

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## SHARIQ TUCKER NAMED WINNER OF GUITAR CENTER'S 26<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL DRUM-OFF

Drumming Legends and Legends-to-Be Came Together To Celebrate Drumming's Biggest Night of the Year

### ANNOUNCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- *Guitar Center to grant Shariq Tucker with career altering endorsement deals, gear and cash in a grand prize package valued at over \$45,000*
- *Past Drum-Off winners have gone on to see successful careers, playing with the likes of Prince, Jay Z, Beyoncé, The Mars Volta, August Alsina, and more*
- *The evening included performances by Steve Jordan and The Verbs, Tony Royster Jr., Stephen Perkins with Tim Alexander and Matt Garstka with Animals As Leaders*

**Westlake Village, CA** (January 21, 2015) – Starting in August, over 5,000 drummers from across the country signed up to compete in Guitar Center's 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Drum-Off. Five finalists were chosen out of the thousands of hopefuls to battle it out for the title of Guitar Center's Drum-Off Champion and a prize package valued at nearly \$45,000 at the finals last Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. The winner, Shariq Tucker, joins an esteemed group of talented drummers who have gone on to play for the likes of Prince, Beyoncé, Jay Z and more.

Shariq began playing drums at the early age of 3 growing up in Bronx, NY. Inspired both by musical family members like his father and brother as well as legends such as Dennis Chambers, Gerald Heyward and Tony Royster Jr., Shariq was drawn to the way drumming allowed to create new and exciting sounds. He soon developed a raw style all his own and began giving lessons to other aspiring drummers. In the future, Shariq hopes to take his act on tour and host clinics nationwide.

**Watch Shariq's Winning Performance Here:** <http://youtu.be/nfdEqi5YMjk>

### As Guitar Center's Drum-Off Grand Prize Winner, Shariq Tucker Will Receive:

- \$25,000 Cash
- Roland TD-30KV Electronic Drum Kit and the SPD-SX
- GoPro Hero 3+ Music Bundle
- High-End Drum Kit by DW, Tama, Pearl, Gretsch or OCDP (Winner's Choice)
- Full set up of drum sticks, cymbals, and drumheads (Winner's Choice)
- Endorsement Deals from the top drum manufacturers (Winner's Choice)
- VIP Experience at NAMM 2015
- Studio Time at Converse Rubber Tracks
- Feature in a Guitar Center Buyer's Guide
- Write Up in Modern Drummer Magazine

*"While all of the finalists brought something unique to the table, Shariq had a great confidence and meter in his playing. He's ready to leave the Drum-Off stage and step right onto Center Staging. He learned from last year and came back more polished and determined. I can't wait to watch his career take off."*

**- Trevor Lawrence Jr. (Herbie Hancock, Alicia Keys, Dr. Dre, Enimem)**

*"My experience throughout the course of this competition has been amazing. It has allowed me to meet new people, hone my skills and hear different styles of playing. When I heard my name called as the winner, tears of joy ran down my face. I was determined to take home the title this year - it's been one of my major goals. Winning this competition means the world to me."*

**- Shariq Tucker**

After 26 years of celebrating the country's best drummers, Guitar Center's Drum-Off has become one of the most loved events in the drumming community. Each year, legendary musicians from the drumming community return to the event as performers, judges and guests. This year featured Greg Bissonette as host along with performances by Steve Jordan and The Verbs, Tony Royster Jr., Stephen Perkins with Tim Alexander and Matt Garstka with Animals As Leaders. The night also honored Steve Jordan's influential career with an induction into Guitar Center's Rock Walk and judges for the evening included such respected musicians as: Cora Dunham (Beyoncé, Prince, 2002 Drum-Off Champ), Peter Erskine (Grammy Award-winner, Weather Report), Chris Johnson (Rihanna, Invented Like Stars), Brooks Wackerman (Bad Religion, Tenacious D), Nick Smith (Snoop Dogg), Dave Elitch (Antemasque, The Mars Volta), Gordon Campbell (Herbie Hancock, Earth Wind & Fire), DeShaun Allen (Juicy J, Kendrick Lamar) and more.

*Guitar Center Drum-Off* is presented by: DW, Pro-Mark, Orange County Drum & Percussion, LP, Meinl, Roland, Gretsch, Pearl, Vic Firth, Zildjian, DW, Sabian, Remo, Tama, Evans, Drum Channel, Modern Drummer, and GoPro

#### **About Guitar Center:**

Guitar Center is the world's largest retailer of guitars, amplifiers, drums, keyboards, recording, live sound, DJ, and lighting equipment. With more than 260 stores across the U.S. and one of the top direct sales websites in the industry, Guitar Center has helped people make music for more than 50 years. In addition, the Music & Arts division operates more than 120 stores specializing in band & orchestral instruments for sale and rental, serving teachers, band directors, college professors, and students since 1952. Guitar Center also operates Musician's Friend, a leading direct marketer of musical instruments in the United States. With an unrivaled in-store experience, an industry-leading online presence, and passionate commitment to making gear easy-to-buy, Guitar Center is all about enabling musicians and non-musicians alike to experience the almost indescribable joy that comes from playing an instrument. All we sell is the greatest feeling on earth. For more information about Guitar Center, please visit [www.guitarcenter.com](http://www.guitarcenter.com).

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