

THE BEST PLACE...**TO TAP INTO THE GUITAR'S HIDDEN POTENTIAL**

Despite having been inspired to pick up the guitar by Metallica, you won't find Erik Mongrain with his foot on the monitor blasting out the power chords. The Montreal musician is more likely to be seen sitting down, leaning over his guitar, performing what he calls lap-tapping, hitting the strings as if they were piano keys rather than strumming or picking them. Mongrain's technique makes his six strings sound more unusual than most effects pedals could. The result can be heard on this year's *Equilibrium* album and at tonight's dextrous live performance, although none of these licks are likely to feature on *Guitar Hero* any time soon.



Paul Clarke

*Tonight, The Maze, 257 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, 8pm, £10.
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