

MAG

MARCH 2026



**MICHAEL
WILSON-TROLLIP**

Unpacks mobility in production, the realities of South Africa's music industry, the pressure of live musical direction, and what it takes to balance artistry with technical precision.



Gibson

Through the Ages,
Iconic Models
That Shaped Music

Epiphone

- Hummingbird Studio
- Jimi Hendrick Flying V
- Les Paul Classic

Six Strings Two Legends

The Les Paul That
Changed Rock Forever

Cut the Cables. Keep the Clarity.

The SWIFF Audio WX-520
Wireless In-Ear Monitor
System was built to remove
that distraction completely.

nord

NEW Evolution

nord piano 6

TAKING THE STAGE



**“Plug in. Turn up.
Let the music take you
where words never could.”**

MARCH EDITION OF PROAUDIO MUSICGEAR MAGAZINE

There's something powerful about new seasons — and this edition is all about momentum.

In March, we celebrate instruments that don't just make sound, but shape identity.

From the timeless authority of Gibson electrics that defined generations of rock, to the evolving performance power of the latest Nord stage keyboards, this issue is built around one idea: growth. Growth in tone. Growth in creativity. Growth in confidence.

We dive into iconic guitars that continue to influence modern music, explore the difference between stage workhorses and next-generation performance keyboards, and sit down with Michael Wilson-Trollip to unpack what it really takes to balance studio precision with high-energy live performance in today's industry. His journey reminds us that adaptability is no longer optional — it's essential.

You'll also discover practical tools for performers, producers, and touring musicians who are refining their craft in an industry that never stands still.

Whether you're a guitarist chasing that perfect sustain, a keyboardist building immersive soundscapes, or a producer crafting tracks on the road, this edition is designed to inspire you to push further.

STAY LOUD. STAY INSPIRED.
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MusicGear

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This magazine is designed to inform, supply, and provide information relating to the industry that we find ourselves in. Some of the material that we have used is resourced from websites around the world to help bring perspective and insight to your business' and your lives. Products highlighted and reviewed may or may not be available, if you have any questions relating to the information herein, please contact us.

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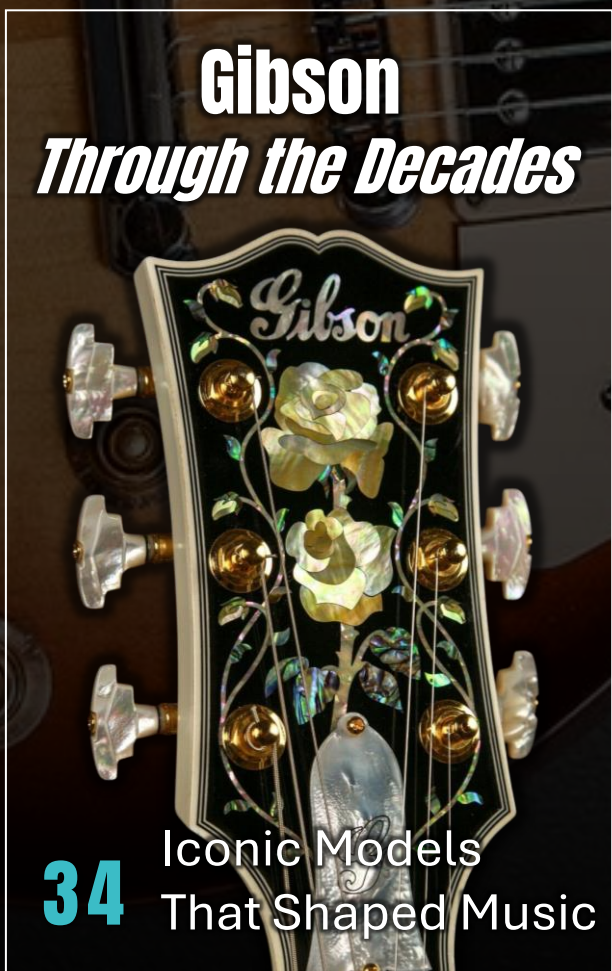


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Gibson

Les Paul Std 50s Heritage Cherry Sunburst

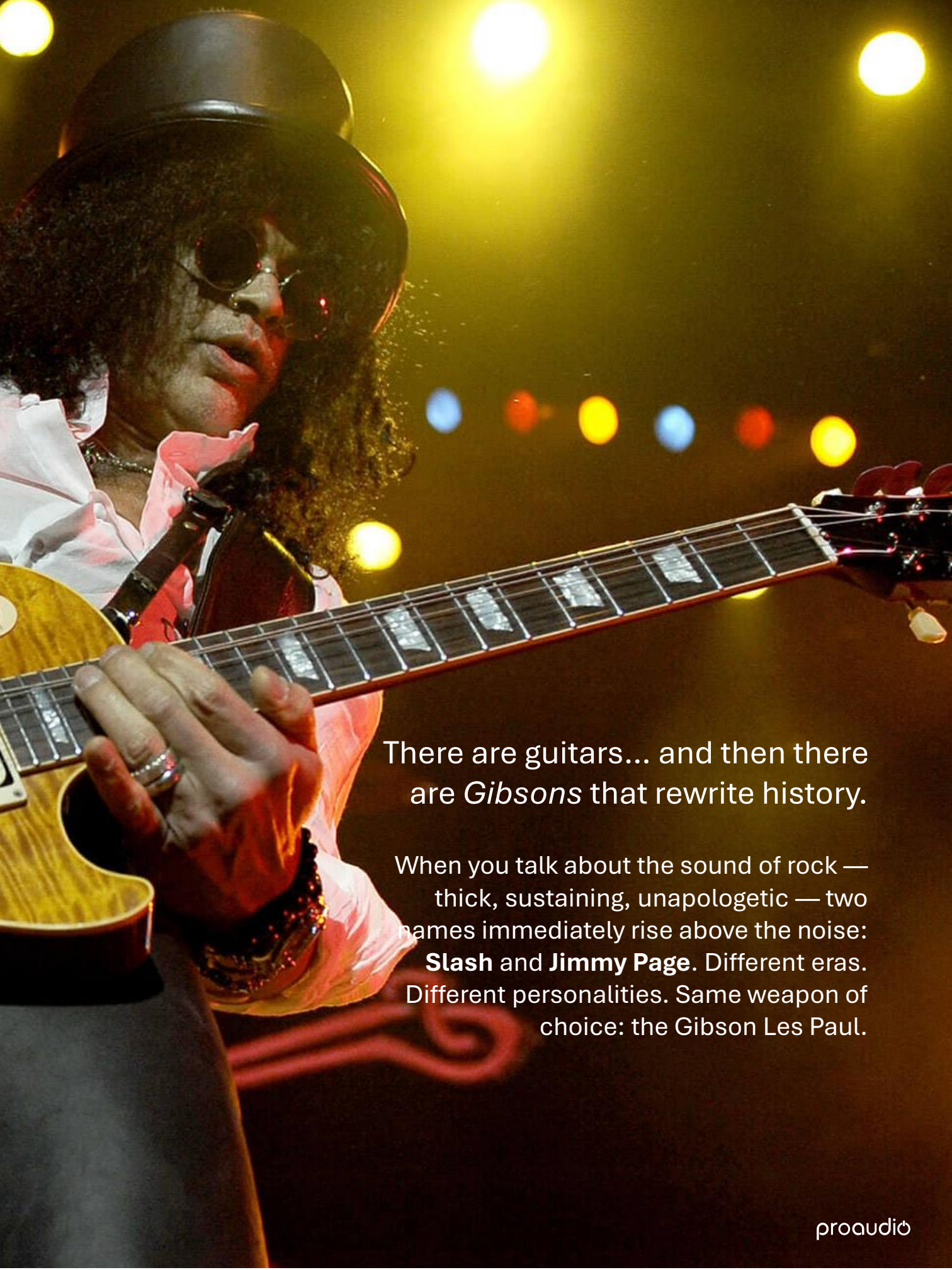
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Six Strings, Two Legends

