

The Quiet Room - Don Alder

a touch of genius

Don Alder

Guitar Interactive is proud to welcome Canadian fingerstyle maestro Don Alder for a revealing interview with our own Giorgio Serei, plus a series of exclusive video performances. And don't miss our next issue when Don joins us for a short series as a guest Quiet Room columnist!

Gary Cooper profiles the man widely acknowledged as one of the world's finest and most musical fingerstyle guitarists.

It's nothing to brag about being the best fingerstyle guitarist in the world (there's always someone better), but it's an almost tangible emotion to hearing Canadian fingerstyle prodigy Don Alder. Much like it's a joy to see what he does, but if it were a smell, the air of his compositions would be something like incense. In 2004, when he won the board in his native Vancouver and went on to grab prizes in Germany and throughout the world, culminating in the International Guitar Idol competition held in London in 2011. Don has now won all three major international guitar contests, including 2010's North American Guitar Spectra contest and the 2007 International Fingerstyle championship. Meanwhile, praise has been showered on him by fellow musicians and audiences have been known to snap him up at an encounter - including Bruce Springsteen and Sepultura. Details pick...

Sherry Jackson 2012

Guitar Interactive Magazine Issue 13

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Minor 7th: Acoustic

Don Alder, "Armed & Dangerous," 2015

Don't let the cover art of Don Alder's *Armed & Dangerous* CD throw you. It pays homage to the cast of the Walking Dead TV series and features a trench-coated zombie slayer armed with a fat fret acoustic guitar equipped with optional head stock blade, body blade, variable angle chainsaw and a flame thrower whammy bar. Scary as that might be, musically there is nothing dead about this vibrant collection of 12 original compositions. In fact, the only scary thing here is that Alder's infectious fretwork will leave an indelible imprint in your musical memory. The highly accoladed Alder has attained more fret-cred than, perhaps any other fingerstylist over the past eight or nine years, yet there is no sense that he has any intention of resting on his laurels if this often energetic and engaging CD is any indication. Much like his last release, *Not a Planet*, Alder offers a variety of sonic flavors and styles with technique and execution that are precise and so very fluid. There is an improvisational feel to the performances on *Armed & Dangerous* that create an immediacy that is fast becoming an Alder trademark. "Going Rogue" opens the CD with a deceptively intricate and eloquent intro before sliding, literally and sonically, head long in a tasty, yet funky groove that burst continually in unexpected melodic directions - as if the fret board of Alder's baritone guitar were a roller coaster and his fingers were alternately delighted, thrilled and hanging on for dear life. Before you have time to recover from the opening track, Alder lets loose "Love & Life," perhaps the most beautiful and satisfying vocal tunes he has ever penned, complete with full band accompaniment and violins that heighten the melody and Alder's spot on vocals. If I weren't for the phenomenal guitar work throughout this album, "Love & Life," would be my favorite track. Something tells me that Don Alder a Grammy ward winning singer/songwriter CD in his future. As he has proven before, the man can flat-out sing! "Dancing with Spin Doctors," adds a whole new aspect to Alder's repertoire. He lays down and electric finger-style groove with help from Billy Sheehan on bass and Sam Cartwright on drums that has Eric Johnson-esque overtones and feels completely at home nestled in amongst the acoustic bulk of this collection. For sheer beauty both "Sophrasine" and "Precious Moments" show the delicate side of Alder's fretwork as he coaxes sweetness from a baritone guitar that I haven't heard since Pat Metheny's One Quiet Night. Other highlights include "Circumus," a fingerstyle gem and the spirited "Three Good Reasons To Play," a duet written with Luca Franciosi. Not surprisingly, the release of *Armed & Dangerous* coincides with Don Alder's name appearing on the cover of *Guitar Player* Magazine. Go figure...
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- Andy McKee

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- Preston Reed

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- Phillip Phillips

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- Antoine DuFour

MIKE DAWES
"The Aluminum Bronze strings are revolutionary. They give my guitar an incredibly earthy organic feel that instantly inspires creativity."
- Mike Dawes

