

Don Alder -Bio

Don Alder plays with a passion rarely seen and is one of those acoustic guitar magicians with a signature style that leaves you wondering "How is he making that wall of sound. Ray Daniels, Mgr of Rush says "Alder is one of those guitarists that should be famous around the world". Guitar Player Magazine Senior Editor, Michael Molenda says "Alder is a Guitar Star in the making and can hold an audience with the best of the seasoned pros". Alder is currently the only guitarist on the planet to have won all the top modern guitar competitions and his long list of accolades puts him alongside the top players in the acoustic genre. Lee Ritenour 18 time grammy winning guitarist says "Alder is one of the most original guitarists I've ever seen"

Alder has been featured in numerous guitar magazines, has millions of youtube views, performed duets with Grammy Winners Angelique Kidjo and John Parr and has been in shows and festivals that included artists such as Steve Vai, Lee Ritenour, David Foster, Victor Wooten, Sarah Mclaughlin, Andy Mckee, Tommy Emmanuel and Billy Sheehan (Mr.Big). It was at one of these shows that Lee Ritenour hand picked Alder to be on the advisory judge panel for the highly touted International Six String Theory Contest. His music also speaks for itself as his current CD "Armed & Dangerous" has him nominated at the 2016 WCMA's for "Instrumental Artist of the Year", his previous CD titled "Not a Planet" received two industry nominations for instrumental CD of the year. His music combines deeply textured melody and rhythm, soulful singing with haunting lyrics and his guitar fireworks and fabulous storytelling makes his shows highly entertaining and talked about for days. And, Don's heart is as big as his talent. In 1985 he put his music career on hold for 2.5 years to help his lifelong friend go around the world in a wheelchair, an amazing journey with a story that has become part of Canadian History. In 2006, Director Michael French produced a feature film about the story, www.heartofadragonmovie.com which includes Don as one of the main characters portrayed by actor Andrew Lee Potts. Alder continues to perform around the world entertaining audiences and inspiring people and guitarists wherever he goes.

Performances /Accolades

2017 "Artist of the Year" Vancouver Island Music Awards
2016 Canadian Folk Music Awards "Instrumental Artist of the Year" Nominee
2016 Western Canadian Music Awards "Instrumental Artist of the Year" Nominee
2015 Domenic Troiano Award (multi-genre category)
2013 International Brand Laureate Award Recipient (Malaysia)
2009 Canadian Folk Music Awards "Instrumental Artist of the Year" Nominee
2009 Western Canadian Music Awards "Instrumental Artist of the Year" Nominee
1st 2011 Worldwide Guitar Idol, UK
1st 2010 Guitar Superstar Champion, North America
1st 2007 International Fingerstyle Champion (Winfield)
2nd 2007 Canadian Guitar Festival Champion
2nd 2006 International Fingerstyle Champion (Winfield)
1st 2006 Winfield Song Showcase Best Instrumental
1st 2005 Winfield Song Showcase Best Instrumental
1st 2004 Winfield Song Showcase Best Instrumental
1st 2005 Best 30-second Guitar Solo Contest - Acidplanet.com
1st 2004 Vancouver Folk Slam
1st 2004 Winfield Intl. Fingerstyle Championships Best Instrumental
Semi-Finalist Canada's Got Talent
2015 – Duet with Space Station Commander Chris Hadfield
2012 – Duet with Shayne Koyczan at PNE Coliseum
2012 – Duet with Angelique Kidjo at Rogers Arena
2010 Performed at the Vancouver Olympics (Olympic Village)
NAMM All Star Guitar Nights (Nashville Rymon Theatre and Anaheim California)
NAMM Breakfast of Champions
TEDx Vancouver performance
Sam Sullivan's Public Salon (speaker/performance)
Performed at festivals around the world, has toured in USA, Europe, Asia
2016 "Armed & Dangerous" receives two nominations in Canada for Instrumental CD of the year at WCMA and Canadian Folk Awards
2009 "Not A Planet" receives two nominations in Canada for Instrumental CD of the year at WCMA and Canadian Folk Awards
Columnist for IGuitar Magazine (five issues)
Over 4 Million youtube views
Advisory Judge for Lee Ritenour's Six String Theory (Don was handpicked by Lee Ritenour)
2006 Alder's character portrayed in movie www.heartofadragonmovie.com Andrew Lee Potts played Don's character
Greenfield Signature Guitar G4-DA Fan fret acoustic guitar
Riversong Signature Fan Fret Baritone acoustic guitar
Featured Ad placements in magazines including Yamaha, Seymour Duncan, Santo Angelo Cables, Ernie Ball Strings, Riversong Guitars
Full Features in Guitar Player Magazine, IGuitar Magazine, Acoustic Guitar, Acoustic Guitar UK, Akustik-Gitarre Germany, Acoustic Guitar Japan, Axe Magazine Italy, Fingerstyle Magazine, Vintage Guitar Magazine, Musikkompas, FRETs magazine, Acusitca Chittara, Vancouver Magazine, Yamaha All Access, SNAP JR, Vancouver Courier
Top Tier Endorsements: Yamaha International Artist, Timberline Harp Guitars Intl Artist, Seymour Duncan, Santo Angelo Cables, Sunburst Gear, Ernie Ball Strings, Riversong Guitars, Guitarhands, Journey Guitars, Emerald Guitars "Amicus"

