

Redefining South African Jazz for a New Generation

Gibson Les Paul

Epiphone Les Paul What's the REAL DIFFERENCE? The Return of the GIBSON SG Vintage Looks, Modern Power



**Getting the most out of your Nord Library** 

The Nord Sound Library, a sonic treasure chest waiting to be explored.

**WE INTERVIEW: Bokani Dyer – Curt Petrus – Mikyle Daries** 

MG Play it. Feel it. Live it.

# NOVEMBER EDITION OF PROAUDIO MUSICGEAR MAGAZINE

Welcome to another inspiring edition of Proaudio MusicGear Magazine — where passion, creativity, and innovation meet at the heart of music. Each month, we celebrate the artists, producers, and creators who continue to shape the sound of South Africa and beyond. From stage to studio, our mission is to tell their stories, share their journeys, and spotlight the gear that makes their artistry possible.

In this issue, we dive deep into the world of musicians who push boundaries and redefine what it means to create. You'll meet extraordinary talents like Bokani Dyer, Jamie-Lee Sexton, Mikyle Daries, and Curt Petrus, each bringing their own rhythm, message, and mastery to the forefront of modern music.

Alongside their stories, we explore the latest in pro audio and musical instruments, from the powerful Blackstar UNITY-120 to Gibson and Epiphone's timeless guitars — gear that continues to inspire the sound of a generation.

Whether you're a performer, producer, or passionate listener, we hope this edition reminds you why music remains one of humanity's greatest connections — a universal language that moves us, unites us, and keeps us dreaming.

#### STAY LOUD. STAY INSPIRED.

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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.

## Proaudio MusicGear November 2025 Edition

"Inspiration, innovation, and the sound of possibilities"

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#### The Return of the GIBSON SG

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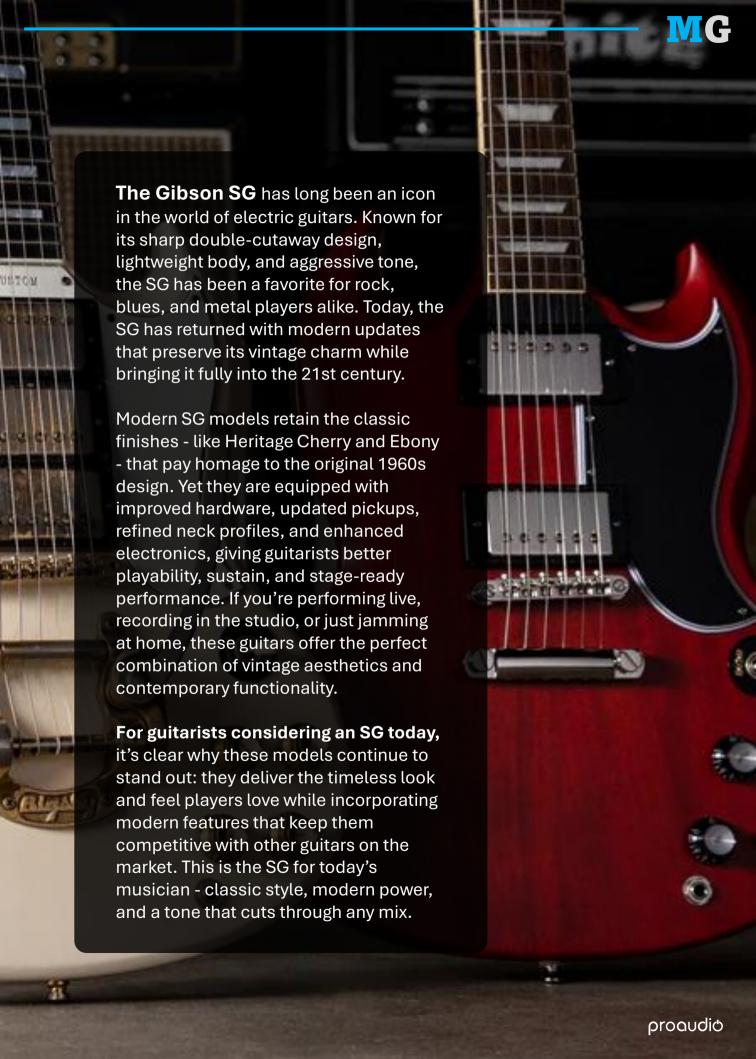
Take Control of Your Tone with the Gibson Maestro Arcas Compressor Sustainer

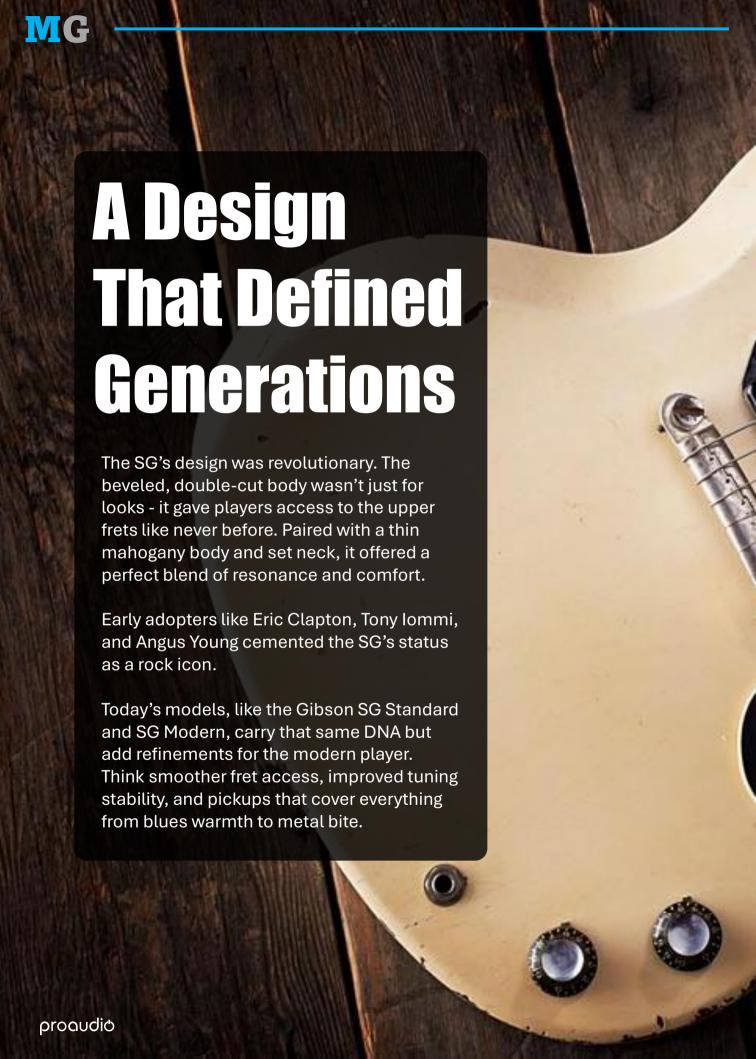


**64** Blackstar UNITY-120

Packing 120 watts of clean, controlled power through a custom 12-inch Eminence speaker, it delivers a sound that's tight, full, and responsive.