The Les Paul That
Changed Rock Forever



There are guitars... and then there are *Gibsons* that rewrite history.

When you talk about the sound of rock — thick, sustaining, unapologetic — two names immediately rise above the noise: **Slash** and **Jimmy Page**. Different eras. Different personalities. Same weapon of choice: the Gibson Les Paul.

Let's start with Slash. Before the top hat became legendary and before stadiums were chanting guitar riffs like battle cries, there was a sunburst Les Paul in his hands.

During the recording of *Appetite for Destruction*, Slash used a Les Paul-style guitar loaded with humbuckers that delivered the thick, vocal sustain heard on "Sweet Child O' Mine" and "Welcome to the Jungle." That syrupy lead tone — powerful but expressive — became the blueprint for late '80s rock guitar.



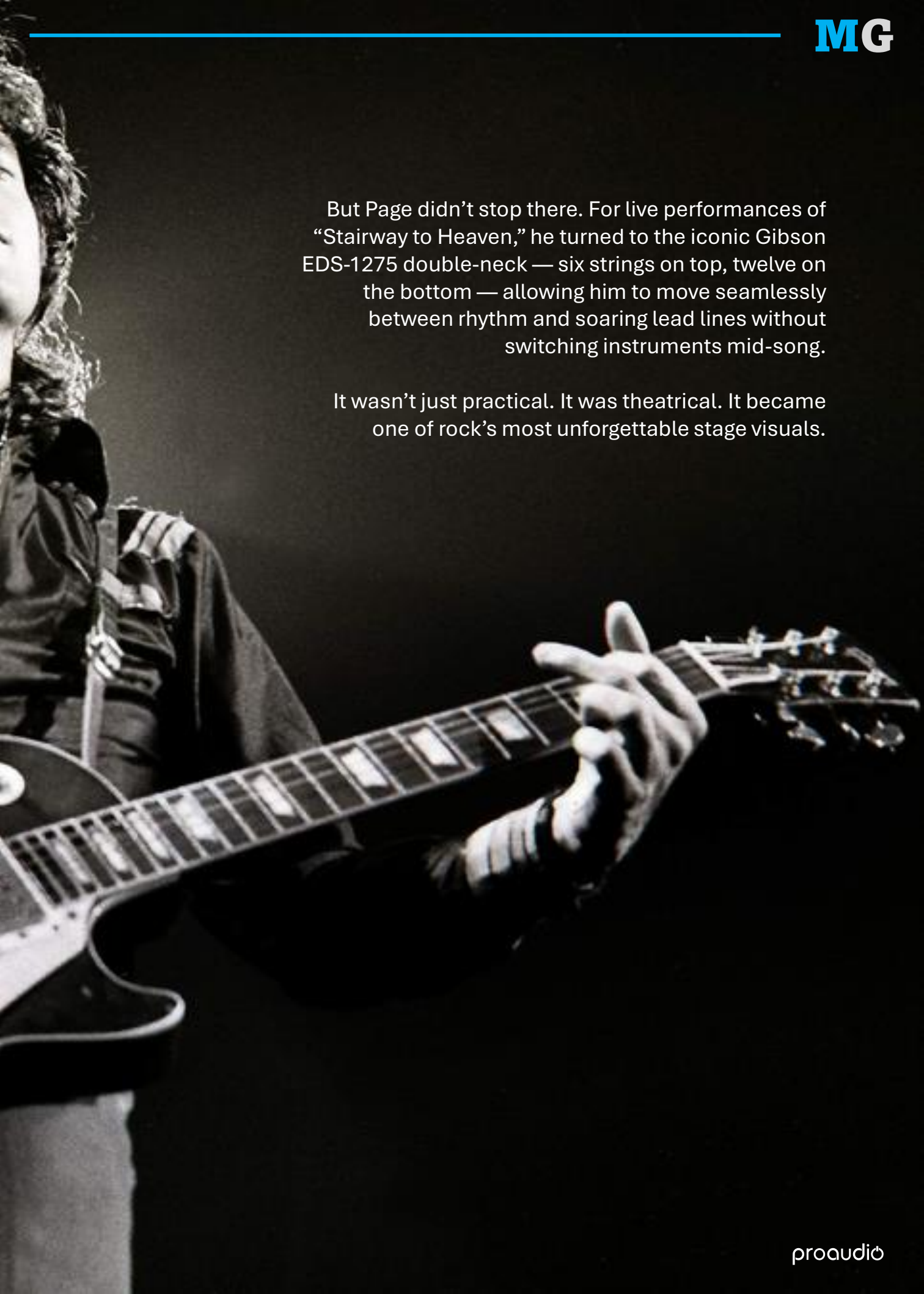


Today, Slash's name is inseparable from the Gibson Les Paul Standard, so much so that multiple signature models exist in the Gibson Artist Collection. His tone isn't just distortion — it's singing sustain built on mahogany warmth and maple snap.

Then there's Jimmy Page. If Slash made the Les Paul scream, Page made it mystical. His 1959 Gibson Les Paul Standard, famously known as "Number 1," powered the sonic landscape of *Led Zeppelin*.

