

THE TONEZONE

THIS MONTH'S INTERVIEW STAR DESERVES A WHOLE SEPARATE PAGE FOR HIS RIG!

As you can read on page 42 this month, Steve Lukather is a bona fide living guitar legend. Veteran of countless high-profile studio sessions and three decades of Toto success, he brings together touch, tone and fearsome technique.

THE MAN

Steve was introduced to the guitar by his father at the tender age of seven. His new Kay acoustic was accompanied by a copy of *Meet The Beatles* and that was it: he was hooked.

During the pop and rock explosion of the 1960s, Lukather taught himself to play – guitar, keyboards and drums – surrounding himself with like-minded friends. Then during his high school years, he met brothers Jeff (drums) Mike (bass) and Steve Porcaro (keyboards) who would go on to become his bandmates in Toto; Jeff and Steve as original members in '76, then Mike officially not until 1982. Having



Steve chops out another monster lick on his signature Music Man Luke

honed his skills, studied hard and picked up a reputation as a great guitarist, Lukather racked up a mind-boggling list of session credits. Michael Jackson's 1982 *Thriller* album was a huge one for Lukather, the same year *Toto IV* went platinum.

Since then, Lukather has enjoyed continued success with the band, despite numerous lineup changes and the death of Jeff Porcaro in 1992, adding solo albums, collaborations and yet more sessions to his CV. In 2007, he's as busy as ever.

THE GEAR

Lukather's rig has varied over the years. A self-confessed non-techie, but a guitar nut nonetheless, he's a fan of early Gibson Les Pauls, owning a prized '59 Standard. In the 1980s he endorsed Valley Arts Guitars, before arriving at his continuing fruitful relationship with

STEVE'S TOTO TONE



Track: 'Rosanna'
Album: *Toto IV*, 1982

Choosing just one track is never easy, but this song has the lot. Clean picked notes and chords, fat power chords, then the main guitar solo is Luke-classic; a typically melodic tour de force, played on his '59 Gibson Les Paul Standard through a Fender Deluxe Reverb, according to the man himself. At the end of the track comes a solo wig-out, complete with Luke's trademark massive vibrato and fat rock tone. On some of Toto's live releases, he really stretches his fingers in this section – check 'em out.

Music Man. Introduced in 1993, the Music Man Luke model is made to Steve's specification, featuring an alder body, EMG pickups and a non-locking, vintage-style vibrato.

Guitar Buyer contacted Steve's long-time friend, technician and all-round tone legend Bob Bradshaw of Custom Audio Electronics who filled us in on the current Lukather rig.

Steve uses a medium-sized rack system that begins with a Custom Audio Amplifiers all-tube preamp, followed by a Dunlop Custom Shop Crybaby rack wah, a TC Electronic M One, Lexicon PCM70s and various other effects. It's all controlled via a custom switching unit designed by Bradshaw and pumped out through VHT valve power amplifiers. On the floor, Luke has his custom stageboard for the rack gear, a Crybaby for wah and a Boss TU-2 Tuner and expression pedal.

The signal is split to three 2x12 CAE cabinets; left and right wet (with effects), plus a centre dry cab. Offstage, Bradshaw uses a three-channel monitor cabinet to "keep an ear on him during shows", as he describes it. Monster player, monster tone. **GB**

STEVE'S RIG



- Ernie Ball Music Man Luke
- Furman PL-Pro Power Supply
- Crybaby EFX DCR-ISR Wah-Wah
- CAE 3+ SE Tube Preamp
- Lexicon EFX PCM-70 x 2
- TC Electronics M One
- Line 6 EFX Mod Pro
- CAE GVCA-2 REV-3
- CAE Dual Stereo Mixer
- CAE Black Cat Vibe
- CAE Super Tremolo
- MXR Smart Gate Pro
- CAE Patchbay
- 2 CAE 4 x 4 Audio Control
- VHT Power AMP - 62902
- VHT Power AMP - G2150-C
- Boss Chromatic Tuner TU-2
- Boss FV-100 Pedal



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