# Vintage Soul, Modern Engineering

Gibson has stayed true to the SG's heritage while enhancing performance. The SG Standard features:

- 490R and 490T humbuckers that deliver balanced output and a classic PAF-style tone.
- Rounded mahogany neck for comfort and vintage feel.
- Graph Tech nut and Grover tuners for solid tuning stability.
- Slim body and light weight, making it perfect for gigging musicians.

Meanwhile, the SG Modern adds a contemporary edge with an asymmetrical neck profile, compound radius fingerboard, and push-pull coil-tapping, expanding the tonal palette from pure vintage crunch to crisp, modern cleans.



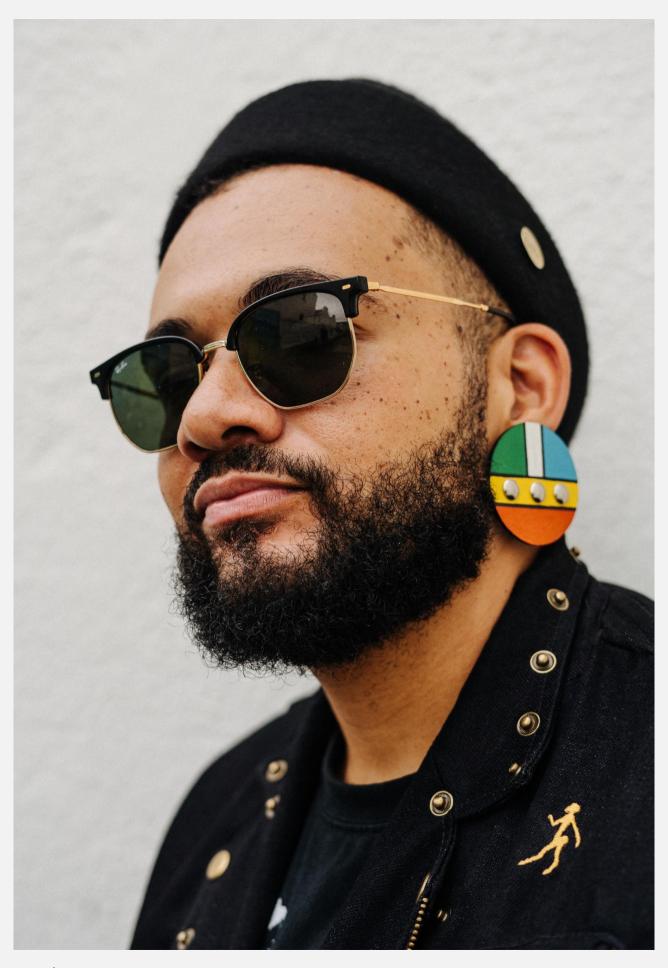
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In the end, the Gibson SG isn't just a guitar reborn — it's a legacy reimagined. It reminds us that true innovation doesn't mean abandoning the past, but refining it for the present. With every note struck and every riff unleashed, the SG continues to bridge generations of players, carrying forward the raw energy and rebellious spirit that defined rock 'n' roll itself.

The legend lives on — sharper, louder, and more alive than ever.









# Bokani Dyer

Redefining South African Jazz for a New Generation

Few artists embody the evolution of modern South African jazz quite like **Bokani Dyer**. A pianist, composer, and producer of rare sensitivity and range, Dyer's music bridges eras, styles, and continents—seamlessly blending the soul of traditional jazz with contemporary rhythms, African textures, and heartfelt storytelling. Born in Botswana and raised in Johannesburg, his journey from the classrooms of the University of Cape Town to international festival stages has been marked by curiosity, courage, and constant reinvention.

With multiple awards to his name, including the **Standard Bank Young Artist for Jazz** and the **SAMRO Overseas Scholarship**, Dyer has released a string of acclaimed albums such as *Neo Native*, *Kelenosi*, and *Radio Sechaba* under Gilles Peterson's Brownswood Recordings label. Now preparing for two new releases in 2026—one recorded with his New York–based trio and another following up *Radio Sechaba*—Bokani continues to explore sound as both a cultural conversation and a personal reflection.

In this exclusive **Proaudio MusicGear Magazine** interview, we sit down with Bokani to talk about his creative journey, his evolving sound, the beauty of collaboration, and how he continues to push the boundaries of jazz while staying true to his South African roots.





You've worked with many acclaimed artists both locally and internationally. How do collaborations influence your approach to composition and performance?

Collaborations are a special part of what I do. It is always interesting to delve into

another artist's musical mind and I find that this takes me on paths I wouldn't necessarily have walked without the collaboration. It is fascinating to see another way of looking at things and another way of approaching Music.

Your work often blends traditional jazz, soul, and groove-based rhythms. How do you approach combining these elements while maintaining a distinct South African musical identity?



I'm not always conscious of what the end result is going to be when I'm creating a piece of

music. I believe that the music I create is a reflection of who I am - my journey and my path and so the sounds that have influenced me somehow find their way into the compositions. I also like to experiment by blending different sounds together to create a new sound that I haven't heard before.

Can you tell us about your upcoming 2026 release and the themes or ideas you are exploring in this project?

I'm planning for two releases in 2026 a trio album that are recorded in the states with my trio that's based in New York and also a follow-up EP to my 2023 album radio Sechaba which showcases more of my songwriting. The themes I explore on the trio album are looking at various musical traditions and how to translate them into a contemporary sound. The EP is speaking about everyday life and the issues that we face as people.

