



## Michael Derosier's 1980 Ludwig Drum Set For Heart

**H**earth was inducted into the Rock And Roll Hall Of Fame earlier this year. Their performance at the induction ceremony was the first time the original band-members had played together since they parted in the early 1980s. The last time this lineup was together they were headlining stadium tours, as well as sharing stages all over the world with bands like The Who and The Rolling Stones. The original Heart band was a powerful, rocking group of top-notch musicians, which included Michael Derosier on drums. Derosier never pursued attention in the media but is well known, particularly among musicians, as one of the greatest rock drummers of all time.

Derosier's biggest influences were Buddy Rich and John Bonham. His 1980 Ludwig Classic drum set clearly reflects these influences. Both his idols used the same one rack tom, two floor tom configuration. The 13" x 9" rack tom is all

Buddy. The maple finish, Ludwig Supraphonic 402 snare, and the big bass and floor toms reflect Bonham. Derosier took the big drum idea one step further with a deeper 26" x 16" bass and enormous 18" x 16" and 20" x 18" floor toms. Derosier added the copper-plated lugs, inspired by copper hardware Heart guitarist Roger Fisher had installed on one of his custom guitars. Derosier had played this 1970 Ludwig 14" x 6.5" Supraphonic snare long before the rest of the set was built. The lugs were copper plated to match the rest of the set. This is the snare Derosier played on Heart's 1977 hit "Barracuda." He played these drums with Heart from 1980 until he left the band in 1982.

Derosier has always strove for a big, wide-open sound and this set has *big* written all over it with heavy 6-ply maple and poplar shells and no muffling except a felt strip on the bass drum. He remembers arguing with many soundmen

and studio engineers who wanted to control his sound with smaller, muffled drums. "There was one time," Derosier recalled, "when I was recording with this set at The Power Station in New York. I was really butting heads with the engineer who wanted me to use a smaller, more controlled kit. It turned out that Carmine Appice was in the next studio. Carmine came over and told the engineer that my drums sounded fantastic and if they wanted to make this record sound huge then they should let me use my big, wide-open kit. End of conversation."

Derosier plays a virtually identical configuration in his current band, Heart By Heart, which includes original Heart bassist Steve Fossen.

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*Donn Bennett is a world-renowned collector and dealer of rare and vintage drums. His collection is on display at Donn Bennett Drum Studio in Bellevue, Washington.*

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