

Guitar & Performance Workshop

With Dave Isaacs

A great song deserves a great performance. What that looks and sounds like can be different for different people - your style and energy onstage can be as individual as your songs. But no matter what, your goal will always be to engage and connect with the audience.

Your guitar is an important part of that presentation. If you're confident in your playing, you're free to concentrate on communicating. Good rhythm playing draws your audience in because the groove feels good. The ability to add fills and flavor enhances the variety in the performance. Creative guitar parts add another layer of hooks to your song.

Many singer-songwriters don't consider themselves guitarists or even musicians. You might feel that you don't need to be a "real player", and it's true that a good accompaniment doesn't have to be hard to play. But while the singer-songwriter's needs are different from those of the professional freelance guitarist, you can hone even basic skills to a point where you perform with as much confidence and authority as any pro. Best of all, while there are no "shortcuts", this growth process can start with some very simple concepts, and even seasoned performers often find themselves looking for new ideas.

This workshop explores the singer-songwriter's essential guitar and stage skills, and outlines core techniques for developing and refining guitar parts in ways that support and elevate the song.

Dave Isaacs is known in the Nashville songwriting community as the "Guitar Guru of Music Row" for his teaching and mentoring work with aspiring and pro songwriters and performers.