Having released albums like Radio Sechaba, Neo Native, and Kelenosi, how has your approach to composing and producing evolved for this upcoming release?



I believe that as artists and humans we are constantly learning and evolving and so I

feel that with every release or project I am developing and evolving and so I believe this will be evident in the final product. What I do maintain throughout most of my project is the genre blending approach where I'm drawing from different styles of music to create a unique sound.

Will your 2026 release feature any new collaborations or experimental sounds that listeners might not have heard in your previous work?



Yes I do have some exciting features planned for the upcoming releases I don't

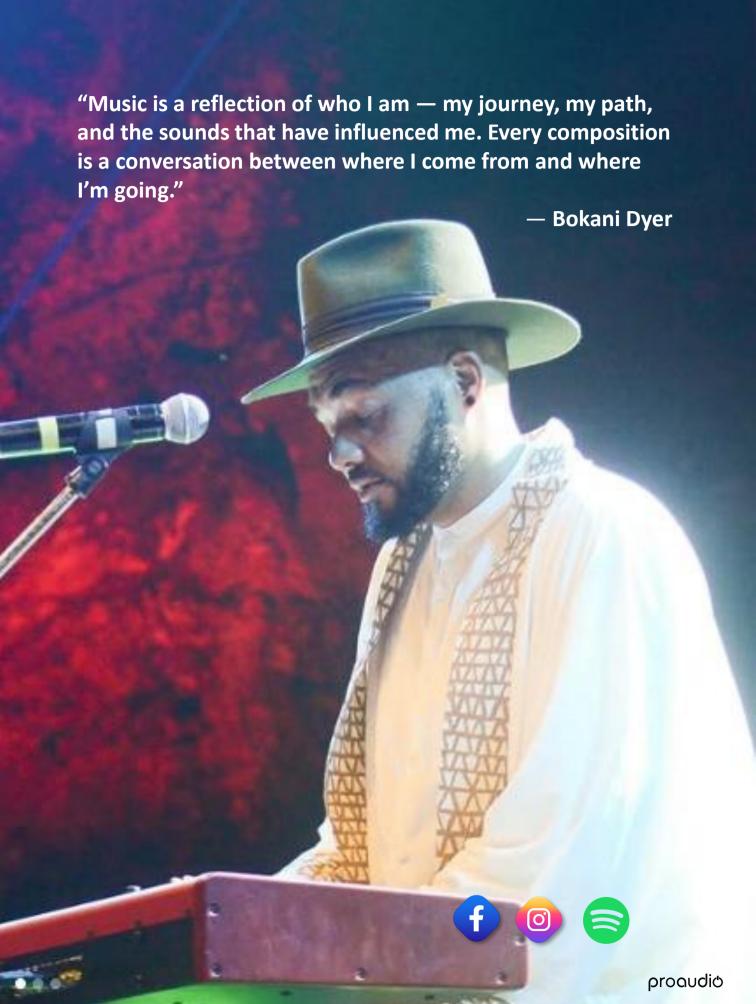
want to give any names away just yet but I am really excited about the collaborations. There are definitely some surprises in the new releases and I'm looking forward to people hearing the new music.

Beyond this release, what are some directions or projects you are excited to explore in your music career, both locally and internationally?



Moving forward I'd like to focus on these two projects - the trio and the radio Sechaba

project - and perform this music locally and internationally and really develop the sound of both. The two projects represent different sides of my musicality which are equally important and I'm looking forward to what is in store in the future.





## Gibson Les Paul VS · Epiphone Les Paul

# What's the REAL DIFFERENCE?





#### in the guitar world spark as much debate as **Gibson**

Few comparisons

## Les Paul vs.

#### **Epiphone Les Paul.**

They share the same shape, spirit, and even the same parent company yet they exist in entirely different price brackets. So, what actually separates these two iconic instruments?

#### **Build and Craftsmanship**

The Gibson Les Paul is built in the USA, crafted from premium tonewoods like solid mahogany with a maple cap, often featuring luxurious flame tops and nitrocellulose finishes that age beautifully. Each is hand-fitted, polished, and inspected by experienced luthiers.

By contrast, the Epiphone Les Paul, made in modern factories in China, uses mahogany and maple veneers or weight-relieved designs, making it lighter and more affordable.

While it may not have the same intricate detailing or hand finishing, Epiphone's build quality has improved dramatically in recent years - especially in the Inspired by Gibson line.



# **Electronics and Tone**

Gibson Les Paul: Equipped with Burstbucker, 490R/498T, or Custombucker pickups, it delivers rich, warm mids, clear highs, and that unmistakable Les Paul sustain. Hand-wired electronics and highquality pots ensure subtle tonal control.

Epiphone Les Paul: Uses ProBucker or Alnico Classic humbuckers, modeled closely after Gibson's PAFs. These pickups are remarkably articulate and powerful for their price point, giving players a genuine Les Paul tone that's ideal for both studio and stage.

Plugged into a good amp, the Gibson tends to have more depth, harmonic complexity, and dynamic response, while the Epiphone delivers an impressively authentic version - slightly brighter, slightly less resonant, but still every bit a Les Paul.





#### Price, Feel, and Playability

The Gibson Les Paul can range anywhere from R40,000 to well over R100,000, depending on the model and finish. The Epiphone Les Paul typically costs a fraction of that, between R8,000 and R20,000, making it the go-to for students, hobbyists, and working musicians who want professional tone without the premium tag.

Gibson necks tend to have a more rounded, vintage feel, while Epiphone models often use slimmer profiles for modern comfort. The weight difference also plays a big role - many players prefer the lighter Epiphone for long gigs.

#### The **Final Verdict**

If you crave heritage, handcrafted quality, and subtle tonal richness - Gibson is the holy grail.

If you want unbeatable value, authentic style, and rock-solid performance - Epiphone is the smarter choice.

Ultimately, both carry the Les Paul legacy. One's a luxury experience, the other a practical powerhouse. Either way, when you pick up that single-cut shape and strike a chord, you're part of the same story - six strings of pure history.



