

KEVEN EKNES

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PROFILE

Exceptional improvisational skills. Excellent sight-reader. Vast rhythmic vocabulary. Adept in guitar programming.

EXPERIENCE

Smoky Mountain Opry

Lead Guitarist

- *Feel the Music*, a multi-million dollar production show. Performed 9 shows weekly including aerial features in the 1,400 seat theater during the 2017 season;
- *Christmas at the Smoky Mountain Opry*, a multi-million dollar Christmas-themed production show. Performing 11 shows weekly during the 2017 season.

The NAMM Show

Artist Exhibitor

- Artist endorsing *Voodoo Lab* (Nashville, Summer NAMM 2017);
- Artist endorsing *Rockbox Electronics* (Anaheim, Winter NAMM 2016/17).

Luminosity

Bandleader/Lead Guitarist

- *Cedar Point's* outdoor multi-million dollar nighttime production. Performed 6 shows weekly as the lead guitarist during the summer season of 2015.
- Performed 6 shows weekly as the bandleader and lead guitarist with aerial features during the summer season of 2016.

Rockin' Road to Dublin

Lead Guitarist

- Lead guitarist for the 40 city national tour (fall 2016) featuring world champion Irish dancers. Recorded original cast album in Nashville, TN November 2017.

Session Guitarist

- Live guitarist for festivals including International Guitar Festival of Great Britain; events including Gardeball (Norway Majesty's Guards ball); blues clubs include Sandnes Bluesklubb; church services include Pathways Church; bar/wedding gigs include Stephen Goff and the Royals.
- Recording guitarist for Harry Murrell (multiple recordings), Erin Jarvis (Green Eyes), National Geographic (Soundtrack by Peder Barratt-Due), and more.

Solo Project

Composer/Lead Guitarist

- Composing and performing for solo project EP Extraterrestrial (2013), Singles: Falls (2014); Fifths (2014); While We Wait (2014). New EP Northern Lights in the works.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Tom Wilhelmsen Stiftelse Endowment

National Norwegian award given «gifted young artists».

2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016

G9alt Award

Multi-regional Norwegian award set to "support outstanding creative minds from regions Rogaland, Agder and Hordaland."

2014, 2016

Berklee Performance Division Award, «Outstanding Musicianship»

"Nominated to receive award by Faculty, Chair(s) and Dean based on outstanding achievement in major and contributions to the Guitar department"

2015

Berklee World Tour Scholarship

International Award: "Each year, Berklee travels the globe in search of those talented musicians we feel will be an excellent match with the college"

2014

Berklee Writing and Composition Scholarship

International Award: "... designed to provide applicants an opportunity to have their music-writing abilities taken into consideration."

2014

Helgøleiren Guitar Idol

Guitar soloing competition.

2014

City of Sandnes Honorary Recognition Award

Regional Norwegian award given yearly to one notable musician in the city of Sandnes.

2013

PwC Talent Award

Regional Norwegian award nominated by top local musicians, awarded after a live audition performance.

2013

Nominated: IAAPA Brass Ring Awards: Best Male Performer

Nominated by Smoky Mountain Opry/Fee Hedrick entertainment company as their representative for IAAPA's Best Male Performer Award 2017.

TBD

ARTIST ENDORSEMENTS

Strandberg Guitars (2017 - Present)

Victory Amplification (2017 - Present)

JBE Guitar Pickups (2017 - Present)

GHS Strings (2017 - Present)

Gravity Guitar Picks (2016 - Present)

Voodoo Lab (2017 - Present)

Rockbox Electronics (2016 - Present)

Fractal Audio (2017 - Present)

EDUCATION

Berklee College of Music

Boston, MA

2014-2016

Artist's Diploma

- One of three yearly graduates awarded Berklee's most prestigious performance diploma available by invitation only. [See link for info.](#)

Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts

Liverpool, UK

2012-2013

- Certificate of Higher Education at Paul McCartney's renowned LIPA.