

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF JOHN S. PRATT
THE FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF
THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRADITIONAL DRUMMERS

- 1949 – Received a National Association of Rudimental Drummers, Certificate #2043, signed by J. Burns Moore, President, William F. Ludwig, Registrar and Norman Peth, Examining judge.
- 1950 – Graduated from the 3rd Armored Division Band Training School; Fort Knox. Kentucky.
- 1950 – Started career as a Military Drummer with the U.S.M.A. Band; West Point, N.Y.
- 1958 – Became a member of the All-American Drum & Bugle Corps and Band Association and the All-American Association of Contest Judges.
- 1959 – Wrote a Series of Articles on Rudimental Drumming for On Parade magazine. Wrote a National Drumming Examination for All-American Judges applicants, and was appointed as National Examiner.
- 1959 – Publication of First Solo Drumming Books:
1. 14 Modern Contest Solos for Snare Drum
 2. Ancient Rudimental Snare & Bass Drum Solos
 3. 128 Rudimental Street Beats, Modern Rolloffs and Modern March Beats
- 1960 – Publication of 26 Standard American Drum Rudiments. Major Rudimental Drumming Clinics were given at Columbia University Summer School (1962), The New York State School Music Association (1963) and The Army Bandmasters Convention in Chicago (1966).
- 1959 – 1969 – Served as Rudimental Drum Instructor of Field Music; United States Military Academy Band. While Stationed at West Point, taught numerous Drum Lines with Drum & Bugle Corps, such as the "Interstatesmen," and Judged many Drum & Bugle Corps Field Competitions. Also attended College night classes and graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University, Summa cum laude, in 1969.

- 1972 – 1981 – Taught the Hawthorne “Cabelleros” Drum Line, winning 4 DCA World Championships and 3 American Legion Nationals with 2 trophies for High Drumming Scores at Miami (1974) and Minneapolis (1975). The corps also went undefeated during the 1973 season.
- 1985 – Contributed 8 solos to a book entitled: The Solo Snare Drummer, Vol.1 along with William Schinstine and James Moore, and also had The New Pratt Book published.
- 1990 – Inducted into the World Drum Corps Hall of Fame in Allentown, Pennsylvania.
- 1998 – Did a clinic for C.A.D.R.E. (Canadian Associates, Drumming Rudimental Excellence) in Ottawa, Ontario and was made an Honorary Member of the Ottawa chapter of C.A.D.R.E., and Given a plaque of his solo, “Tribute To Dr. Berger.”
- 1999 – Dedicated a new solo, “Ruffing the Downfall of Paris,” to C.A.D.R.E. at their Heritage Hands “Shake” in Hamilton, Ontario.
- 2000 – Rudimental Solos for Accomplished Drummers was published and included “Ruffing the Downfall of Paris,” “Tribute to Dr. Berger” and 3 additional solos dedicated to C.A.D.R.E. Members. “Moby Dick” was dedicated to Robin Engelman of The University of Toronto’s percussion department who wrote The foreword.
- 2001 – Major Clinic performance with Mitch Markevitch and Marty Hurley at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention in Nashville, Tennessee.
- 2002 – Inducted into The Percussive Arts Society’s Hall of Fame at their International Convention in Columbus, Ohio, and Participated in the “Drummers Heritage Concert.”
- 2003 – Inducted into the New Jersey Drum Corps Hall of Fame in Sayerville, N.J., and was made an Honorary member of The Company of Fifers and Drummers, Ivoryton, Connecticut. Also, gave a Master Class in American Rudimental Drumming at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA for and old friend from The West Point Band, Professor Glenn Steele.

