



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Guitar Center's *Drum-Off* Returns to Hollywood to Crown Its Next Champion on August 20 at the Iconic Fonda Theatre

Hosted by comedian Bill Burr and *Jane's Addiction* drummer Stephen Perkins, the finale brings together drumming legends from *Green Day*, *Maná*, *No Doubt*, *Slipknot*, *Rage Against the Machine* and more for a night of live competition, special guest performances, and unforgettable collaborations

Tickets are available now at [AXS.com](https://www.axs.com)

Westlake Village, CA, July 1, 2026 — Guitar Center today announced the full lineup and event details for its **Drum-Off 2026 National Finale**, taking place August 20 at the historic Fonda Theatre in Hollywood, CA. After nearly a decade away, the iconic Drum-Off competition returns to crown its next champion. Six finalists selected from thousands nationwide will compete live before a panel of legendary judges, celebrity guests, and a live audience. The winner will receive a brand endorsement, career-changing opportunities, \$25,000 in cash, and a complete pro-level drum, hardware and cymbal setup. Tickets are available now to the public at [AXS.com](https://www.axs.com), with 15 percent of each ticket price benefiting the Guitar Center Music Foundation.

Hosted by comedian, actor, and drummer **Bill Burr** along with former Drum-Off host and *Jane's Addiction* drummer **Stephen Perkins**, the star-studded finale event will feature special performances from **Robert Trujillo** (Metallica) and the **Kate Mess** project featuring **Tosh Peterson** (Lady Gaga, Alkaline Trio, MGK), **Jordi Radnoti** (Olivia Rodrigo), **Tim Stewart** (Lady Gaga) and **Tiara Stewart** (Ashlee Simpson, Cyco Miko). The show closes with **Kenny Aronoff and Friends**, an all-star power trio featuring **Kenny Aronoff** (Sammy Hagar, Joe Satriani, Chickenfoot, Smashing Pumpkins), **Michael Anthony** (Van Halen, Sammy Hagar, Chickenfoot), and **Phil X** (Bon Jovi, TRIUMPH, Phil X & The Drills). They will perform classic rock favorites, including songs made famous by Van Halen, Led Zeppelin, and other legendary artists.

"One of the best parts of what we do at Guitar Center is discovering talented musicians before the rest of the world does," said Gabe Dalporto, CEO of Guitar Center. "Drum-Off gives us the chance to put those players on a national stage and help launch the careers of drummers who went on to play in legendary acts such as Nine Inch Nails, Foo Fighters, Alice Cooper and The Mars Volta, and with artists like Jay-Z, Katy Perry, Prince and Beyoncé."



First launched in 1988, Drum-Off ran for 28 years and helped launch the careers of drummers including **Tony Royster Jr.** (Jay-Z, Katy Perry), **Cora Coleman-Dunham** (Prince, Beyoncé), **Thomas Pridgen** (The Mars Volta), **Glen Sobel** (Alice Cooper), and **Ilan Rubin** (Nine Inch Nails, Foo Fighters). The competition has also featured iconic drummers including **Travis Barker** (Blink-182), **Chad Smith** (Red Hot Chili Peppers), **Taylor Hawkins** (Foo Fighters), **Peter Criss** (KISS), and **Steve Ferrone** (Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers) as judges, performers, and special guests. More than 100,000 drummers participated throughout Drum-Off's history, cementing its status as one of the most influential competitions in the drumming community.

For **Adrian Young**, drummer for No Doubt and a Drum-Off 2026 judge, the competition represents one of the most important platforms for emerging drummers.

"Drum-Off has always been a place where great players can step up and be recognized," said Young. "It's exciting to see it back and to watch a new generation of drummers compete for an opportunity that can truly change the course of their careers."

The upcoming finale will combine live competition, special performances, celebrity hosts and judges, and unforgettable collaborations as six finalists compete head-to-head in the electrifying culmination of one of music's most influential competitions.

"I'm really excited that Guitar Center brought Drum-Off back!" said comedian and Drum-Off host Bill Burr. "The lineup for this thing is incredible, and the finalists are going to have to bring their absolute best. It's going to be a lot of fun."

The judging panel includes (all appearances subject to change):

- **Tré Cool** (Green Day)
- **Josh Freese** (Nine Inch Nails, Foo Fighters, Sting, Guns N' Roses)
- **Brad Wilk** (Audioslave, Rage Against the Machine)
- **Pocket Queen** (Beyoncé, Harry Styles, Alicia Keys)
- **Alex González** (Maná)
- **Eric Moore II** (Drum-Off Champion, Sly & The Family Stone)
- **Adrian Young** (No Doubt)
- **Daniel Jensen** (Founder, OCDP)
- **El Estepario Siberiano** (drummer, content creator and educator)
- **Jared Falk** (Drumeo founder & CEO)
- **Jay Weinberg** (Slipknot, Suicidal Tendencies)
- **Dave Elitch** (Miley Cyrus, The Mars Volta)
- **Thomas Lang** (stOrk)

The Drum-Off finale marks the culmination of a nationwide search that began in May, when drummers visited over 300 Guitar Center stores across the country to record and submit original



three-minute audition videos. Guitar Center received over 2,600 submissions nationwide. Competitors advanced through District Finals at 24 Guitar Center locations before Regional Finals in Hollywood, Nashville, and New York City, with six finalists earning their place on the Fonda Theatre stage.

Finalists will be judged on skill and technique, groove and feel, originality and creativity, stage presence, and overall performance. The Drum-Off Champion will receive \$25,000 in cash, a complete pro-level drum, hardware and cymbal setup, a brand endorsement, a Roland electronic drum kit, and a trip to Drumeo HQ to create original content.

On Thursday, August 20, doors open at 6 p.m., with the competition beginning at 7 p.m. Following the finale, VIP ticket holders will be invited to an exclusive rooftop after-party overlooking Hollywood.

For tickets and additional event information, please visit [AXS.com](https://www.axs.com).

About Guitar Center:

Guitar Center is the leading retailer of musical instruments, lessons, repairs and rentals in the U.S. With more than 300 stores nationwide and one of the top direct sales websites in the industry, Guitar Center has helped people make music for more than 60 years. Guitar Center provides a range of musician-based services, including Guitar Center Lessons for players of all ages and skill levels, GC Repairs, an on-site maintenance and repair service, and GC Rentals, offering easy access to instruments and gear. Guitar Center's family of brands includes Music & Arts, which operates more than 250 stores specializing in band and orchestral instruments for sale and rental, serving teachers, band directors, college professors, parents and students, and Musician's Friend, a leading direct marketer of musical instruments in the United States. Guitar Center Business Solutions is the company's commercial division, delivering professional audio, video, lighting and integrated technology solutions for businesses, institutions and creators nationwide through a portfolio of brands including AVDG (Audio Visual Design Group), GC Pro and Custom House at Guitar Center. The Guitar Center Music Foundation is a national nonprofit that expands access to music through instrument donations and support for communities in need.

Press Contact:

media@guitarcenter.com