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## CHAPTER ONE

### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background to Research

Drum is a complex music instrument consisting a few external parts which are tom-tom, floor tom, snare, bass drum and cymbals. The core of this research is to explore the playing of cymbals on pieces *Dance of Eternity* by Mike Portnoy. In this analysis, the writer is focuses on Mike Portnoy in the piece that have element of progressive rock.

It is rare to find any analysis on the playing cymbals on this piece by Mike Portnoy. Most sources of information nowadays only stresses on the techniques of playing, skills and rudiments of playing, and types of cymbal and drum sets commonly used. However, none has stated on the playing cymbals on this piece.

The writer purposely choose Mike Portnoy as a drummer for analysis that have one thing in common, which is they are using cymbal endorsed by the Sabian Company. The Sabian has custom-made their cymbals to suit this drummer's technique of playing and music styles that he plays.

Sabian is one of the world's largest manufacturers of cymbals. The company was founded in 1981 in Meductic, New Brunswick, Canada by Robert Zildjian, son of Avedis Zildjian III, the head of the Zildjian Company. Family tradition had it that the head of the company would only pass its secrets down to the oldest son, but Avedis III gave the

information to both of his sons, Armand and Robert. This led to a family feud and a legal squabble, resulting in Robert leaving Zildjian to form the rival Sabian Company.

## **1.2 Research Objectives**

Education is vital in life. Music is one type of education. The writer is glad to get the chance to do a research and analysis on the playing cymbals on piece *Dance of Eternity* by Mike Portnoy.

The objective of this research is to find out how far are the playing cymbals on this piece and also the types of cymbals used, history of cymbals, cymbal-making, and most importantly the playing cymbals as performed by Mike Portnoy.

To do this research the writer read many sources of cymbal-making, books on Sabian and cymbals. From this research, the writer wants to know more on the playing cymbals, technique he use for playing cymbals, cymbals setup for playing this pieces and what sound can produce from this cymbals by Mike Portnoy on this piece.

The writer will cover the history of cymbals and the cymbal makings, which is related to the main objective of the research. Other than that, the writer cover the types of cymbals and the drum stick of Mike Portnoy that use for this piece.

### **1.3 Research Question**

In this thesis, the writer's research is limited to the analysis of playing cymbals on piece *Dance of Eternity* by Mike Portnoy.

Thus, the research question is analysis what is the sound can produce by Mike Portnoy using the types of cymbals that he uses. The analysis is also focus on what Mike Portnoy's technique of playing cymbals and the drum stick that he uses to play this piece *Dance of Eternity*.

In a variety of cymbals that Mike Portnoy has used in this work, what are the kinds of sound that are identified with each of the chosen or selected cymbals? Other research question is how are each of the cymbals are performed in order to create the work that identified with his style?

### **1.4 Methodology**

The writer only uses *library research* meaning research based on book references only. However, it did not kill the writer's spirit to keep on finding sources of information to complete this thesis. Reference books and journals are found at the INTEC Library in Shah Alam, the National Library, UKM Library, Yamaha Music School, Bentley Studio and the Mahogany Music Studio. The writer also find information's, in articles, newspaper, and internet.