Tracks like "Whole Lotta Love" and "Since I've Been Loving You" showcase what happens when a Les Paul's thick midrange meets creative studio experimentation.



A black and white photograph of a person with long, curly hair playing a double-neck guitar. The person is wearing a dark, long-sleeved shirt. The guitar has two necks, one on top and one on the bottom. The person's hands are positioned on the fretboards. The background is dark, and the lighting highlights the person's hair and the guitar's body.

But Page didn't stop there. For live performances of "Stairway to Heaven," he turned to the iconic Gibson EDS-1275 double-neck — six strings on top, twelve on the bottom — allowing him to move seamlessly between rhythm and soaring lead lines without switching instruments mid-song.

It wasn't just practical. It was theatrical. It became one of rock's most unforgettable stage visuals.

What connects these two legends isn't just fame — it's tone philosophy. The Les Paul platform delivers weight, sustain, and authority.

Mahogany provides depth. The carved maple top adds brightness and definition. Dual humbuckers give that unmistakable growl without losing clarity.

Whether it's Slash bending notes into emotional climaxes or Page layering riffs that feel almost orchestral, the foundation is the same: a guitar built for power and personality.

That's the magic of Gibson. It's not just wood and wire. It's an instrument capable of carrying identity. Decade after decade, the Les Paul hasn't faded into nostalgia — it remains a benchmark.

From smoky blues clubs to stadium stages, it still defines what a rock guitar should feel like in your hands.



Because sometimes,
history isn't written with words.

Sometimes,
it's written with a Les Paul.

Gibson®

LPS500-HS

Les Paul Std 50s Heritage Cherry Sunburst

The Gibson Les Paul Standard '50s in Heritage Cherry Sunburst is not just a guitar — it is a blueprint for rock tone. Built with a solid mahogany body and carved maple top, it delivers the weight, sustain, and authority that defined generations of music.

The '50s neck profile, classic hardware, and vintage-style humbuckers stay true to the golden-era formula that made the Les Paul a legend.



WHY IT'S WORTH IT

This instrument is about uncompromised tone. The combination of mahogany warmth and maple snap produces thick lows, vocal mids, and singing sustain. Its vintage-spec pickups deliver clarity when clean and muscular drive when pushed. Beyond sound, it holds value — both musically and historically — making it a serious investment for players who want authenticity rather than imitation.

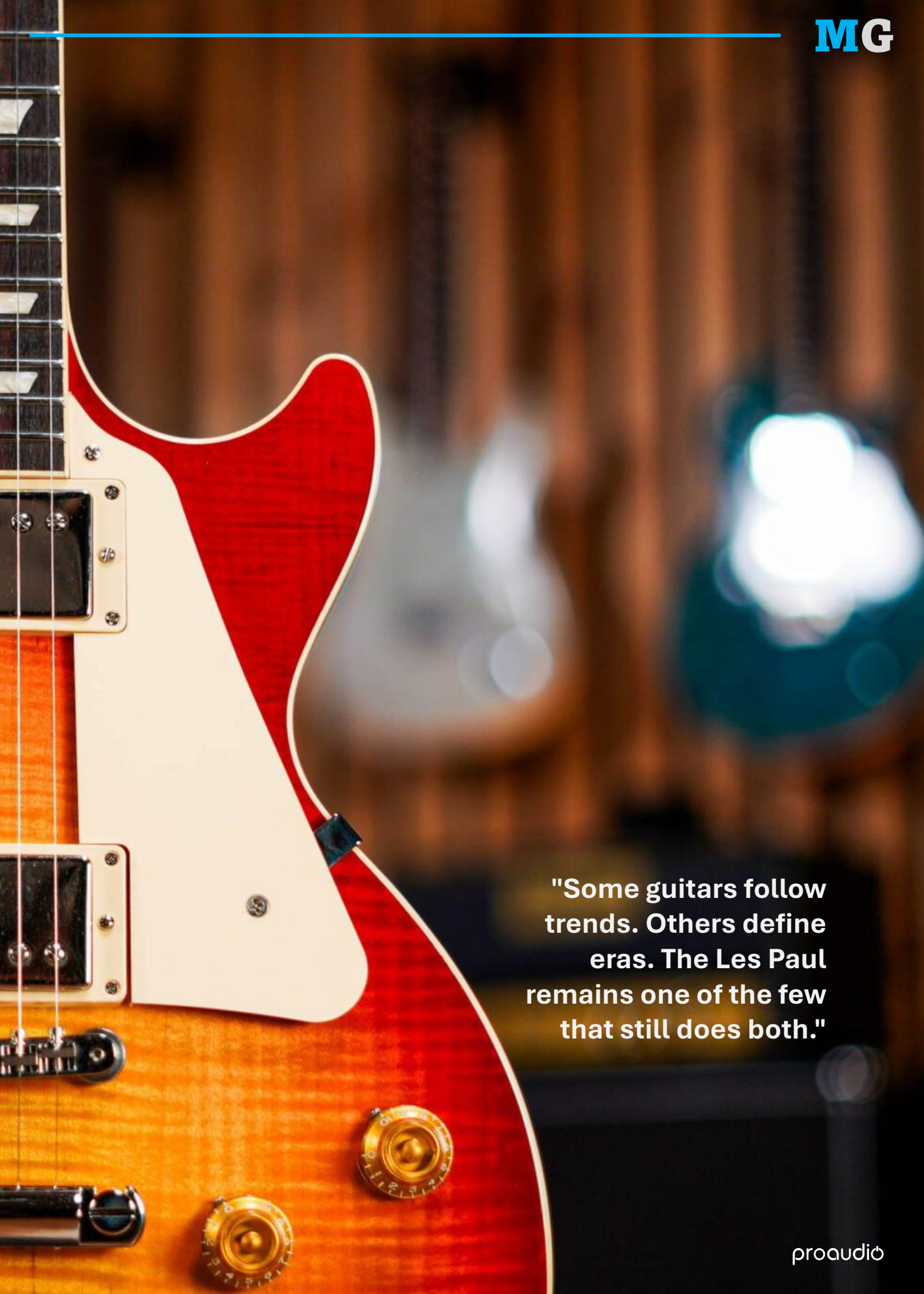
WHAT KIND OF MUSIC IS IT GOOD FOR?

The Les Paul Standard '50s excels in rock, blues, classic rock, hard rock, and even modern alternative styles. It thrives through driven tube amps, delivering creamy leads and powerful rhythm tones, yet remains expressive and dynamic when played clean. If you want sustain that feels endless and chords that carry weight, this is the tool.

WHO WOULD USE IT?

