

## Marko Djordjevic (Sveti) on Miroslav "Karlo" Karlovic & David Moss

When it comes to truly life-changing forces on my musical journey, I tip my hat in utmost gratitude to gentlemen you might not have heard of. Their combined impact on my life spans everything—from learning how to hold the sticks properly, to the deepest questions related to musical expression as a reflection of humanity and divinity within the performer and listener alike.

Very accomplished players in their own right, Karlo and David were my teachers from when I was eleven, until I started Berklee, five years later. Extremely generous with their time, patient beyond all measure, both had visionary styles of teaching. The knowledge and wisdom they imparted are an integral part of who I am today.

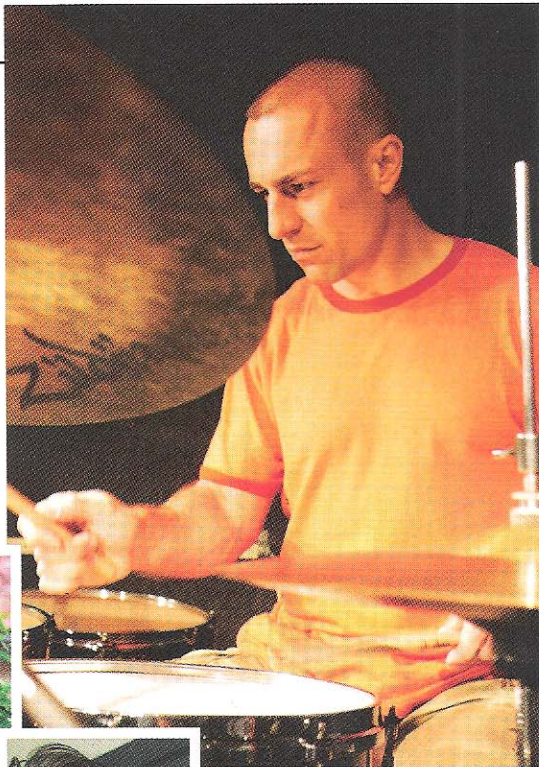
Karlo (lower right) is, without any question, one of the world's foremost experts on drum set technique! His approach, geared towards achieving the best possible facility on the instrument in the most efficient fashion, gave me a solid technical base, with a framework for a lifetime of improvement. He also instilled in me the value of playing good time and coaxing a great sound out of the instrument. He made me realize that anything I wanted as a drummer and musician could be had if I put in the necessary work. He introduced me to influential figures such as Coltrane, Corea, Gadd and Elvin, as he pointed me to LP's like *A Love Supreme* and *The Leprechaun*. And finally, in a show of ultimate faith in my talent and work ethic, he sat down with my parents and vouched for my future as a drummer and a musician. Before I knew what this would actually mean, he had a feeling I could handle it. Knowing the kind of person Karlo was, mom and dad took his recommendation very seriously and supported my efforts every step of the way.

It doesn't get any more life changing than this!

David Moss (below) is an American drummer who, after a successful LA career, moved across the Atlantic looking for a Serbian guitar player whose music he heard and liked a great deal (they ended up playing together for years!). I met him one day when he came in to sub for Karlo. From the very beginning David insisted on being true to one's self, and pursuing musical excellence without compromise. He also somehow knew how to go about sharing this with a twelve-year-old boy,



even though I did resist initially: "Who does this guy think he is?! He is no Karlo!"; I thought. But before too long I got over myself and began listening. It is because of David that I have gravitated to a playing approach that is not lick and pattern oriented, but much more about being prepared to play spontaneously and interact with the music. Of course, it required and still requires serious discipline, and Karlo's training comes in handy, making it possible to 'forget' about technique and focus on the music. This approach rewarded me many times over,



when, in the heat of the moment, I found myself joyfully playing things I never thought of playing before! I absorbed David's point: the further away you get from your ego, the closer you are to finding your self, and this is where music begins! David introduced me to Tony, Jack, Zawinul, Brecker, Holdsworth, ...

It has been 20 years since those days in Belgrade (Serbia), and Karlo and David's lessons in music and drumming are just as fresh as ever! The love, passion, dedication, commitment and kindness they showed me stand as a mark I keep reaching for every day, not just as a musician, but more importantly, as a human being.