# SOUND DESIGN SECRETS

proaudio



# GETTING THE MOST Out of Your Nord Library

If there's one keyboard brand that has achieved near-mythical status among live performers, it's Nord.

Their striking red panels have become synonymous with reliability, rich sound, and intuitive control.

But beyond the performance-ready interface lies a deep world of creative potential - the Nord Sound Library, a sonic treasure chest waiting to be explored.

### Unlocking the Power of the Nord Sound Manager

Every Nord comes with a robust library of pianos, synths, and samples, but the real magic begins with Nord Sound Manager - the software that lets you take full control.

#### Here you can:

- Load new sounds from the Nord Piano, Sample, or Synth libraries.
- Back up your existing setup.
- Reorganize your patches for different gigs or sessions.

The interface is incredibly simple: drag, drop, rename, and you're ready to go. You can store entire libraries organized by genre - jazz, gospel, pop, or electronic - so your keyboard is always ready for the next show.



### Sculpting Tone with Effects and Morph

Nord's effects section is famously musical. You're not just adding reverb or delay - you're shaping mood and depth. Try:

- Drive + Compression for classic Rhodes grit.
- Chorus and Phaser for vintage analog warmth.
- Delay + Reverb for atmospheric ambient textures.

And don't overlook Morph Assignments - **Nord's secret weapon.** With a simple press, you can assign parameters (volume, filter cutoff, effect depth) to a mod wheel, control pedal, or aftertouch. This turns static sounds into expressive performances that respond to your playing.

#### **Keep It Fresh: The Power of Updates**

Nord regularly releases new sounds through their official website, from sampled grand pianos and uprights to Mellotron strings and analog synth patches. Regularly updating your keyboard ensures your sound palette stays current and inspiring.

#### **Crafting Your Signature Sound**

At its core, Nord is about individuality. No two players use it quite the same way. The key is experimentation - layering unconventional sounds, adjusting filters, and saving your own patches. Over time, you'll develop a collection that reflects your personal musical voice.



#### The takeaway

The Nord Sound Library isn't just a preset collection - it's an ever-expanding toolkit for creativity.

Once you master its potential, you'll find that every performance, every session, and every song can sound uniquely yours.





#### WHY IT'S WORTH IT

This guitar delivers premium features at an accessible price. The Fishman Fluence pickups provide three voicings via push/pull controls, letting players switch between classic, high-output, and single-coil tones with ease.

Combined with Grover locking tuners, a Graph Tech nut, and a LockTone bridge, it's built for stability, precision, and lasting performance. The Extura Prophecy's blend of craftsmanship, tone, and reliability makes it an exceptional choice for players who want professional quality without the premium price tag.

#### WHAT KIND OF MUSIC IS IT GOOD FOR?

The Extura Prophecy thrives in hard rock, metal, and progressive genres, where clarity, punch, and sustain are essential. Its tonal flexibility also makes it suitable for blues, pop, and fusion, offering clean dynamics and expressive warmth.

Whether you're tracking in the studio or commanding a live stage, this guitar adapts effortlessly to your creative needs.







# MG nordczd progudio

# Gurt Petrus A Life in Harmony

Proaudio MusicGear Magazine interview,
Curt opens up about his beginnings, his experiences with musical greats, the lessons learned through teaching, and how he continues to live out his belief that music truly has the power to change lives.

From humble beginnings in Wynberg, Cape Town, **Curt Petrus** has grown into one of South Africa's most respected keyboardists, composers, and music directors. Born into a musical family, his journey began—quite literally—on pots and pans before blossoming into a lifelong passion for the piano. What started as playful rhythm soon evolved into purpose, leading him to study Piano, Music Theory, and Music Business at the Campus of Performing Arts, where he developed the technical and creative foundation that would shape his career.

Curt's versatility has seen him perform alongside some of South Africa's most celebrated musicians, including Jonathan Butler, Gerald Albright, Ernie Smith, and the late Lulu Dikana, with whom he served as music director and shared unforgettable moments on stage. Beyond performing, Curt has also shaped the next generation of musicians through his work as a lecturer at the National School of the Arts and Rhema South Music Academy.

Today, as a member of the popular cover band **Dolce Vita**—whose hit rendition of "Ain't Gonna Hurt Nobody" made it to Heart FM's Top 10—Curt continues to captivate audiences across the country. His story is one of passion, purpose, and perseverance—a reminder that music isn't just sound, but a language that connects hearts and transforms lives.

Curt, you were born in Wynberg, Cape Town, and grew up in a musical family - can you tell us more about those early days and what first sparked your passion for music?



Being born in a musical family definitely shaped me musically especially being

able to develop my ear and being comfortable on stage. I also grew up in church and was eager to play drums or piano at every opportunity that I got. What sparked my passion was that music has so much emotions and I loved the way that made me feel.

You started playing drums on pots and pans as a child and later developed a love for piano and keyboard. What drew you to these instruments in particular?



Most kid's when they young are just drawn to drums.
There's just something about

playing a groove on the drums. I was however drawn to the piano and keyboard because of the harmony and emotion you can get from playing it. Also there's not much to carry when you play Piano and Keyboard lol.





Studying Piano, Music
Theory, and Music Business
at the Campus of Performing Arts
must have shaped your musical
journey - what were some of the
most valuable lessons you took
from that time?

I learned so much from studying at Campus of Performing Arts especially

knowing your role in the band and working with different people and playing different music genres. You've taught at the National School of the Arts and Rhema South Music Academy. How has teaching influenced your perspective as a musician and performer?

Teaching taught me to be patient and gave me a lot of joy especially when you see

your students growing musically, it actually becomes them being the teacher and me being the student.







You've shared the stage with artists like Jonathan Butler, Gerald Albright, and Ernie Smith. What have been some of your standout moments collaborating with such artists?

What stood out to me was just seeing how down to earth they are. The fame never went to there heads and it didn't matter to them. They just wanted to make music and I appreciated that from them.

You're currently composing your own music and believe deeply in music's power to change lives. What can fans look forward to next from Curt Petrus?



Right now I've been blessed to be part of the "Afrikaans is Groot" band since 2022. I'm also part of Karlien Van Jaarsveld's band as well as with amazing church band at Little Falls Christian Center and I'm doing what I love which is being on stage and making music.