- 2004 – Founded the International Association of Traditional Drummers, which was suggested to Pratt by Norman Peth, his Drumming teacher in the late 1940's.
Inducted into the American Patriots Rudimental Drummers Club Hall of Fame in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.
- 2005 – Gave Master Classes in American Rudimental Drumming at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, for an old Friend from the West Point Field Music, Professor, David Smith, and gave another Master Class in Rudimental Drumming at Macomb Center for the Performing Arts in Warren, Michigan; Pratt also performed in their concert on July 14th with Mark Logsdon's 1st Michigan Colonial Fife and Drum Corps.
- 2006 – In their Percussion News#19 (July 2006), the Percussive Arts Society noted that, during the 3rd Annual International Convention of the American Patriots Rudimental Drummers Club, [which was] held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, "Jack" Pratt received a standing ovation for his solo presentation, "Sousa Forever," [which he played] on a [drum] pad [while] whistling melodies from 16 different Sousa marches.
- 2007 – On October 24th in the State University of New York at Fredonia, Pratt participated in An Evening of Traditional Rope Drumming, playing "The Downfall of Paris" (1790) and "Grandfather's Clock" with Risto Skirkberg and Jari Kantonen from Finland, and accompanied by Nick Antanasio on Rudimental Bass Drum. Pratt then played "Gingersnap" from 14 MODERN CONTEST SOLOS (1959) as a Snare Drum Duet with Robin Engleman, a member of the Percussion Staff of Toronto University. Finally, the CADRE Rope Drum Quartet (from Canada) gave an outstanding performance of Pratt's "Tribute to Dr. Berger" from Rudimental Solos for Accomplished Drummers (2000), and "Deep River Street Parade," an unpublished Pratt selection for Rudimental Snares and Bass Drums (Copyright, 2000).

2008 – Ben Hans, a member of Pratt's International Association of Traditional Drummers (I. A. T. D.), invited Pratt to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for 5 days, (September, 11-15). In addition, Ben Hans invited Ted Wade, whom Pratt had taught in the Kingston, New York "Criteria's" Drum and Bugle Corps during the 1970's. Both Pratt and Wade made drumming and speaking performances in the Milwaukee Area Technical College, and at Cascio Interstate Music in New Berlin, Wisconsin. They also discussed Traditional Rudimental Drumming techniques and assisted student instructions on Drum pads along with Chris Mell, Mick Heberling, Jim Ryan and Jim Sewrey. I.A.T.D. Awards were also given out. Last, but not least, Pratt made a DVD recording of Ancient and Traditional Rudimental Drumming, which included Swiss Drumming Rudiments. The DVD recording included:

"The Sons of Liberty" and "The All-American Emblem", solos from Pratt's book, The 26 Standard American Drum Rudiments (1960). Following these were two unpublished Solos: "Interstatesmen ABC" and "Swiss Crazy Army, Variant 1." Finally, Pratt was accompanied by Ben Hans on Rudimental Bass Drum, while playing four solos in "The Spirit of 1776", which were published in Pratt's Ancient Rudimental Snare and Bass Drum Solos (1959): They were "Concord Battle Flag," "Northeastern Halftime," "Triplet Fill 6/8," and "Lexington Minuteman." Pratt and Hans also performed 5 Traditional Rudimental Solos: "The Downfall of Paris" (1790) "The General," "Hell on the Wabash," "Three Camps" and "The Connecticut Halftime."

2009 – Pratt was invited by Payton MacDonald, Professor of Percussion at William Paterson University, to perform at their “Day of Percussion” concert on Saturday April 18, 2009 at the Shea Performing Arts Center, where he played several selections from his 14 Modern Contest Solos (1959), and his Rudimental Solos for Accomplished Drummers (2000). In the Autumn of 2009, two of his drumming books, which had been originally published by Belwin Inc. in 1959 and 1960, were republished by the Hal Leonard Corporation: 128 Rudimental Street Beats, Modern Rolloffs and Modern March Beats(1959) was reprinted with the new title of 128 Rudimental Street Beats, Rolloffs, & Parade-Song Parts In The Style of “Traditional” Drum and Bugle Corps (2009), and included a CD (made from a 45 rpm tape, which Pratt had recorded while he was stationed at West Point in the Field Music Section of The United States Military Academy Band. His Army friends, who recorded the contents of the original drumming book with him, were as follows: Willard Putnam on Tenor Drum, Keith Trombly on Bass Drum and Glenn Gould on Trumpet. (All 3 were also members of the “Hellcats,” the nickname for the Field Music Section of the U.S.M.A. Band). The second book republished by the Hal Leonard Corporation was the 26 Standard American Drum Rudiments (1960), which was reprinted with the new title of The 26 Traditional American Drumming Rudiments with Roll Charts & Rudimental Drum Solos (2009).

Also, on October 1, 2009, Pratt was honored by William A. Mc Grath III, an old drumming friend from Hamlin, New York, Who welcomed Pratt as a lifetime member into the United States Association of Rudimental Drummers (USARD).