

## POLISH “GUITAR CITY” HOSTS HENDRIX FESTIVAL

On May 21, 2005, master guitarist Leszek Cichonski and 1,201 guitarists played “Red House,” “Little Wing,” “Hey Joe,” and “Wild Thing” in Wroclaw, Poland’s Old Town Square as the highlight of the city’s third annual Thanks Jimi Festival. Cichonski and friends were hoping to wrestle the title of *World’s Biggest Guitar Marathon* away from Epiphone, who assembled



Festival mastermind Leszek Cichonski.

1,555 players back in 1997. The event was preceded by a two-month educational workshop via mass media and the Internet. Attempting to break the Guinness World Record was only part of the excitement, however, as the day long festival also featured performances by Tommy Emmanuel, the John “Broadway” Tucker Band, and many of Poland’s finest guitarists. Wroclaw city president Rafal Dutkiewicz even joined the fun at one point. (Visit [www.cichonski.art.pl](http://www.cichonski.art.pl) to see lots more photos from the event.) —  
*Barry Cleveland*



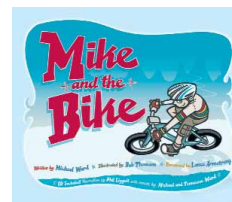
A 1,200-guitar salute to Jimi.



GP Associate Editor Barry Cleveland [right] pays his respects.



The Old Town Square with the 13th Century Town Hall in the background.



Combine a guitarist, a bicycling legend, and kids, and you get *Mike and the Bike*. Michael Ward—a guitarist who’s worked with Ben Harper and the Wallflowers—has written the new children’s book, and gotten his long-time friend, Lance Armstrong, to write the foreword. Illustrated by Bob Thomson, the book also comes with a 30-minute CD of music composed by Ward. Ward, who wanted to try and get kids away from video games and into fitness, says, “Helping inspire kids to discover the world of cycling would be a dream come true.” . . . While many legendary guitarists are accustomed to having signature guitars made to their exacting standards, Carlos Santana may be the first to have his own sparkling wine. He worked with Ludovic Dervin of Mumm Napa winery to create *Santana DVX*—a blend of pinot noir and chardonnay. Approximately 1,600 cases of the wine were produced and will be available nationwide, with one dollar from every \$55 bottle going to Santana’s Milagro Foundation. Said Santana of his newest signature product: “I’ve long enjoyed fine sparkling wine and this was a chance to create a wine of great personal expression. I’m delighted with how it turned out!” . . .