

NEIL RAMBALDI: A CALL TO THE WILD 2019 ARTIST BIO

Heavily inspired by the epic landscapes and wide-open spirit of the American Southwest, rock fusion, blues rock, and instrumental rock guitarist/multi-instrumentalist, songwriter and vocalist Neil Rambaldi's highly-anticipated sophomore release *A Call To The Wild* conjures up the spirit of the wild with its fire-red, blues-laden guitar lines and epic multi-instrumental soundscapes, carrying listeners to a place where a guitar has never taken them before. Neil's guitar sound and compositions, time and time again, have been described as powerful and earthy, with one critic calling them "a stunning barrage of sound" (20th Century Guitar Magazine). He paints a scenery with "the brush that is the virtuoso guitar of Rambaldi" (Patricios 95.5 FM, Buenos Aires, AR).

Upon the album's release in March 2017, Neil peaked at #6 on the Reverb Nation rock charts for Los Angeles, surpassing artists such as rock guitar legend George Lynch. And the San Francisco area veteran radio DJ Don Campau (KKUP 91.5 FM) is calling Neil's *A Call To The Wild* one of his "favorite albums of the year."

Entirely producing, writing, and performing all of the instruments and the occasional vocals on the album (including guitars, bass, keyboards, and various percussion with the exception of some drum programming), this monumental 67-minute work is Neil's second solo release on his own label Prismism Music, with worldwide distribution on CD, download, and streaming through CD Baby, Amazon, iTunes, Google Play, Spotify, Apply Music, and many more online music retailers and services, as well as additional CD distribution through Alliance Entertainment and its large and small retail affiliates worldwide. Mainly influenced by a wide spectrum of classic rock, progressive rock, hard rock, blues, soul, and even classical, funk, jazz, Latin jazz, and flamenco (including anywhere from Led Zeppelin and Stevie Ray Vaughan, to Beethoven and Paganini, to Eric Johnson and Joe Satriani, to Jimi Hendrix, Steve Vai, Freddie King, Eddie Palmieri, Vinnie Moore, Greg Howe, Al Di Meola, Jeff Beck, Stevie Wonder, Yngwie Malmsteen, Francisco Tárrega, and Paco de Lucía, among others), Neil's second album has major crossover appeal—and although Neil's sound is eclectic, it has a distinctive thread throughout that is all his own. His guitar playing is highly melodic, soulful, sometimes aggressive, and often deeply-textured with sounds spanning his stylistic palette. Pete Pardo of Sea of Tranquility (USA) says:

"Much more than just an instrumental guitar-oriented album... Neil Rambaldi not only has all the chops, but the songwriting skills to match them every step of the way. This guy is a monster player. ...Each (song) a sizzling vehicle for Rambaldi's serious chops of doom. The songs here contain a wealth of variety, tones, textures, and colors. ...and he knows how to cross different genres and really mix it up a bit. He's a guy that deserves to be heard by the masses. Lion Music and all the guitar labels out there – check this guy out. I think he is well deserving of finding a spot on one of your rosters."

Once voted as a top-10 international finalist by guitar legend Steve Vai in the Tonos & Ibanez Guitar Challenge early in his career, Neil has much more than just two solo albums under his belt... There are also dozens of other releases, artists, and projects that he has either recorded for or with, or performed and shared the stage or bill with as a session and touring guitarist, backing vocalist, music director, songwriter/composer, producer, arranger, or solo artist. These

collaborations include acclaimed artists and musicians such as former member of the Grammy-winning group The Commodores—Kenny Simmons, Universal Records recording artist / WWE ring announcer Lilian Garcia, Sony Music Latin recording artist Julio Reyes, Nuno Bettencourt of Extreme (A&M Records), bassist Stu Hamm (credits: Joe Satriani, Steve Vai), Aaron Kamin of The Calling (RCA Records), guitarist Ty Oliver of Powerman 5000 (Dreamworks Records), drummer Chris Reeve of Filter (Reprise Records), multi-instrumentalist Carl Restivo (credits: Tom Morello, Perry Farrell, Rihanna), drummer/percussionist Demian Arriaga (credits: Richie Kotzen, Nick Jonas, Jonas Brothers), Chaley Rose from NBC's hit TV show *Nashville*, Emmy-winning songwriter Andrew Rollins, Enigma / Capitol Records recording artist The Smithereens, among many others. Between both his live solo band, solo acoustic, and these other projects, he has performed in many parts of the U.S. and on stages as far as Tokyo, Japan, as well as on national and regional TV in the U.S. Neil's music has also garnered terrestrial radio airplay in at least 15 countries to date, including the U.S., Canada, Germany, Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Italy, Czech Republic, France, Belgium, Austria, Poland, Australia, and others; he has amassed countless rave reviews and features in the U.S. and abroad for both of his solo albums—including 20th Century Guitar Magazine (USA/Canada), The Aquarian (USA), MLWZ (Poland), ProGGnosis (USA/Canada), Guitar Chef (Italy), Sea of Tranquility (USA), Mundo Rock (Chile), and on CNET (USA) as an "Editor's Pick," among many others; and his music has also been licensed and heard on national and international TV in at least 35 countries for numerous programs, as well as feature films, video games, commercials, and other media including a commercial spot for Audi of America, the Wii video game "Dancing With The Stars: We Dance," AMC TV's "Hollywood Icon," the feature film "199 Lives: The Travis Pastrana Story," and many others including productions featured on MTV, AMC TV, National Geographic, and Fuel TV, among others.