DON ALDER
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Circuitous

TOUR DATES

DON'S BIO

Don Alder is one of those acoustic guitar magicians that leaves you wondering "How is he making all that sound. Ray Daniels, Mgr of Rush says "Alder is one of those guitarists that should be famous around the world his performances are jaw dropping". Alder is often referred to as the Hendrix of acoustic guitar and while honored and humbled by those words aspires to be the "Jeff Beck" of acoustic guitar. As winner of the 2011 Worldwide Guitar Idol, 2010 Guitar Superstar North America, and 2007 International Finger style Champion, Alder's accolades puts him as one of the top acoustic guitarists in the world. Alder has been featured in numerous guitar magazines, has over 3.5 million youtube views and has been in shows that included artists such as Andy McKee, Tommy Emmanuel, Phil Keaggy, Lawrence Juber, Lee Ritenour and Billy Sheehan. It was at one of these shows that Lee Ritenour hand picked Alder to be on the advisory judge panel for the highly touted Six String Theory Contest. His last CD titled "Not a Planet" received two industry nominations as instrumental CD of the year. He continues to perform around the world entertaining audiences and inspiring guitarists wherever he goes.

DON ALDER ON TWITTER



"Performing tonight at the Zimmer 16 theatre in Berlin.
#berlinmusicscene #berlinentertainment"

CONNECT WITH DON ALDER

GITAREN & BÄSSE

Das bestgehütete Geheimnis von Vancouver

Als Gewinner des Worldwide Guitar Idol Wettbewerbs (London/UK 2011), des Guitar Superstar Wettbewerbs (LA/USA 2010) und der International Fingerstyle Championships im Jahr 2007 hat sich Don Alder, der oft auch als „Hendrix der Akustikgitarre“ bezeichnet wird, einen Top-Rang unter den Akustikgitarrenspielerinnen der Welt verdient.

Don Alder stammt aus Vancouver/Kanada und ist als Fingerstyle-Gitarrist, Singer/Liedermacher und Komponist tätig. Neben seinen sehenswerten Bühnenauftritten arbeitet er auch regelmäßig an Alben und als Studio-Musiker. Seine Spezialität ist die Kombination der Fingerpicking-Technik mit gleichzeitiger Nutzung der Gitarre als Perkussionskörper, was so quasi eine Wand aus Tönen zu erschaffen. Alders selbst komponierte Stücke sind eine einzigartige Kombination aus tief verankerten Melodien und Rhythmus, womit er bei seinen Auftritten eine einmalige dynamische Intensität auf die Bühne bringt.

Eben jene Bühnenauftritte versetzen die Zuschauer regelmäßig ins Staunen, man nennt Don Alder auch „das bestgehütete Geheimnis von Vancouver“. Aber das gilt wohl nicht mehr angesichts der vielen Clicks seiner Videos auf YouTube (ca. 3 Millionen). Nicht zuletzt, da er einer der versiertesten Harp-Gitarre-Spieler ist, hat er Gitarristen weltweit inspiriert.

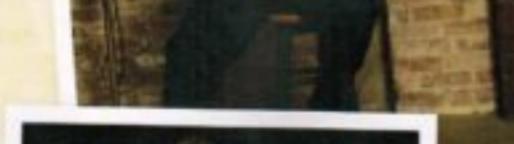
Internationale Zusammenarbeit und Auszeichnung

Als Top-Akustik-Gitarrist repräsentiert er Yamaha Guitars International und man berichtete über ihn in den Yamaha All Access Publikationen, neben Künstlern wie Jason Mraz, Herbie Hancock oder Sarah McLaughlin. Insgesamt arbeitet er mit einer Vielzahl von Gesellschaften der Musikindustrie zusammen, darunter außerdem Greenfield Guitars und Dicker Guitars.

Durch keinen Einsatz erreichte Don Alder, was sonst nur wenige schaffen: Im Frühjahr 2012 wurde ihm der Brand Laureate Award in Malaysia verliehen. Er ist nach Astronaut Chris Hadfield der zweite Kanadier, der diesen Preis erhält. Der Award wurde ihm als Anerkennung seines einzigartigen Beitrags verliehen, die Gitarre und seine Musik zu nutzen, um anderen Menschen in der Welt zu helfen und um sie zu inspirieren.

