Performance Notes: 'Back in Black'

AC/DC

1. 'Rock beat #1', 'Money Beat', 'Billie Jean Beat'... whatever you want to call it, it rocks! You HAVE to have this beat down in order to play this song and in fact most pop or rock songs. Work on it. Don't underestimate it! Whether it's Classic Rock or the latest Beyonce track this groove isn't going anywhere.

Do you sound like Phil Rudd when you play it? Are you rushing? Are you dragging? Or is it smack bang in the pocket? Record yourself.

2. This trademark figure is often misplayed or at worst confused and started in the wrong place. Somebody call the ambulance... the drummer has driven the truck off the cliff again! The figure starts on the '2'. REALLY important. Start this on the 'one' and you'll be getting all kinds of dirty looks from the bandmates.

Style & Analysis:

Phil Rudd is a legend. He has a distinctive sound and a meat and potatoes approach which I love. He doesn't even use a ride. No unnecessary frills or fills. Stripped back, raw and energetic. Always playing for the song and a pocket that just doesn't quit.

Tip: He doesn't completely close his hats when they are 'closed'. There's still a bit of air in there. Great snare tone too. Phil has a 'Fat' snare sound! Hit the middle of your drums to achieve that fat-ness.