Parallel to his performance and recording career as an artist and musician, Neil has also been passing on his guitar and songwriting knowledge for years now as a guru for many, first in New Jersey and New York City, and later in Los Angeles to many up and coming artists such as the talented and emerging Phoebe Bridgers (PAX-AM Records). Neil has also received artist sponsorships from guitar companies including Taylor guitars, and has even been selected to do beta testing for a new line of guitar strings by D'Addario strings. Early in his career as a musician, he also spent a lot of time building his music production skills in New York City-area recording studios, including Sony Music Studios. During that time he got to work with renowned artists such as the late jazz organist Charles Earland (Mercury / Columbia Records), Grammy-winning Latin pop star Marc Anthony (Columbia Records / Sony Music), and late jazz singer Irene Reid (Verve Records), as well as working with Grammy-winning mix engineer Michael Brauer, recording/mix engineer David Swope, and Grammy-winning producer and engineer Bob Power, among others. This experience has carried over into both his solo albums and the many projects he has been involved with.

Unlike his all-instrumental critically-acclaimed first album *Perpetual Horizon*, the mostly-instrumental *A Call To The Wild* expands even deeper into Neil's range of styles, featuring some of Neil's vocals as well, where the listener can clearly hear some of his blues and soul influences projecting over catchy blues rock guitar riffs, drums, and bass on the all-out jam "Everything You Say"—but those influences carry much further beyond just Neil's vocals. On the album, his bluesy influences permeate throughout many of the tracks, which are often centered in a rock context. Along with plenty of "shred guitar" and hints of progressive rock, this can be heard on tracks such as "The Day The Tides Stood Still," "When The Days Were Young," "Wild Seed," "Brave New World," the futuristic / bluesy "The Punchline," and others. Neil's study of classical music can particularly be heard as well on pieces such as "The Sleeper" and "Into The Twilight," among others, but these pieces are truly a fusion of rock, classical, and world/ethnic.

Latin, Flamenco, and Jazz influences can also be heard on the tracks “Mi Corazón,” “And The Sun Goes Down...” and “Paradise Lost,” respectively—and genre-defying tracks like “Shadow Armada” fall into a style all their own.

Residing in Los Angeles (although originally hailing from New Jersey), Neil currently has Los Angeles tour dates booked with West Coast, Southwest, and Northeast dates in the works. He is booking a mix of shows with both his full solo live band and as solo acoustic, with his [band setlist](#) favoring the blues rock and multifaceted fusion side of his catalog, and his [solo acoustic setlist](#) favoring his blues, American roots, soul, jazz, and classical-influenced catalog—both including some of his unreleased material as well. Neil will be fulfilling these tour dates amidst also doing periodic live dates with singer/songwriter Michelle Kash on both the West and East Coasts. (Keep an eye out for upcoming Rambaldi tour dates!) All updates can be found at www.NeilRambaldi.com with additional information being posted on Facebook (@neilrambaldi), Twitter (@neilrambaldi), and Instagram (@neilrambaldi).

With the accolades Neil has garnered thus far, and the broad span of his musical talents, we must heed the words one Dutch music critic has said about him: “*We need to keep our eyes wide open for this talented man*” (Strutter’zine, NL). With no need to concern himself with current trends in order to make great music, there is creative truth in Neil’s music, and this matches the purity that has inspired him in the deserts of the Southwest U.S. and beyond... Take an epic journey down this desert highway, and discover “what is” Neil Rambaldi.

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