



Gene & Buddy's Drum Museum

Designed, built, and owned by Charlie Benton, Gene & Buddy's Drum Museum is located in Concord, North Carolina. Invited to the museum before it is officially open to the general public, my wife and I drove to Concord to visit the museum. Driving up to the building in which the museum is located, I didn't know what to expect. Well, when the doors were opened, it seemed like we had stepped into drum heaven! This was impressive, to say the least. You have to be there to get the full effect, but I will do my best to describe it.

Picture in your mind's eye a 5000 sq. ft. room that looks like a huge loft with a night club feel that is loaded with beautiful vintage drums and drum memorabilia. I use the word "loft" because of the very high ceilings and many different levels of drumsets on huge glass platforms hanging from the ceiling with chains. I use the description "nightclub feel" because of the incredible lighting, from neon lights to mirrored balls on the ceiling. The whole atmosphere is just incredible. Charlie used a lot of glass and steel for his displays which creates a very clean and open feel with an architectural look. The different paint colors on the walls add excitement to the room. Everything comes together to create a very beautiful, interesting, exciting, and well designed museum with literally hundreds of drum and drummer related items to fascinate even the most discerning drummer!

Gene and Buddy's Museum, named in honor of legendary

**WOW, WHAT
A PLACE!
THIS IS
SOMETHING
YOU HAVE TO
SEE!**

by Billy Jeansonne

drummers Gene Krupa and Buddy Rich, is dedicated to preserving the history of Jazz and Rock N' Roll through interactive exhibits, music education, community performances, and special recognition of legendary performers.

From Gene Krupa, Buddy Rich, Barrett Deems, and Louie Bellson to Duke Ellington, Mick Fleetwood, and Bun E. Carlos of Cheap Trick, Gene & Buddy's boast an impressive collection of over 100 vintage drum sets, many of them on glass platforms hanging from the high ceiling. The extensive drum pedal collection ranging from the late 1800's to the present is truly fascinating. Over 300 beautiful vintage snare drums are displayed along with an extensive Buddy Rich and Gene Krupa album collection.

Enclosed in a huge glass room, appropriately called the "Crash Room", is an incredible cymbal display. The museum even contains a state of the art digital recording studio with a separate engineering booth. Along with one of a kind



museum pieces, Gene & Buddy's offers for sale a vast collection of vintage and new drums, cymbals, drumsticks, and accessories through its Drum Store.



Currently, "Phase 2" of Gene & Buddy's is scheduled to open Fall of 2002. It will further explore the history of Jazz and Rock N' Roll through additional drum displays. This phase will also include an intimate venue for musicians to showcase their talents through public performances, clinics, and special jam sessions.

There is no admission cost to Gene & Buddy's Drum Museum. It is Charlie's desire that it will always be free to enter for anyone who wants to enjoy the museum.

Two thumbs up to Charlie for creating such an incredible museum to preserve and display some of the most rare and collectable drums for all of us to enjoy. This was a weekend well spent!

For more information on Gene & Buddy's, please contact Charlie Benton at 704-721-3111



Display of Buddy Rich albums



A Ringo kit meets guests at the front door of the museum