# Epiphone

#### **ECLPS59-TBV**

1959 Les Paul Standard Tobacco Burst

The Epiphone 1959 Les Paul Standard in Tobacco Burst captures the spirit of one of the most iconic guitars ever made, blending vintage tone and craftsmanship with modern reliability.

Built in collaboration with Gibson Custom, it features a solid mahogany body with a maple top and a AAA flame maple veneer, finished in the timeless Tobacco Burst that instantly evokes the golden age of rock.

The '50s rounded medium "C" neck profile, long neck tenon, and aged gloss finish provide the authentic feel of a true vintage Les Paul. With Gibson USA Burstbucker 2 and 3 humbuckers, CTS pots, and Switchcraft hardware, this model delivers the legendary tone and sustain that defined generations of music.





#### WHY IT'S WORTH IT

This guitar offers genuine Les Paul quality and tone without the steep Gibson price tag. Every element—from its hand-rolled fretboard edges to its historically accurate wiring—has been designed to recreate the sound and feel of 1959.

The Burstbuckers deliver warm, articulate tones with the perfect blend of bite and clarity, while the locking tuners and upgraded hardware ensure modern-day stability and precision. It's an investment piece for players who value both authenticity and performance, offering classic craftsmanship that will stand the test of time.

#### WHAT KIND OF MUSIC IS IT GOOD FOR?

The 1959 Les Paul Standard shines in blues, classic rock, and jazz but adapts effortlessly to modern styles. Its creamy sustain and dynamic range make it equally at home delivering soulful leads, smooth rhythm work, or high-gain rock tones.

Whether channeling Clapton's blues, Page's crunch, or Slash's melodic fire, this guitar brings vintage character to any genre that values warmth and expressiveness.





# WHO WOULD USE IT?

This model is perfect for guitarists who appreciate tradition but demand reliability. It's ideal for professionals, collectors, and serious players looking for a stage or studio instrument with genuine vintage tone.

The Epiphone 1959 Les Paul Standard is for musicians who want that unmistakable Les Paul feel—classic, powerful, and endlessly inspiring—without compromise.

"The 1959 Les Paul Standard proves that heritage and innovation can exist in perfect harmony—rich in tone, timeless in design, and ready for the next generation of players."







# Mikyle Daries

### The Creative World of Mikyle Daries

When it comes to fusing jazz, R&B, and neo-soul into something uniquely South African, few artists do it quite like **Mikyle Daries**. The Cape Town-born multi-instrumentalist, producer, and creative mind behind **MD Music** has carved a distinct sound defined by smooth grooves, emotional depth, and a laid-back sophistication that immediately draws listeners in.

From his early beginnings—performing with Judith Sephuma at just six years old—to collaborating with world-class artists like Jonathan Butler, PJ Morton, and Brendon Adams, Mikyle's journey is as inspiring as his music.

Rooted in authenticity and driven by a lifelong passion for sound, Daries brings a rare blend of soul, rhythm, and heart to every project he touches. His music feels personal yet universal—like a story told through melody and groove.

In this exclusive **Proaudio MusicGear Magazine** interview, Mikyle opens up about his creative journey, the birth of MD Music, the lessons learned from collaborating with musical legends, and the next exciting chapter of his artistic evolution.









Let's start from the beginning - can you tell us a bit about your journey into music and how MD Music came to life?

It might sound cliché to say, "music has always been a part of my life," but it truly has. I grew up in a very

musical family, my parents and extended family were all musically inclined, so I was surrounded by it from day one.

My journey began at age five when my dad bought me my first drum kit after years of me banging on pots and pans. At six, I performed with Judith Sephuma at the City Hall, a moment that really sparked something in me.

Later, my dad encouraged me to take music lessons, and that's where I discovered the piano. At first, it was just fun, but over time, I started developing a sound I connected with deeply and that's when I truly fell in love with music.

Since then, every note, every jam, and every performance has shaped me. MD Music was born from that lifelong passion and the desire to share it with others.





You're known as a multiinstrumentalist, producer, and performer - how do these different roles influence your creative process when making music?



Each role plays a big part in shaping the sound I create. It's almost like building a puzzle,

every piece adds something unique, and together they form the bigger picture of what I'm trying to express.

I wouldn't say I'm the best at every instrument, but I make the most of what I have. Each instrument gives me a different perspective, the drums shape my rhythm and groove, the piano guides my harmony and emotion, and the producer side of me brings it all together into a complete sound.

At the end of the day, it's about using every part of myself, every skill, every influence to create something that feels honest and true to who I am.

Your sound blends jazz, R&B, and neo-soul. What inspires this fusion, and how would you describe your signature style to someone hearing your music for the first time?



I'm always a bit scared of this question, to be honest! . My inspiration doesn't really come

from the typical names people expect. Like, if you're a pianist, you'd probably say Robert Glasper; if you're a drummer, maybe Larnell Lewis.

And while I admire those guys, I've always been drawn to the more lowkey musicians, the ones not everyone knows about, but who have something special in their playing that really resonates with me. That's the kind of influence that shaped how I wanted to sound.

If I had to describe my sound, I'd say it's like the perfect peanut butter sandwich, smooth, not too thick, not too thin, just right and hits the spot. Laughs. It's not too foreign, but also not so simple that you've heard it a hundred times before.

It's a sound that feels familiar yet fresh, something that reflects who I am and how I hear the world. I'm just grateful to be able to take what I imagine in my head and translate it into music that connects with people.



On the local front, you've worked with iconic South African talents like Judith Sephuma and Paxton Fielies. How have these collaborations helped shape your artistry and growth?

I can honestly say the same thing about them as I do with any artist I've worked with.

I'm just deeply grateful for every opportunity. Whether it's an international act, a local legend, or an upcoming artist, each collaboration means something special to me.

For me, it's not just about who I'm playing with, but about being part of that moment in time and adding value in whatever way I can.

Every experience, no matter how big or small, has shaped my artistry and helped me grow both musically and personally.





As someone deeply rooted in soulful and contemporary sounds, what message or feeling do you hope listeners take away from your music?



First and foremost, I want people to hear the sincerity in my music. it always comes

from a place of pure love for music as a whole. Whether it's a sad song or a joyful one, I want listeners to be fully immersed in that moment and feel whatever emotion the music is trying to communicate.

