant mics/multi tracks appear on the Master Fader App in the same order that I recorded them into Pro Tools - as the audio is playing/looping over and over, I'm then able to dial in my mix using the Master Fader 5 app (this saves me having to physically play over and over and check the level each time I want to adjust the mix as I had to previously do with other desks)
- Once I've dialled in the mix, I shoot my proper video content and take the audio outputs from the DL16S into my iRig Duo Pro which then has a "lightning" connection cable into my iPhone - the iPhone then uses the DL16S audio while shooting the video (which utilises the 'mix' that I dialled in during the Virtual Sound Check phase.
- This process allows me to do high quality Instagram videos on the fly (instead of recording video and audio separately using an interface, then having to sync the Audio and Video in Final Cut Pro etc.
- Previously without the Virtual Soundcheck feature, I had to manually do 'test records' every time I changed a level or dialled in a different mix as I had no way to hear the changes that I was making.

What are the key features you would recommend ?

Definitely the Virtual Sound Check feature. The DL16S/Master Fader App also has a whole bunch of really usable presets (EQ's, Gates and Compressors) for people that are new to live sound which are super helpful.