This guitar belongs in the hands of committed players — performing artists, recording professionals, collectors, and tone purists who understand heritage. It's for musicians who don't just want to play songs, but want to stand inside the tradition of those who shaped modern guitar music.





"Some guitars follow trends. Others define eras. The Les Paul remains one of the few that still does both."



**Cut the Cables.
Keep the Clarity.**

There's a moment on stage when cables become the enemy.

You step forward for energy, take a turn toward the drummer, or move into the crowd — and suddenly you're thinking about wires instead of music.

The **SWIFF Audio WX-520 Wireless In-Ear Monitor System** was built to remove that distraction completely.

Using stable 5.8GHz wireless technology, the WX-520 delivers clean, interference-free monitoring with up to 30 meters of range. That means freedom to move without dropouts, hiss, or signal confusion. Whether you're on a small church stage, a club platform, or rehearsing in a tight studio space, your mix stays consistent and clear.

The design is refreshingly practical. The compact bodypack receiver is lightweight and comfortable, while the transmitter doubles as both a charger and a protective storage case. It's efficient, minimal, and built for working musicians who don't want unnecessary bulk. With up to eight hours of battery life, it's ready for full rehearsals, long services, or back-to-back sets without stress.



What makes the WX-520 especially appealing is its simplicity. Plug in, power up, and play. No complicated setup. No technical gymnastics. Just reliable, high-quality monitoring that allows you to focus on pitch, timing, and performance.



For vocalists who need clarity, guitarists who want precise tone, drummers chasing tight timing, or worship teams requiring clean stage sound, this system offers professional-level control in a compact and affordable package.

Because when you can hear yourself clearly, you perform confidently. And when you perform confidently, everything changes.



SWIFF AUDIO
WX520
IN-EAR MONITOR
WIRELESS SYSTEM
WWW.SWIFFAUDIO.COM



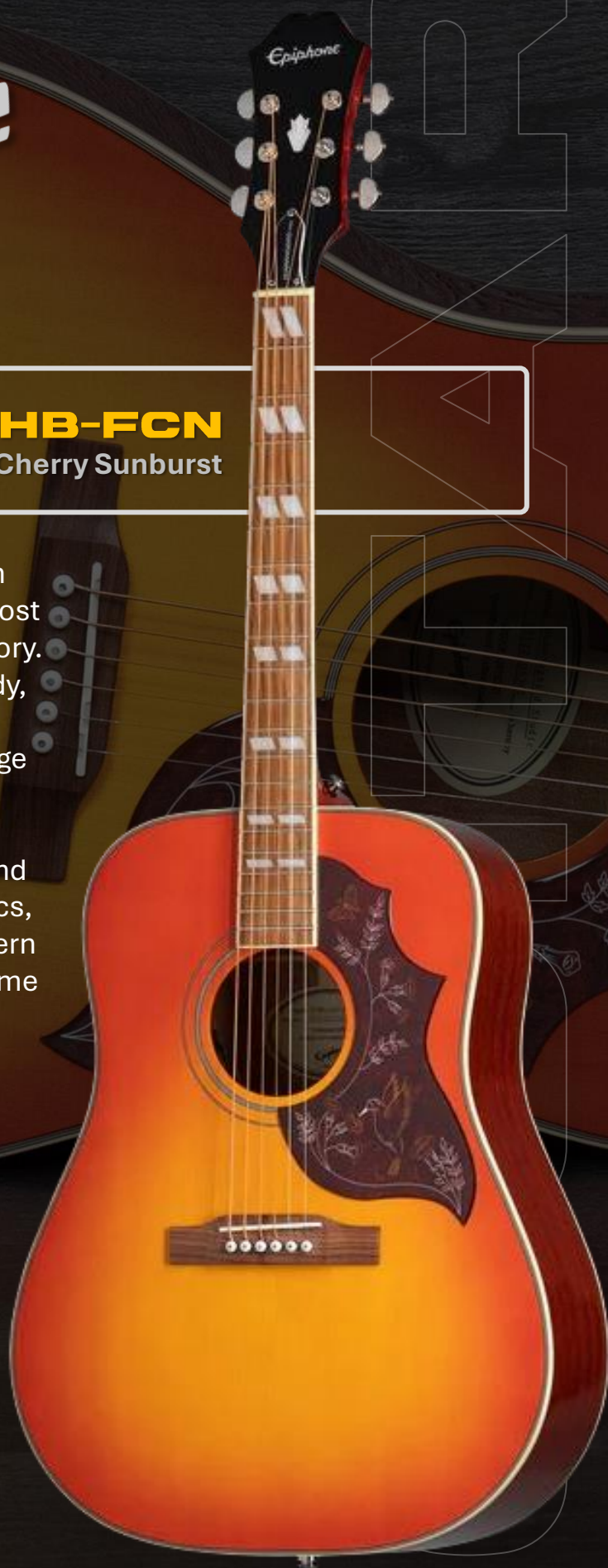
Epiphone

EEHB-FCN

Hummingbird Studio Acoustic/Electric Cherry Sunburst

The Epiphone Hummingbird Studio in Cherry Sunburst carries one of the most recognisable shapes in acoustic history. Its square-shoulder dreadnought body, iconic pickguard design, and rich sunburst finish give it undeniable stage presence.

Built with a solid top for resonance and fitted with reliable onboard electronics, it blends vintage character with modern performance, making it equally at home in the studio, on stage, or in a quiet songwriting space.



WHY IT'S WORTH IT

This guitar delivers real substance where it matters — tone, projection, and reliability. The solid top produces warm, full-bodied resonance, while the built-in pickup system ensures clarity when plugged in. It looks premium, feels balanced, and performs consistently, offering players a professional aesthetic and dependable sound without stepping into boutique price territory.

WHAT KIND OF MUSIC IS IT GOOD FOR?

With its strong low-end warmth and clear midrange, the Hummingbird Studio suits folk, country, singer-songwriter material, worship, and indie acoustic sets. It responds confidently to strumming and remains articulate when fingerpicked, allowing it to sit beautifully in both solo performances and full-band mixes.





WHO WOULD USE IT?

This is a guitar for performers who want visual identity and tonal confidence in one instrument. Singer-songwriters, worship leaders, studio musicians, and serious developing players will appreciate its balance of heritage styling and practical stage functionality.



"An instrument should inspire the next song the moment you pick it up — and some shapes carry more stories than others."

The Epiphone logo is written in a white, stylized, cursive font, slanted upwards from left to right. It is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the page, partially overlapping the background artwork.