My sound leans toward relaxation because that's usually where I'm at when I'm creating, calm, reflective, and just vibing. I can even take a crazy upbeat song and somehow make it smooth enough to make love to!

But jokes aside, I just want people to enjoy the music, feel it deeply, and let it move them in their own way. Beyond performing, you've also contributed to recording and production projects. What do you enjoy most about being in the studio versus being on stage?



My first time in the studio was honestly daunting. I didn't realize how much perfection

and detail goes into the process behind the scenes. But that challenge made me appreciate it even more. It taught me that mastering your craft and being patient with the process always pays off.

Being on stage, though that's a whole different world. The energy, the adrenaline, the excitement. it's something you really can't explain. Some people say I've got a straight face when I play, but on the inside, I'm smiling from ear to ear. That's definitely something I'll work on in the future!



Looking ahead, what can fans expect from Mikyle
Daries and MD Music in the near future? Are there any exciting projects or collaborations on the horizon?

Fans? What fans are you talking about?. But seriously, I think the next big step for me is releasing my own original music. I've done a lot of composing and producing for other people, but I haven't yet given myself the green light to say, "Okay, it's time."

I feel like that moment is coming soon, though. Once I'm on that train, there's no stopping MD Music. It's going to be a new chapter, one that really showcases my sound, my stories, and everything I've been building toward.







Les Paul Special TV Yellow

The Gibson Les Paul Special in TV Yellow is a timeless icon that celebrates simplicity, tone, and vintage attitude. Originally introduced in the 1950s as a more accessible version of the Les Paul Standard, the Special quickly gained legendary status for its raw power and unmistakable tone.

The modern reissue captures that same spirit with authentic craftsmanship and contemporary playability. Its solid mahogany body and set mahogany neck provide rich warmth and sustain, while the smooth rosewood fingerboard delivers a classic, comfortable feel.

Finished in the distinctive TV Yellow, this guitar turns heads with its vintage charm and unmistakable rock 'n' roll personality.



### WHY IT'S WORTH IT

The Les Paul Special is proof that less can indeed be more. Its dual P-90 pickups produce an unmistakable punch — gritty when pushed, articulate when clean — offering players a wide tonal range with pure vintage character. The wraparound bridge enhances resonance and sustain, while the slim '60s neck profile ensures effortless playability.

With a hard case included, it's not only a nod to Gibson's heritage but a genuine investment for musicians who value tone, simplicity, and authenticity. Every note feels alive, making this guitar worth every cent for those who crave honest, unfiltered sound.

#### WHAT KIND OF MUSIC IS IT GOOD FOR?

This model thrives in blues, classic rock, punk, and alternative styles where character and expression matter most. The P-90s provide enough bite for crunchy rock riffs yet remain sensitive enough for smooth jazz phrasing or soulful clean tones. From smoky blues clubs to highenergy stages, the Les Paul Special delivers a voice that cuts through the mix with attitude and authority.





# WHO WOULD USE IT?

The Gibson Les Paul Special is made for players who value feel and authenticity over flash. It's the choice of musicians who want a workhorse guitar that speaks directly through their fingers — professionals, collectors, and purists alike. Ideal for stage or studio, it's also perfect for players who appreciate vintage tone in a modern, reliable build. Whether you're channeling early rock pioneers or crafting new sounds, the Special rewards expression and honesty above all else.



"The Les Paul Special proves that true tone doesn't need embellishment just wood, wire, and the will to play." Maestro MOCACSP Arcas Compressor Sustainer

**Precision Control for Your Tone** 

Every guitarist knows that dynamics are key to a great sound—whether you want smooth, balanced chords or soaring, sustained solos. The Gibson Maestro MOCACSP Arcas Compressor Sustainer gives you the power to shape your tone with precision, offering everything from subtle dynamic control to bold, punchy sustain.

With its two-position mode toggle, you can finetune the pedal's response to your pick attack, making it perfect for both rhythm and lead playing. Plus, the Sustain, Attack, and Level controls give you effortless flexibility across genres. Whether you're after crystal-clear note definition or a thick, compressed sound that cuts through the mix, the Maestro Arcas is an essential addition to any pedalboard.





From subtle compression that enhances note definition to long, singing sustain that brings solos to life, the Maestro Arcas Compressor Sustainer is a must-have for any guitarist looking to shape their sound with precision and ease.

more aggressive sustain boost. The intuitive 3-knob layout—Sustain, Attack, and Level—makes fine-tuning

effortless, adapting to any playing style or genre.





Take Control of Your Tone with the Gibson Maestro Arcas Compressor Sustainer



# Epythone

#### EIGMF5S-VSS

F-5 Studio Vintage Sunburst Satin

The Epiphone F-5 Studio Vintage Sunburst Satin is a beautifully crafted mandolin that embodies the heritage and tone of traditional American folk instruments. With its solid Sitka spruce top and solid maple back and sides, it produces a bright, resonant tone with impressive projection.

The maple neck paired with a smooth laurel fingerboard ensures comfortable playability and precise intonation, while the Vintage Sunburst Satin finish gives it a timeless, classic look.

Designed for both tone and feel, it's an instrument that balances craftsmanship with accessibility, and it comes complete with a padded gig bag for added protection and convenience.



## WHY IT'S WORTH IT

The F-5 Studio stands out because it delivers the quality of an all-solid construction at a remarkably reasonable price point. The combination of solid tonewoods and a thin satin finish allows the mandolin to resonate more freely, creating a lively, expressive sound that develops even more character over time.

