

= John Adams (drummer) =

John Adams (born 1951) is a dedicated fan of the Cleveland Indians , a Major League Baseball team based in Cleveland , Ohio . Adams has played his bass drum in the bleacher seats during nearly every Indians home game since 1973 , which has brought him notoriety and recognition from the Indians and other organizations . The Indians now pay for two season tickets for Adams and his drum , he has been involved in two ceremonial first pitches , and he is the only fan for whom the Indians have dedicated a bobblehead day .

= = Drumming = =

Adams first drummed at an Indians game on August 24 , 1973 , at Cleveland Stadium , at a game in which the Indians beat the Texas Rangers , 11 ? 5 . Adams , who was 21 years old at the time , has stated that he brought his bass drum to that first game because he wanted to add to the noise of " seat banging " , a tradition at Cleveland Stadium in which fans would bang the swivel seat of their chairs against the chair 's base during tense moments in the game . But Adams preferred to sit in the bleachers , where there were no seats to bang .

During the game , Bob Sudyk , a reporter for the Cleveland Press , interviewed Adams and asked if he was going to drum again at the following game . Adams said no , but Sudyk wrote in his article that he would . According to Adams , " not to make a liar out of Bob , I showed up with my drum , and then I came to the next game and the next game and the next game . " The Indians ' promotions director at the time , Jackie York , also approached Adams and asked him to play at every game . Adams formally declined but continued to attend games with his drum .

Ever since , Adams has sat in the highest bleacher seat in left @-@ center field with his bass drum ; as of August 2013 he has missed only 38 home games in more than 40 seasons . Adams played at Cleveland Stadium until October 1993 , when the Indians played their last game there . Next spring he moved with the team to its new ballpark , Jacobs Field (renamed Progressive Field in 2008) . Adams played the drum at his 3,000th game on April 27 , 2011 . During his tenure , he has witnessed Indians pitcher Len Barker pitch a perfect game on May 15 , 1981 , and witnessed the Indians play in the 1995 and 1997 World Series .

Adams still uses the same 26 @-@ inch @-@ wide bass drum he began with in 1973 . He has stated that he bought it as part of a set for \$ 25 at a garage sale . It has the same head on the side of the drum that Adams does not beat , but Adams has stated that he replaces the other side about twice a year and also goes through about three sets of mallets each year . During games , Adams tends to drum at particular moments : when the Indians take the field at the beginning of the game , if the Indians have runners in scoring position , if the Indians are tied or trailing near the end of the game , or if they are winning at the top of the ninth inning . Because of his drumming , Adams became a celebrity and his drum was soon nicknamed Big Chief Boom @-@ Boom , by Indians radio announcer Herb Score . It has also helped him meet politicians , including U.S. senators and a Pakistani government official .

= = = Recognition = = =

Adams has been recognized by the Cleveland Indians and other organizations for his long commitment to the team . On October 4 , 2007 , he threw out the ceremonial first pitch for the Indians ' first game in the 2007 American League Division Series , against the New York Yankees . After Adams drummed at his 3,000th game on April 27 , 2011 , the Indians celebrated it the following Saturday , on April 30 , 2011 , by incorporating Adams in the ceremonial first pitch and putting on a pregame parade featuring Adams ' fellow Indians fans carrying bongos , snares and plastic toy drums . For the ceremonial first pitch , Adams swung at the ball with his drum from home plate after it was thrown by former Indians player Joe Charboneau . Soon after the move to Jacobs Field , Cleveland began a record @-@ breaking run of sellouts , which ended at 455 games in April 2001 . Soon after , the Indians retired the number 455 in honor of their fans and Adams helped

unveil the commemorative sign .

Adams once paid for his tickets (one for himself , and one for his drum) , but the Indians now pay for two of his season tickets in honor of the contributions he has made to the ballpark atmosphere . Adams buys an additional two season tickets . In 2006 , the Indians gave out bobblehead dolls depicting Adams , making him the only fan for whom the team has dedicated a bobble head day .

In 2008 , he won the Hilda Award , which is awarded annually by The Baseball Reliquary " to recognize distinguished service to the game by a baseball fan " and is named in memory of Hilda Chester , a dedicated fan of the Brooklyn Dodgers . In April 2012 , Great Lakes Brewing Company , a Cleveland @-@ based brewery and brewpub , released a product called Rally Drum Red Ale in honor of Adams and Opening Day . In April 2015 , The Plain Dealer columnist Tim Warsinskey wrote a column suggesting that a statue of Adams be built in Cleveland in his honor .

Adams also has a plaque located by his seat just under the left field scoreboard commemorating his tenure as the Indians ' " # 1 Fan " .

= = Personal life = =

Adams lives in Brecksville , Ohio , a suburb of Cleveland . He attended both Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland and Parma Senior High School in Parma , Ohio , where he played bass drum in band before graduating high school in 1969 . Adams works on computer systems for AT & T and teaches classes , without pay , at Cleveland State University . Adams has also volunteered his time as a member of the Kiwanis service club and the community emergency response team in his hometown and has taught CPR and water safety .