ECJHFV-EB

Jimi Hendrix Love Drops Flying V Ebony

The Epiphone Jimi Hendrix “Love Drops” Flying V is more than a guitar—it’s a legacy. Inspired by the original 1967 Flying V Hendrix played during his legendary 1969 U.S. tour, this stunning Ebony-finished V is a tribute to one of the most influential guitarists of all time. It features a set of Epiphone ProBucker™ pickups, a slim taper neck, and the unmistakable psychedelic “Love Drops” artwork recreated with care and reverence.

From its vintage aesthetic to modern playability, this is a guitar built to turn heads and melt faces—exactly the kind of vibe Hendrix would approve of.

**A Guitarist’s
Perspective on a
Psychedelic
Powerhouse**



WHY IT'S WORTH IT

As a guitarist, this model delivers the kind of playability and tonal depth you'd expect from an instrument associated with Hendrix. The ProBuckers handle vintage crunch and creamy sustain with ease, while the Flying V body shape offers excellent upper fret access and an unexpectedly balanced playing experience, whether you're standing or seated.

It's also an instant collector's piece. The artwork, tone, and feel combine into something that's not just beautiful but deeply personal. This isn't a gimmick—this is a serious player's guitar with a design that pays homage without compromising performance.

WHAT KIND OF MUSIC IS IT GOOD FOR?

This axe thrives in classic rock, psychedelic blues, funk, and experimental fusion—but don't be surprised if it pushes you to explore more. The Flying V shape and pickup configuration lend themselves perfectly to expressive lead work, warm cleans, and punchy, articulate gain tones.

Think Hendrix meets modern tone sculpting—perfect for players who live on the edge of tradition and innovation.

"The Love Drops V feels like Hendrix handed it to you mid-set. It's not just a guitar—it's a time machine, a piece of art, and a sonic weapon all in one."

*– Session Guitarist
& Gear Enthusiast*



WHO WOULD USE IT?

This guitar is ideal for:

- **Hendrix fans** wanting a playable piece of history
- **Vintage tone chasers** looking for something with standout style
- **Stage performers** who value visuals as much as tone
- **Lead guitarists** needing fast neck access and vocal sustain
- **Collectors** looking for an affordable, iconic signature model

Epiphone

EILO-HB

Les Paul Classic Honey Burst

The Epiphone Les Paul Classic in Honey Burst delivers one of the most recognisable electric guitar designs in modern music.

With its mahogany body, carved maple top, and timeless single-cut silhouette, it captures the look and feel of a true Les Paul while remaining accessible to serious working musicians.

The Honey Burst finish highlights the figured top beautifully, giving it both vintage charm and stage presence.



WHY IT'S WORTH IT

This guitar offers real Les Paul tone without stepping into premium-tier pricing. The combination of mahogany warmth and maple brightness produces thick rhythm sounds and smooth, sustaining leads. Its humbuckers deliver punch and clarity, whether clean or overdriven, making it reliable for both studio sessions and live shows. For players wanting heritage tone with practical value, it's a smart and inspiring choice.

WHAT KIND OF MUSIC IS IT GOOD FOR?

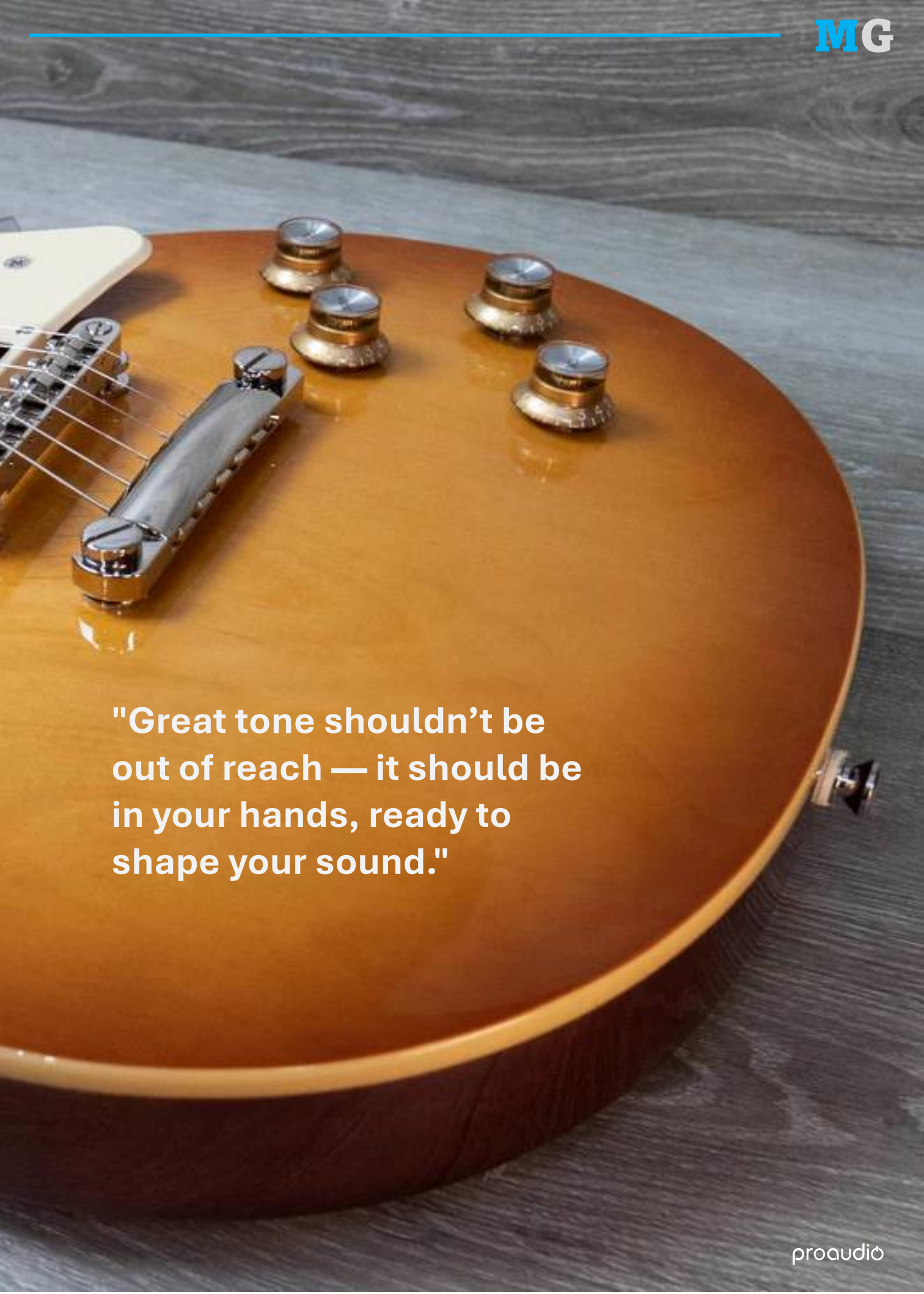
The Les Paul Classic thrives in rock, blues, classic rock, alternative, and heavier modern styles. It handles crunchy rhythm work effortlessly and sings when pushed into lead territory. At the same time, it cleans up well for expressive, dynamic passages, making it versatile across multiple genres.