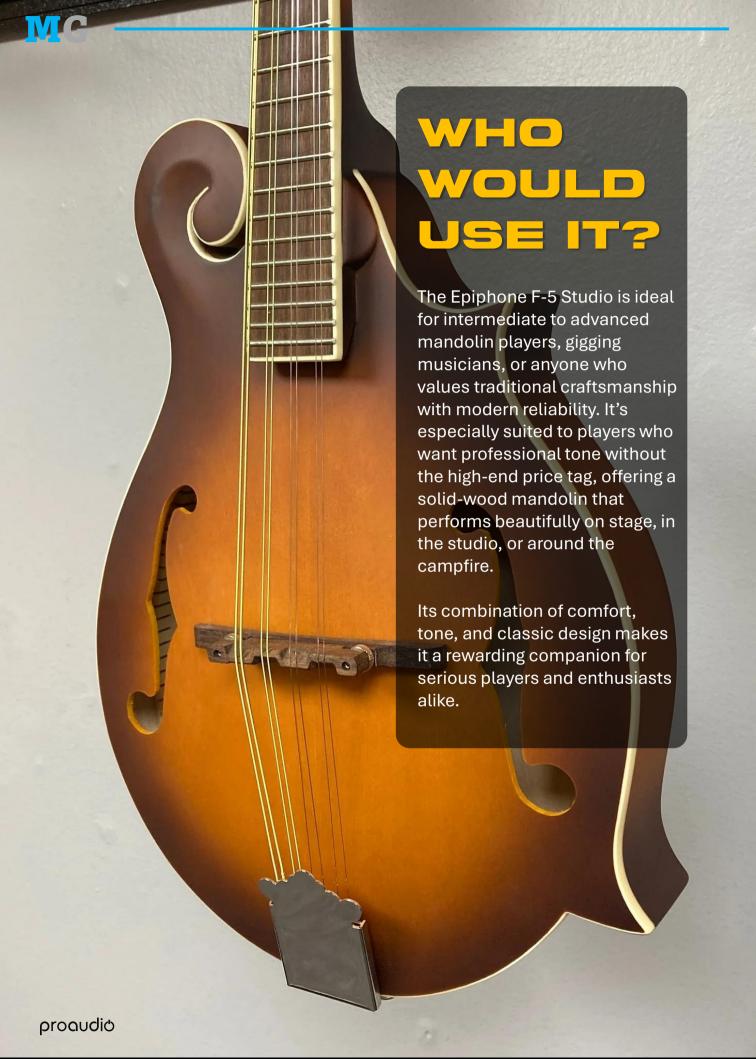
Its playability and tonal balance make it an excellent choice for those seeking an upgrade from entry-level models, offering a performance-ready instrument with genuine warmth, depth, and clarity.

# WHAT KIND OF MUSIC IS IT GOOD FOR?

This mandolin shines in bluegrass, folk, and acoustic roots music, but it's equally capable in country, Americana, and even modern crossover genres.

The spruce top gives each note crisp definition, while the maple body adds projection and punch—perfect for ensemble playing or solo performance. Whether strumming rhythmic accompaniment or picking intricate melodies, the F-5 Studio responds with a tone that feels alive and expressive.







"With the F-5 Studio, Epiphone proves that true tone and craftsmanship are within reach—an instrument that feels alive in your hands and sings with timeless character."



# **Bridging Tradition and Innovation**

AeroBand Guitar



<u> AEROBAND</u>

# The AeroBand Guitar has emerged as a fusion of classic guitar elements and modern technology.

Designed to cater to both novices and seasoned musicians, this instrument offers a unique approach to playing and learning the guitar.





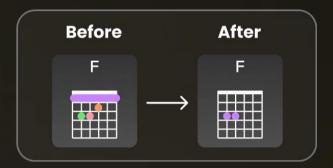
#### **User Feedback**

The AeroBand Guitar has garnered attention from the music community. Some users appreciate its innovative features, noting its potential as a practice aid and its comfortable design. However, others have expressed reservations, particularly regarding its departure from traditional guitar feel and certain limitations in advanced techniques. It's essential for potential users to assess their specific needs and consider how this instrument aligns with their musical goals.



# **Simplify Chords**

Simplify difficult chords. You can customize F chord to make it easier.



## **Multi-Tone**

AeroBand Guitar offers different sounds like piano, bass, etc. You can experience all in one guitar.

**4-DSP Chips** 

Powered by 4-DSP chips to deliver authentic instrument tones.

progudjo

# Interactive APP Tutorials

Real-time feedback on your finger placement, instantly correcting any of your playing mistakes.





# **Score Challenge**

Play the song you've selected and get feedback across five dimensions to guide your practice.

# Get Started with a Song You Love

Pick your favorite song and we'll break down the chords making it easy for you to master it!





# **Silent Practice**

You can turn down speaker volume or plug in headphones, the guitar will be completely silent.



# **All in One Guitar**

Built-in 30W speaker, microphone and drum loop system. You are one man band!









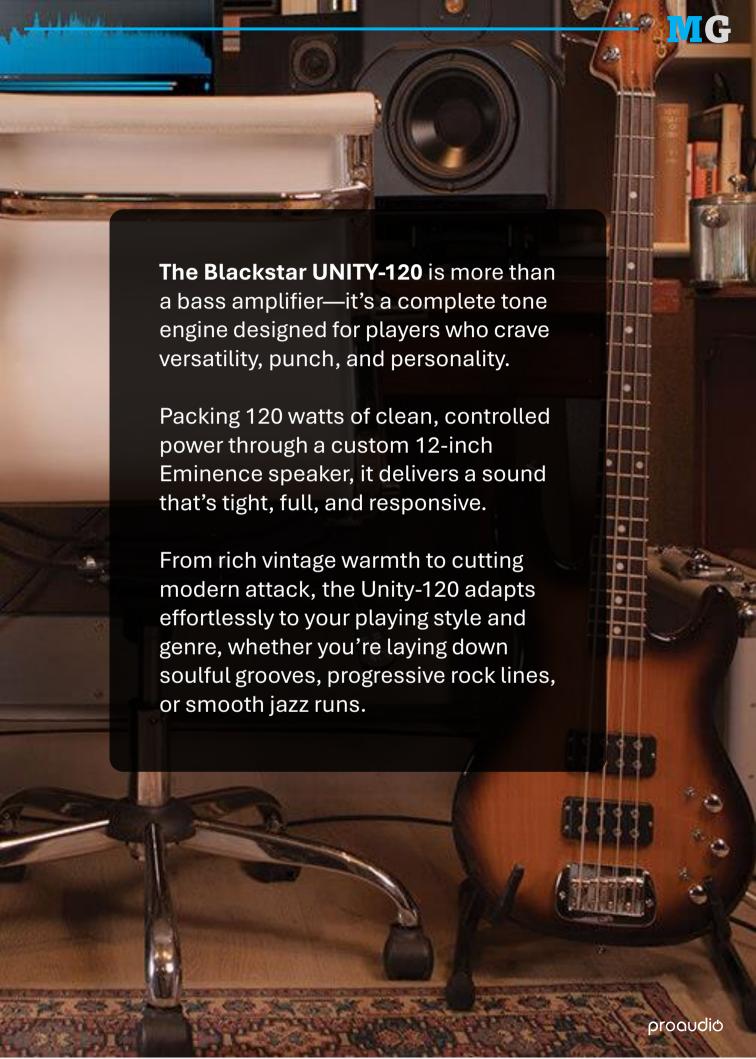
# **Portability**

Designed with mobility in mind, the AeroBand Guitar features a detachable neck, making it easy to disassemble and transport. This is particularly beneficial for musicians on the go.



