

Guitar Summit 2000

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The Wind Beneath Their Riffs (Guitar Heroes & Early Influences)

Mike Turner: I think the first person that inspired me to play was Brian May of Queen. I was seeing the band and during the extended guitar solo I was watching him (from 4th row floors!!). The interesting thing to me was that there were 15,000 people going nuts in front of him and he was unaware of us. He was utterly transported by the instrument. I decided I wanted to try whatever did that for him. Then I heard U2's "I Will Follow You" and was stunned by the original voice the guitarist had. The more I've come to know The Edge's playing the more I respect and am inspired by him. The most vital thing I have found about guitar is the individual voice, not the technical mastery of the instrument. Technique should serve the music, not the other way around.

Playing Favourites (What's Your Favourite Guitar)

Mike Turner: Right now my faves are my Tom Anderson Guitarworks '62 Hollow T Classics, but I have several others that inspire me at other times. Among them are MJ Baritone Guitars, an '80 Gibson Les Paul Studio Standard and a '57 Gibson ES-125T. My Acoustic is a Larivee C-10 that is so good it's hard to believe!

Gearing Up

Mike Turner: Effects? Yes please! Everything from crotchety old stomp boxes to rack mount processors. Special faves are anything by Z. Vex (Fuzz Factory and Seek-Wah especially), and the Digitech IPS-33B Super Harmony machine.

Advice For Absolute Beginners

Mike Turner: WRITE!!! Never except just the parts you are asked to play. Invent new ways of playing them and write your own material, even if it's not very good to start with. The only way to improve is to keep trying. Master your instrument to the point of being able to play whatever is in your head, let me know what it's like! Seriously, it's a never-ending process that is a reward in and of itself.