Wheelchair Tech for the Canadian Paralympic team at the 1996 Atlanta and 2000 Sydney Games
1985-1985 Rick Hansen's "Man in Motion" World Tour

QUOTES

"Alder is one of the most original guitarists I've seen" **Lee Ritenour, 18 time Grammy Winning Guitarist**

"Even though Don stepped onto the Guitar Superstar stage as a solo-acoustic performer, he played with ferocity and charisma, and totally owned the audience and that's what a guitar star does. You have to deliver something so thrilling that people can't help but stand up and cheer. Don nailed it." **Michael Molenda, Editor in Chief, GUITAR PLAYER magazine**

"Alder is one of those guitarists that should be famous around the world" **Ray Daniels - Manager for "Rush"**

"Don Alder you just took everybody to school, your performances was transcendental" **George Lynch - Dokken**

"Alder ! Not only did you just play some amazing guitar but you entertained us, simply amazing," **Elliot Easton - The Cars**

"The World needs to see you !" **Gary Hoey**

"I watched the most amazing guitarist last night, still shocked by Don Alder's talent this AM." - **Carly Rae Jepsen (Call Me Maybe, Pop Superstar)**

"Don is an amazing guitarist, a one man moche-pit. If you're within 100 miles of a performance, go see this guy" **Master Luthier, Matt Mustapick**

"Guitar Hero" **Penticton Herald**

"Almost Unknown at home, Vancouver's Don Alder might be one of the best acoustic guitarists in the world" - **Vancouver Courier**

Don Alder, truly a wonderful player, really great tunes, amazing technique and very musical **Andy Timmons, Guitarist "Favored Nations"**

"Alder can make a single instrument sound like a 4 piece band. The Guy's like the acoustic Hendrix". **Picque News Magazine**

"Don is Canada's secret fingerstyle weapon...it's only a matter of time until everyone discovers this world class player.
World Class Luthier, Michael Greenfield

"Don is an amazing guitarist, a one man mosh-pit. If you're within 100 miles of a performance, go see this guy". **Master Luthier, Matt Mustapick**

"Congratulations. What a great achievement Don, you are at the top of your game and deserve every success!" **Nick Campling, G7th capo inventor.**

CURRENT ARTIST ENDORSEMENTS

Yamaha Acoustic Guitars

https://usa.yamaha.com/artists/d/don_alder.html

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9p23sjdKEBg>

<http://www.yamahaguitardevelopment.com/node/109>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VdnM4Y_uJ1k

Timberline Harp Guitars

<https://www.timberlineguitars.com/earrings>

Ernie Ball Strings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NF-17U2owhk>

<https://www.ernieball.com/artists>

<http://www.donalder.com/ernieballadd.jpg>

Laney Amps

<http://www.laney.co.uk/artists/don-alder/>

<http://www.laney.co.uk/news/don-alder-uk-guitar-clinics/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H2KF34g_EvQ

Seymour Duncan Pickups

<https://www.seymourduncan.com/artist/don-alder>

Riversong Guitars - Signature Don Alder Baritone Fanfret Acoustic

<http://www.riversongguitars.com/guitars/graduated-scale-series/graduated-scale-baritone/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8BzNZdxo2s>

Santo Angelo Cables

<http://www.santoangelo.com.br/en/santoangelousa>

Leviora Carbon Fibre Guitars

<http://leviora-guitars.de/en/don-alder-on-tour-with-leviora-3/>

Journey Travel Guitars

<http://www.journeyinstruments.com/don-alder/>
<https://youtu.be/OTHZGRKGXfw>

CD REVIEW FROM MINOR 7th Magazine

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 fan 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 award 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 "Sophrosyne" 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 "Circuitous," a fingerstyle gem and the spirited "Three Good Reasons To Play," a duet written and with Luca Francioso. Not surprisingly, the release of Armed & Dangerous coincides with Don Alder's name appearing on the cover of Guitar Player Magazine. Go figure...

Minor 7th, © James Filkins CD REVIEW

Other Info:

<http://www.donalder.com>
<http://www.facebook.com/donalderfanpage>
<http://www.youtube.com/playthatfunkymusic56>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Don_Alder
<http://www.twitter.com/donalder>
http://www.instagram.com/don_alder