WHO WOULD USE IT?

This instrument suits ambitious guitarists stepping up from entry-level gear, gigging musicians who need dependable tone, and players who appreciate classic design without chasing collector pricing. It's for those who want the Les Paul experience — feel, weight, sustain, and authority — in a practical, professional package.



"Great tone shouldn't be out of reach — it should be in your hands, ready to shape your sound."

Gibson®

Through the Decades

Iconic Models That Shaped Music



Few names in music evoke the kind of reverence Gibson does.

From the smoky jazz clubs of the 1930s to modern stadium rock stages, Gibson guitars have left their fingerprints on every genre, every revolution, and nearly every major movement in popular music.

Over the decades, Gibson has produced some of the most iconic and genre-defining instruments in history—tools of the trade for legends and future greats alike. Let's take a journey through time and explore the models that didn't just make noise—they made history.



1930s-1940s

Jazz Royalty & Electric Beginnings

Long before the Les Paul made its mark, Gibson was already a trusted name among jazz players.

- L-5 & Super 400 – Large-bodied archtops with lush acoustic tone and exquisite craftsmanship, these were favored by jazz virtuosos.
- ES-150 – Released in 1936, this was one of the first commercial electric guitars. It gained fame thanks to Charlie Christian, whose amp-powered solos changed the course of jazz.



Legacy

Gibson pioneered archtop and electric guitar technology when most were still clinging to acoustics.

1950s

The Birth of the Solid Body – The Les Paul Arrives

In collaboration with guitarist and innovator Les Paul, Gibson released its first solid-body electric guitar in 1952.

- Les Paul Goldtop (1952) – The original, featuring P-90 pickups and a carved maple top.
- Les Paul Custom (1954) – The “Black Beauty” with elegant appointments and dual pickups.
- Les Paul Standard (1958–1960) – With its sunburst finish, humbucking pickups, and flame maple top, this is the holy grail of electric guitars.



Legacy

The Les Paul changed rock forever-its rich, sustain-heavy tone became the gold standard.

1960s

Thin necks, Psychedelia & British Invasion

As music got louder and bolder, so did Gibson.

- SG (1961) – Initially a redesign of the Les Paul, the SG became a hard rock staple thanks to players like Angus Young and Tony Iommi.
- ES-335 (1958) – A semi-hollow marvel that bridged jazz and rock.
- Firebird & Thunderbird (1963) – Bold body shapes, mini-humbuckers, and reverse headstocks.



Legacy

Gibson became the choice of rebels, innovators, and British invaders. Think Eric Clapton, Keith Richards, and George Harrison.

1970s

Power, Attitude & Arena Rock

Gibson rode the wave of rock's golden era with grit and power.

- Les Paul Deluxe & Custom – Embraced by players like Pete Townshend and Randy Rhoads.
- Flying V & Explorer – Futuristic, aggressive guitars for metal and hard rock.
- Marauder & S-1 – Short-lived models that experimented with Fender-style features.



Legacy

The sound of rock 'n roll rebellion-thick, distorted, and unapologetic.

1980s

Return to Roots & Shred Culture

While the hair metal scene exploded, Gibson stayed grounded in classic tone—but also explored modern styles.

- Les Paul Standard Reissues – A nod to the revered '58-'60 models.
- Chet Atkins & Studio Series – Diversifying into country and studio-friendly builds.
- Jimmy Page, Slash & Zakk Wylde – Brought the Les Paul back into the spotlight for a new generation.



Legacy

Gibson balanced heritage and shred, helping to define rock's next evolution.

1990s-2000s

Revival, Reissues & Custom Shop Glory

As grunge and alternative music rose, so did the demand for authentic tone and vintage style.

- Historic Reissue Series – Accurate recreations of the legendary '59 LPs.
- Signature Models – From BB King's Lucille to Gary Moore's Les Paul.
- Robot Guitar (2007) – Gibson dabbled in auto-tuning tech with mixed reactions.

Legacy

A golden era for collectors and tone purists alike.



2010s-2020s

Tradition Meets Innovation

The last two decades have seen Gibson walk a tightrope between tradition and technology.

- Les Paul Tribute & Modern Series – Weight relief, slim necks, and player-friendly upgrades.
- Custom Shop Masterpieces – Museum-grade recreations for collectors.
- Gibson App & Play Series – New educational tools and beginner models to invite fresh players.



Legacy

Gibson continues to adapt while honouring the sound and style that made it legendary.

From jazz standards to stadium anthems, from bluesy bends to brutal riffs, Gibson guitars have shaped every corner of the musical world. Each decade tells a story of evolution, risk, reinvention-and above all, tone.



Whether you're holding a vintage '59, an Epiphone sibling, or a modern SG, you're holding a piece of history.



In Conversation with:



MICHAEL WILSON-TROLLIP

From Studio Precision to Stadium Energy

Cape Town–based keyboardist, composer, music director and producer **Michael Wilson-Trollip** is no stranger to musical evolution.

Equally at home behind a grand piano, programming synth textures backstage, or directing high-energy live productions, Michael has built a career that bridges technical mastery with creative instinct.

Over the past year, his journey has been nothing short of dynamic. From film and television scoring to musically directing GoodLuck's explosive December and January show season, he has demonstrated a rare ability to merge electronic production with live musicianship in seamless, high-impact performances.

Whether crafting arrangements on the road using streamlined setups built around instruments like the **Nord Lead A1** and **Nord Electro**, or executing complex theatre productions with over 180 patch changes from a single keyboard, Michael represents the modern musician: adaptable, technically sharp, and relentlessly creative.

Now, as he steps into a new chapter producing and promoting his own TOTO Experience Tribute Show, Michael continues to expand his creative footprint — proving that excellence in music isn't just about performance, but about vision, preparation and courage.

[In this exclusive interview](#), Proaudio sits down with Michael to unpack mobility in production, the realities of South Africa's music industry, the pressure of live musical direction, and what it takes to balance artistry with technical precision.



**MICHAEL
WILSON-TROLLIP**

MG Welcome back, Michael - it's great to have you with us again. How have you been since we last connected?



