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8:14 AM

Amazing Guitarist

Airtap - Erik Mongrain

Duration: 03:00

Recorded: 25 November 2006

Location: France



Erik Mongrain (born April 12, 1980 in Montreal, Québec, Canada) is a Canadian

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composer and guitarist. He uses a unique acoustic style including a two-handed lap tapping technique on the acoustic guitar.

Biography

Erik Mongrain taught himself guitar at the age of 14. As a boy he was mostly interest sports, but picked up an interest in the guitar and began to teach himself to play by Erik started out playing the electric guitar, but developed an interest in classical anc acoustic guitar after hearing the work of Johann Sebastian Bach. Erik taught himself read music, and began composing.

Erik Mongrain was inspired early on by the work of Metallica, Jimi Hendrix, and Kurt Cobain. When he was 18, Erik heard the work of guitarist Don Ross, and he said 'This' a new revelation to me. I finally found my niche." After that, Erik was heavily influent by the work of Michael Hedges. Erik also began to experiment with a technique knows lap tapping, in which the player lays the guitar across their lap, and taps the string the fret board with both hands.

Erik Mongrain plays live shows in the United States, Canada, and England. He started with street shows, before he was discovered in Spain; he continues to play street and metro shows, as well as shows at concert venues and on television. Erik's music is go to be featured in a documentary produced by Lance Trumbull for the Everest Peac Project. He was recently featured on the cover of Guild Guitar Company Magazine was featured in Le Journal de Montréal and was written about in the Granada spar journal. They wrote:

the visitor (to Grenada) ... discovers rather good musicians, sometimes brilliant, who makes a pure delight of the city... Erik Mongrain, 21 years old, is one of them... The young interpreter does not play in a habitual manner but rather lays the guitar on his knees like a keyboard ... before discovering this new method, known under the name of "tapping", he studied classical guitar on his own

Erik released his first full-length album, Fates, in December 2006 on his website as a s of individually buyable/downloadable songs. The physical CD will be released in Jui 2007 (May for Japan).

In 2007, Mongrain went on a tour around the world, particuliary in Europe, Asia and America. He performed also at the famous Montreal International Jazz Festival and the "Studio-théâtre" of the Place des Arts of Montréal where the live performance v recorded. Mongrain was invited for the premiere of the « World Music Heritage », a c by Gontiti on the national Japanese network (NHK). The broadcast started last May and the footage used for the broadcast is filmed in Montreal's streets and in Saint Joseph's Oratory, reputed for its acoustics.

The iVideoSongs company have filmed four clips including Equilibrium, a recent composition. The clips are tutorials of Mongrain's lap tapping style, downloadable or company's Web site.

His "Air Tap" video has been viewed over 3.5 million times on YouTube.

Recent work

On October 21st 2008, Erik Mongrain launched his second album "Equilibrium" which 9 new compositions. [citation needed] The title track from the album is an ode to the balance between humans and the planet. The album was recorded on July 2008 in

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"The Dragon Crossing studios", the personnal recording place of Paul Reed Smith (PRS Guitars), located in Annapolis, Maryland, United States. On this new album, Mongrain is playing with musicians such as Michael Manring on fretless bass and Bill Plummer on synthesizers.

The album will be launched live on Mongrain's official website (streamed broadcast) on 21 October 2008 at noon in the time zone UTC-5 (New York / Montreal). The event called "Equilibrium Experience" will broadcast an exclusive live concert from Montreal and interviews with the artist directly from his living room.



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