



Jerry Kosak Acoustic Guitar

Biography

Jerry Kosak is a guitarist/composer performing original music for solo guitar. Drawing from a great diversity of musical experiences, his music and playing blend contrasting idioms to create a fresh image of traditional music. Blues, classical, rock, and jazz styles have all been influential in producing a “great reflection of many different styles,” according to **Kevin Barnes** of KBEM radio. The pathway of Jerry’s music has included formal study of the guitar as well as rock, jazz, and blues bands. He was awarded a **Master of Music in Classical Guitar/Musicology** and taught guitar and music history at Northern Arizona University. The result of academia overlapped with the blues “suggests Segovia playing the music of Robert Johnson, while thinking about Leo Kottke.”

Currently, Jerry is a member of the faculty at both **McNally-Smith College of Music**, in St. Paul and **MacPhail Center for Music**, in Minneapolis. Jerry was the first two-time winner of the **Zeitgeist Eric Stokes Song Contest**, receiving the award in 1999 and 2000. He has also received grants from **The Jerome Foundation** and MacPhail Center for Music.

Jerry has opened for **Don Ross** and has performed on shows with **Tommy Emmanuel, Bob Brozman**, Mike Dowling, Catfish Keith, Steve James, Woody Mann, Peter Lang, and **Pat Donohue**.

According to **Billy McLaughlin**, “Jerry is a powerful and colorful guitarist who makes me want to practice... or just listen with a big smile on my face.” His first CD, **Many Dances**, is a resume of Jerry’s versatility, in that it demonstrates the broad range of his skills as composer and instrumentalist/vocalist. It’s like putting a multi-disc player on shuffle in that one tune is classical, the next is delta blues, and another is fingerstyle. The most amazing aspect is that each piece sounds authentic to the specific genre! His new CD, **Sounds Like This**, presents twelve “**intensely compelling compositions**” –Minneapolis Star-Tribune. This new music skillfully balances the subtleties in tone and dynamics with rhythmic and percussive intensity. Peter Finger of Acoustic Music calls Jerry “**a very good guitarist!**” and Dean Magraw says Jerry’s music is “**fabulous!...all the tunes are happening!**”

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