It's always such a pleasure chatting to everyone at MusicGear Magazine.

Honestly, it's been a bit of a whirlwind. This year is shaping up to be really exciting — lots of shows, new projects, more content creation and even a brand-new show that I'm producing myself. It feels like a year of stepping into some new spaces while still doing the things I love.

MG Over the past year or so, what areas of your music career have you been focusing on the most?



Interestingly, the year started very studio-focused and by the end of it I was almost entirely in the live performance and music-direction world. It was a real reminder of how adaptable you have to be in this industry — and especially in South Africa.

The film and TV sector slowed down quite a bit last year, so I was incredibly grateful that live performance opened up at exactly the right time. What's been encouraging is that the TV world now seems to be coming back stronger than ever, so I'm finding a balance between the two again.





MG Have there been any creative shifts or new techniques you've been experimenting with recently in your composing or production work?



The biggest shift has honestly been mobility. With all the travelling, I've had to rethink what a "studio" actually means.

I've been working primarily on a laptop and a Nord Lead A1 because it's lightweight and reliable and I've had to strip my setup down to only what's truly essential — fewer sample libraries, fewer external drives and systems that can even run from a power bank for remote shows. The goal has been to make every track, arrangement, and mix sound as though it was produced in a proper studio, even if it was finished backstage minutes before walking out in front of 5,000 people.

It definitely makes you appreciate how productive a quiet studio environment is — but there's also a unique adrenaline rush exporting an Ableton session while Pro Tools is open next to you under a stage just before a performance.



MG Looking back on this recent chapter of your journey, what moments stand out as especially meaningful or transformative for you?



Touring with GoodLuck has been incredibly inspiring for me creatively. I had the opportunity to musically direct their December and January show season and working in the EDM space — while bridging it with live musicians — felt like a dream project.

It stretched me in a new way, because you're not only thinking musically, but also about energy, pacing, and how an audience experiences a show. Every performance felt slightly divergent and I learned a huge amount about connecting technology and musicianship in a live setting.

MG You've been active both in studio environments and on stage - which recent performance or project left the biggest impression on you?



What's surprised me most is how symbiotic the two worlds have become. Many of the studio opportunities I've received recently actually came directly from relationships built in the live performance environment. I'd say the most recent run of shows over December and January with GoodLuck has had the biggest impact! The connections you make on stage and backstage are incredibly important.

People get to see how you work under pressure, how you collaborate and how you solve problems in real time — and those relationships often lead to studio projects later. It really reinforced for me that this industry runs on trust as much as it does on skill.

MG You work across many areas of music and sound - which role do you feel has challenged or inspired you the most lately?



I'm currently performing in a theatre production running in Cape Town and then moving to Montecasino. It has probably been one of the most technically demanding roles I've done. I'm emotively covering the parts of multiple musicians on a single keyboard — over 180 patch changes across guitars, orchestral textures, strings, woodwinds, harp parts, percussion elements, and even sound emits like birds embedded in the music.

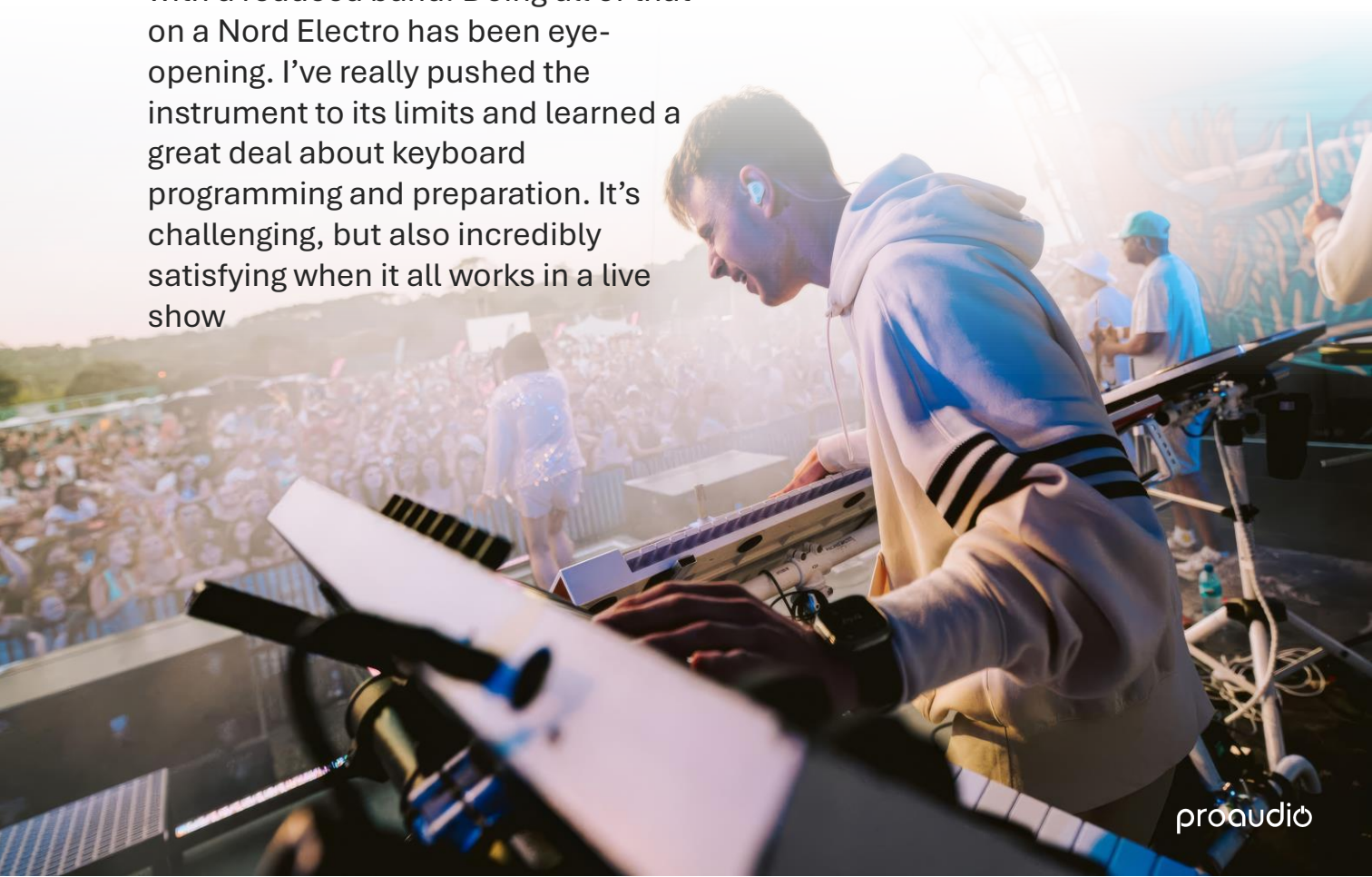
The aim is to recreate a full ensemble with a reduced band. Doing all of that on a Nord Electro has been eye-opening. I've really pushed the instrument to its limits and learned a great deal about keyboard programming and preparation. It's challenging, but also incredibly satisfying when it all works in a live show

MG What accomplishment or opportunity in the past year has felt most rewarding personally or professionally?