Alder ist ein hochgradig unterhaltsamer Musiker, der gern auch mal zur Einleitung seiner Stücke humorvolle Anekdoten erzählt. Besucher seiner Konzerte sind auch Tage danach noch von den Eindrücken hingerissen. Der Kanadier ist unkompliziert im Umgang mit Fans und wer ihn persönlich kennt, kennt, hat, weiß, dass sein Herz ebenso groß ist wie sein Talent.

www.donalder.com



www.musikkompass.com

Termine

- 08.11.2014 Dinslaken, Musiktheater Käppi
- 11.11.2014 Wettingen, Schweiz
- 12.11.2014 Hamminkeln, Kulturbahnhof Niederrhein
- 13.11.2014 Aachen, Musikbunker
- 14.11.2014 Hemer-Delinghofen, Stephanus-Kirche
- 15.11.2014 Ebstorf, Kulturzentrum
- 16.11.2014 Bruchsal, Theater im Riff
- 17.11.2014 Bern (CH), Oto

DON ALDER

Canada's fingerstyle Guitar Idol

Don Alder is one of the most unique and interesting guitarists in the world. He has won many awards and recognition for his unique style of playing. He has performed on many stages and has been featured in many publications. He is a true master of his craft and a true inspiration to many. He has a unique way of playing that is both technical and expressive. He is a true artist and a true master of his instrument.

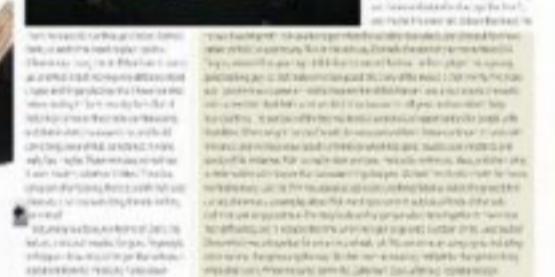
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Acoustic UK Magazine
Don Alder Interview

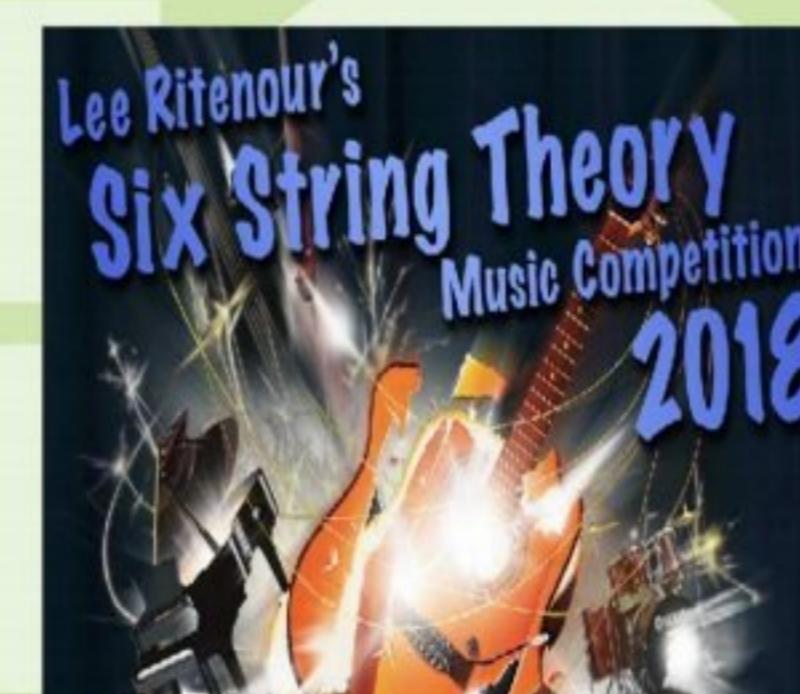
Last year, Don Alder was the first Canadian to win the Worldwide Guitar Idol competition. He has since been touring the world, performing at various venues and events. He has been featured in many publications and has been invited to perform on many stages. He is a true master of his craft and a true inspiration to many. He has a unique way of playing that is both technical and expressive. He is a true artist and a true master of his instrument.