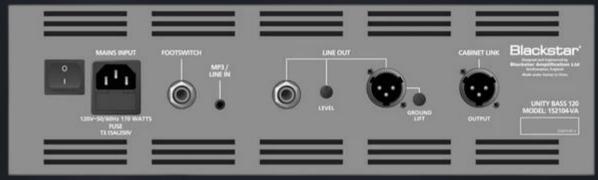








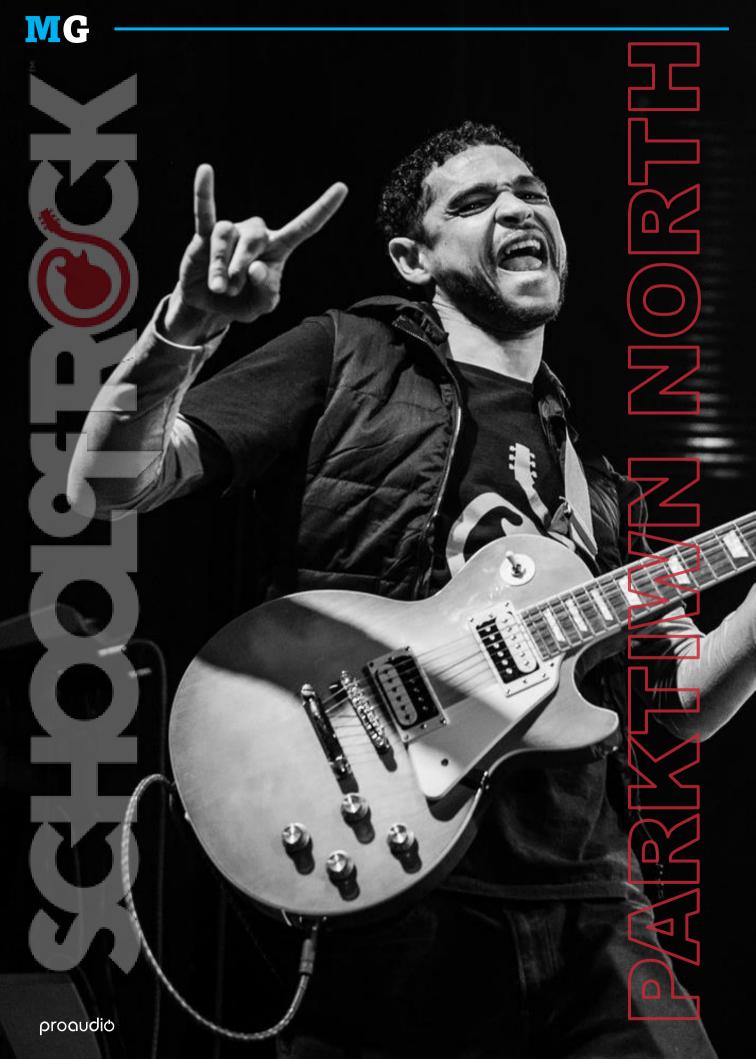




Compact yet powerful, the Unity-120 feels alive under your fingers. It's not just an amp—it's an extension of your playing, translating every nuance into pure energy and tone.

"The Unity-120 isn't just about power; it's about presence.
Every note feels alive, every groove feels bigger, and every performance feels like you've finally found your sound."







Situated in the heart of Johannesburg, School of Rock Parktown North is the latest addition to South Africa's growing rock-based music education movement. Opened in November 2024, this dynamic school offers a performance-driven approach to learning—empowering students of all ages to master instruments, vocals, and stagecraft through real band experiences.

From young beginners in the *Little Wing* program to teens in *Performance* groups and adults in *AllStars*, students learn by doing—rehearsing and performing in live shows that build confidence, creativity, and musical skill.

With expert instructors, a vibrant musical community, and a passion for rock at its core, School of Rock Parktown North is where future musicians come to find their sound and shine on stage.











My favorite artist is Linkin Park. (If we are talking about bass specifically then Jaco Pastorius)

#### What is your favourite song to sing/play?

My favorite song to sing is Creep by Radiohead, and my favorite song to play on the bass is Wicked Game by Chris Isaak.

#### What made you want to start playing music?

I've always connected with music on an emotional and spiritual level, it allows me to feel my emotions without consequence, so I started getting involved in music to better connect with it and express myself.

#### What was the best part about playing at Comic-Con?

I am looking forward to performing in front of an audience for the first time. I've always been too afraid to perform publicly, and I feel that this show is the push I need in order to finally conquer that fear.





### What instrument do you play?

Bass guitar.

#### Who is your favourite artist?

Sorry natural Gemini I have like 3 moods a day. Will you take three?

- 1.) Send it On by D'Angelo
- 2.) Looks by Steve Lacy
- 3.) Roundabout by Yes

All of these have amazing grooves and build learning even partially from these artists will boost anyone's experience; and also stay for the vibes.

#### What is your favourite song to sing/play?

I truly enjoy learning and playing with other musicians. The instruction tied into prac app gives the challenge as well as motivation to better yourself everyday.

#### What made you want to start playing music?

It's collaboration. It's working on what you've learned, sharing with one another, and experiencing the music together. Connection.

#### What was the best part about playing at Comic-Con?

I'm always happy and excited to perform. It showcases the practice and effort put in by everyone! Most importantly it allows us to grow as a band infront of an audience. Highly recommend performing live and with other artists for musicians of all levels!

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SONANCE





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