I actually scrolled through my camera roll — which has basically become my CV — and realised how many meaningful moments there have been. But musically directing GoodLuck's December and January show season stands out the most.

It was a big responsibility and a huge amount of trust placed in me, and that meant a lot. Being given creative control over something at that scale was both challenging and deeply rewarding.



MG Looking ahead, what goals or creative directions are you most excited to explore next?



There's a project I've been quietly planning for about two years that is finally happening this year — a TOTO Experience Tribute Show. It will feature some of the best session musicians around coming together to celebrate the music and musicianship of that catalogue.

What makes it particularly meaningful for me is that I'm not only performing — I'm also stepping into the role of producer and promoter for the first time. It's a bit daunting, but also very exciting.

I've always admired how those records were made and the musicians behind them, so this feels like a full-circle creative project for me.



“Preparation gives you freedom — when the groundwork is solid, you can create fearlessly on stage.”


MICHAEL
WILSON-TROLLIP



Electro Evolution



nord electro 6 HP
HAMMER ACTION PORTABLE 73



nord electro 7 HP
KAWAI HAMMER ACTION PORTABLE 73

When Nord players talk gear that feels right on stage, they mean keyboards that balance tone, touch, and workflow. Both the Electro 6 HP and the newly released Electro 7 HP are designed for live and studio performance — but the jump from 6 to 7 is more than just a number. It's a step into greater sonic versatility and deeper control without losing the Electro line's signature simplicity.

The Electro 6 HP established itself as a dependable performance instrument built around three dedicated sound sections: Piano, Organ, and Sample Synth. Its 73-note hammer-action keybed offers a balanced, expressive feel while keeping the instrument portable enough for regular gigging.

Players could split and layer sounds easily, access effects quickly, and rely on classic Nord piano and organ tones that cut through any mix. It became a workhorse for worship teams, touring musicians, and studio professionals alike.

The Electro 7 HP takes that trusted foundation and expands it. The most significant upgrade is a far more powerful Synth Section, adding advanced sound-shaping tools including expanded waveforms, FM capabilities, and deeper filter control. This allows players to move beyond sampled textures into more dynamic, synthesised tones.

A larger colour display improves navigation, making complex splits and layers more intuitive during live performance. The organ section also benefits from refined drawbar control with LED indicators, while effects routing has been enhanced to allow greater tonal sculpting per section.

In practical application, the Electro 6 HP is ideal for players who primarily need authentic pianos, classic organs, and reliable split setups for live worship, cover bands, and straightforward gigging environments where speed and simplicity matter.

The Electro 7 HP, on the other hand, opens the door for more experimental layering, modern worship soundscapes, pop productions, theatre work, and studio sessions where evolving synth textures and deeper tonal shaping become part of the performance.



If your role is to recreate trusted sounds night after night, the 6 HP remains a dependable choice; if you're building immersive sonic environments and pushing beyond traditional keyboard duties, the 7 HP offers significantly more creative headroom.

Both instruments feature a 73-note hammer-action keybed, but the Electro 7 HP introduces a refined triple-sensor action for smoother response and improved dynamic control — particularly noticeable in nuanced piano passages.

The Electro 6 HP remains a reliable, straightforward stage keyboard built for classic tones and efficient workflow. The Electro 7 HP builds on that legacy by offering deeper synthesis, expanded control, and a more modern performance interface. One is a proven professional standard; the other is its more powerful, future-ready successor.



For players choosing between them, the question isn't whether they sound great — both do. The real question is how much sonic depth and flexibility you want at your fingertips.

TAKING THE STAGE with Red Confidence

nord piano 6

There are instruments you play in a room, and then there are instruments you take onto a stage and trust with your whole performance. The Nord Piano 6 firmly belongs in the second category. From the moment you see that unmistakable red chassis under the stage lights, you know it's built for more than just practice—it's built to perform.



For many South African gigging musicians, a stage piano is often about compromise.

You want authentic acoustic tones but also the flexibility of layering, splits, and effects that can handle everything from a church service to a jazz festival, a theatre pit to a rock gig. The Nord Piano 6 doesn't feel like a compromise—it feels like the standard.

The first thing you notice on stage is how alive the acoustic piano sounds are. Nord has spent years refining their sample libraries, and the Piano 6 takes full advantage.

If you're playing delicate ballads where every note needs to shimmer with emotion, or hammering out big chords in a band mix, the response is immediate and natural. The weighted keybed is expressive, balancing that grand piano feel with the kind of sensitivity you need when dynamics matter most.

But where the Nord really shines live is in its workflow. On stage, no one wants to be scrolling through endless menus while the audience waits. The Piano 6 is intuitive. With real buttons, knobs, and switches, you can layer a Rhodes over a string pad, add reverb, or split the keyboard for left-hand bass and right-hand piano—all in seconds.



There's also the reliability factor.

Anyone who gigs in South Africa knows the fear of power surges, dodgy gear, or sudden technical hiccups. Nord pianos have earned a reputation for being rock-solid.

The Piano 6 is light enough to carry into venues but sturdy enough to withstand life on the road. That's worth its weight in gold when you're loading in and out of clubs, theatres, or outdoor festivals.

Then there's the presence. It's hard to explain, but when a Nord is on stage, it looks like it belongs there. The red finish is instantly iconic, and audiences notice it. For many, it has become a sign of quality—an unspoken guarantee that the music is in good hands.

For the gigging pianist, the Nord Piano 6 isn't just an instrument, it's a partner. It handles the pressure, adapts to the moment, and delivers sound that inspires confidence.

Whether you're holding down the groove in a band, accompanying a singer, or stepping out for a solo performance, this piano elevates the experience—for you and for the audience.

That kind of flexibility means you can adapt mid-song, responding to the vibe of the room and the band without breaking flow.



Taking the stage is always a leap of faith. With the Nord Piano 6, it feels more like a leap you're destined to land.

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VIRTUAL HAMMER ACTION TECHNOLOGY 73



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