

## UNLEASH THE KAOSS

Creative guitarists are always pursuing a unique edge—and the **Ibanez RGKP6** delivers. This unique electric combines the classic RG body style and fast-playing maple neck with a Korg MINI KAOSS PAD 2S, placing 100 playable effects at your fingertips. With an aggressive humbucker, plus an integrated distortion circuit onboard, the MINI KAOSS PAD 2S can call up tempo-synced effects, EDM-style slicers, tone shifters, filter sweeps, and more. It's the perfect axe to explore a new frontier.

# NEW YEAR

The latest gotta-have-it gear  
make 2015 your best

## MAGIC KEYS

Part digital stage piano, part MIDI controller, but fully loaded with functionality, the **Kawai MP7** is a superior choice for performing onstage and composing in the studio. An 88-note Responsive Hammer II weighted-action keyboard makes playing the 256 onboard sounds expressive. And not only are splits easy to set up, but each of the up to four split zones can send MIDI on a different channel. Tactical controls are similarly assignable, making the MP7 an ideal central controller for a larger keyboard or virtual instrument rig.



# NEW GEAR

and instruments that'll  
musical year ever

## RED-HOT SNARES

For over 20 years, Red Hot Chili Peppers drummer Chad Smith has faithfully played Pearl drums, and most recently Pearl collaborated with Smith to create a pair of new limited-edition **Pearl Chad Smith Signature Snare Drums** models. The CS1450R is an all-purpose steel-shell snare with a finish that comes in eye-catching candy apple red. The second is the Chad Smith Free-Floater CS1465F, which comes with three interchangeable cast rings (two brass and one steel), allowing drummers to fine-tune the instrument's character.



## MONSTROUS BASS CHORUS

Full, fat and lush, the **Aguilar Chorusaurus** chorus pedal delivers an effect bass players can put to work. Thanks to a set of analog bucket-brigade chips, this pedal is capable of producing everything from funky sonic swirls to rich pad-style tones that will make synth players jealous. Between the width and the rate controls, there's a wide range of sonic stylings available—and thanks to the blend knob, even the most over-the-top chorus sound can be blended tastefully.

## NEXT-GEN RIBBON MIC

For years AEA has been reinventing the ribbon microphone, starting with RCA 44 clones and arriving at the Nuvo series. Their latest, the **AEA N8**, brings the extraordinary qualities of the ribbon transducer to a new generation. This mic uses a phantom-powered transformer to provide an at-the-source boost for added detail, low distortion, and plenty of gain for long cable runs. What's more, it eliminates the need for a special preamp and top-end EQ boost, providing a beautifully balanced sound without additional processing.



## PLAY EDDIE'S RAREST

Eddie Van Halen's collection of distinctive guitars is the stuff of legend, but few are as elusive as the "Unchained" axe he wielded during 1981's Fair Warning Tour. **EVH's Striped Series** "Circles/See Ya" model is a shred machine, built to the same specs as the customized axe Eddie played—right down to the "BYE SEE YA LATER" scrawled on the back. Die-hard Van Halen fans and collectors are lining up to get their hands on its hand-oiled neck and responsive tremolo.



**PIANO MADE EASY**

Casio's **LK-260** portable keyboard offers plenty of features that are designed to take a novice well beyond the initial learning steps. This 61-note keyboard comes loaded with 400 tones, 110 songs, and a fun EFX Sampler for recording and playing original sounds. Cooler still, the LK-260's touch-sensitive keys include Casio's Step-up Lesson System, which uses lighted keys and an LCD screen to make learning to play fun and engaging. There are even 152 phrase-by-phrase lessons built in, plus music notation and hand position references.



**BEEFED-UP BILLY BASS**

Few bass players are as discerning about tone as Billy Sheehan—one of the reasons his signature line of **Yamaha** basses keeps evolving. The **Billy Sheehan Attitude Limited 3** bass model doles out a bold low end, clear highs, and midrange articulation that's second to none. A spline-jointed body and redesigned neck joint serve up tight response and fast action. At the neck, a Yamaha woofer pickup offers plenty of body, and the DiMarzio Will Power split pickup tops it off with growling harmonics.



**HEAR THE DIFFERENCE**

**Avantone Audio Pro Abbey** studio monitors are ideal for mix engineers who really need to dive into the subtlest nuances of their mixes. Despite compact design, these three-way monitors deliver superior dynamic range and extended frequency response normally reserved for systems that include a subwoofer. What's more, the Avantone Pro Abbey monitor's midrange is extremely clear and precise, without being unnecessarily harsh or unrealistic. The result is a pair of monitors that offer exceptional stereo imaging and mixing accuracy.



**STEREO MIC FOR iOS**

With the success of their Handy Recorder models, **Zoom** has created the **iQ6**, a Lightning equipped X-Y microphone capsule designed to offer amazing sound quality to iOS users. In fact, the capsules are virtually identical to those found on the acclaimed H4n. Reconfigurable from 90 to 120 degrees of spread, the mics offer excellent stereo separation in any situation. Other bonuses include a headphone jack with a separate volume control and an extra-long Lightning connector that accommodates the most protective cases.



**THREE DECADES OF PRS**

Guitar maker Paul Reed Smith first showed off his iconic Custom 24 at the NAMM Show in 1985. To celebrate, **PRS** has released the limited edition **30th Anniversary Custom 24**—which merges the look, feel and style of the original with modern playing improvements. A set of exclusive 30th Anniversary bird inlays adorn the East Indian rosewood fretboard atop a comfortable Pattern Regular mahogany neck, while a pair of 85/15 humbucking pickups deliver classic PRS tone.



**TROUBLE-FREE IN-EAR MONITORS**

Switching to an in-ear monitor system can be a major transition, and the last thing any musician needs is trouble setting up a wireless system. That's why **Shure** designed the new **P3TRA215CL** wireless in-ear monitor system to be simple to use. The system sets up with a single touch and allows each user to tweak their sound to taste. What's more, each P3RA wireless bodypack includes its own volume control, EQ, limiter and two-channel mix, letting users tweak their own in-ear mix onstage.



**CLASSIC TONE IN A BOX**

Packing the sonic wallop of a 1963 Silvertone 1484 amplifier, the **JHS Twin Twelve Channel Drive** is one satisfying tone boost for any guitar rig. Discrete transistor stages offer real amp-style dynamics and superior tube tone—but unlike the amplifier it's modeled on, the Twin Twelve Channel Drive features a drive control, which lets guitarists dial in anything from a light boost to epic overdrive. The EQ controls also beautifully re-create the 1484's Baxandall tone curves but with more tone-shaping power.



**AMP ARMOR**

Guitarists often balk at the prospect of taking their favorite amps on the road where hazards lurk—ready to scar, crush and even destroy. The **SKB 1x12 Amp Utility Vehicle** not only makes taking that precious amp on the road a whole lot safer, it offers a variety of conveniences that makes gigging easier. A set of locking casters not only makes transport easier, they're attached to a platform that doubles as a riser onstage. Plus, the lid flips to act as an even taller riser.



By Phil Selman