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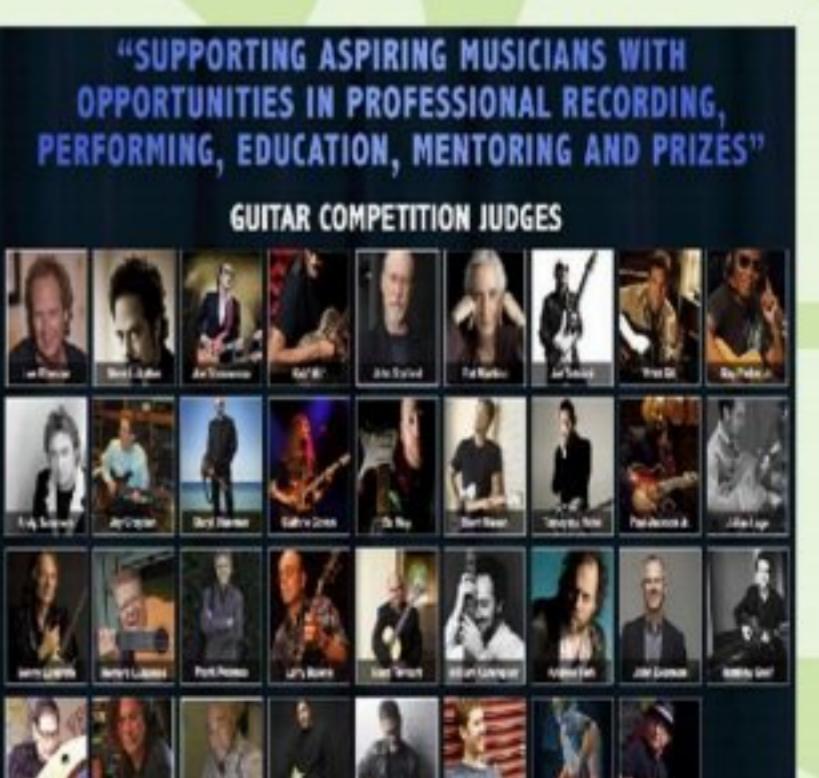
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Don Alder **Don Alder** **Don Alder**



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A magazine spread featuring a portrait of Don Alder holding a guitar. The left page contains a large title and an interview snippet, while the right page continues the interview.

A vibrant orange and yellow poster for "GUITARFEST 2011". The word "GUITARFEST" is prominently displayed at the top in large white letters, with "2011" in the top right corner. A blue circular graphic with the word "Free!" in gold script is positioned on the left. The poster features four headshots of musicians: Andy Timmons (top right), Don Alder (second from top right), John Jorgenson (bottom right), and Rick Heins (center bottom). Below the headshots, their names and instrument/genre details are listed: Andy Timmons (Andy Timmons Band | Ibanez Artist), Don Alder (Acoustic Fingerstyle | Yamaha), John Jorgenson (American Gypsy Jazz | Vox Artist), and Rick Heins (Solo Performer | Fender Amps). To the left of the musicians' names is a stylized illustration of a guitar neck and strings. Text on the right side includes "FREE CLINIC FROM 11AM-5PM | DOORS AT 10 AM", "FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY", "WIN GREAT PRIZES FROM CASCIO!", "SPECIAL DEALS! ONE DAY ONLY!", "SAVE AN EXTRA 10% OFF", and logos for various brands like Fender, EVETZ, On-Stage, Meloqua, and Blackstar. The bottom of the poster contains store information: "RESTORE - 138TH & NATIONAL AVE", "And Stage", "Cascio", "Alist", "INFO AT WWW.IHTESTATEMUSIC.COM/SUPERSTORE", and the date "SEPTEMBER 10 | 11AM".

A purple-themed poster for the Rick Hansen Celebration 25. The top half features the event title "Rick Hansen CELEBRATION 25" in large white and blue letters, with the date "MAY 22, 2012 | PACIFIC COLISEUM | 7:30PM" below it. A McDonald's logo is present. The bottom half has a large "Tickets start at \$25*" in white. Below that, a list of performers is shown with small headshots: Sarah McLachlan, Johnny Reid, The Canadian Tenors, David Foster, Don Alder, Marianne Trench, Jann Arden, One More Girl, Shane Koyczan, Sean Jones, and "AND MORE". An Omega logo is in the bottom left corner.



A photograph of a man with glasses and a dark shirt standing in front of a brick wall. To his left is a guitar and a speaker. To his right is a television screen showing a person playing a guitar. A laptop and a camera are on a table to the right. The background has a rustic feel with a wooden door and a hanging light fixture.