

Monthly Beat-May

John Bonham of Led Zeppelin

John 'Bonzo' Bonham was born May 31, 1948 in Worcestershire, England. is best know as the drummer of Led Zeppelin. Often regarded as the greatest rock drummer of all time, John Bonham revolutionized rock drumming with a hard-hitting style that still had groove.

Live performances usually contained a 20 minute drum solo called Moby Dick which featured Bonham's classic licks, the most famous of all being his crossover triplet pattern starting with the left hand:

Musical notation showing a crossover triplet pattern in 4/4 time. The pattern consists of four measures, each containing a triplet of notes. The notes are labeled L (Left hand), R (Right hand), and BD (Bass Drum). The triplet is marked with a '3' above the notes.

Perhaps what made Bonham stand out most of all was his powerful right foot.

Musical notation showing two examples of Bonham's powerful right foot. The first example is labeled 'Kashmir' and the second is labeled 'When the Levee Breaks'. Both examples show a powerful right foot pattern in 4/4 time, with the right foot playing a series of eighth notes.

Musical notation showing an example of Bonham's powerful right foot pattern in 4/4 time, labeled 'Immigrant Song'. The pattern consists of a series of eighth notes played by the right foot.

Musical notation showing an example of Bonham's powerful right foot pattern in 4/4 time, labeled 'Good Times Bad Times'. The pattern consists of a series of eighth notes played by the right foot.

later on in the song Bonham shows off his sixteenth note triplet bass patters

Musical notation showing an example of Bonham's sixteenth note triplet bass patterns. The pattern consists of a series of sixteenth notes played by the bass drum, with triplet markings below the notes.

The Ocean uses mixed meter during the intro where every other measure drops one eighth note

Musical notation showing an example of The Ocean's mixed meter intro. The pattern consists of a series of eighth notes played by the right foot, with a change in meter from 4/4 to 7/8 indicated by a '7/8' time signature.