

NEIL RAMBALDI: A CALL TO THE WILD

2023 ARTIST BIO

Billboard charts #4 hit multi-genre session guitarist and acclaimed blues, rock fusion, blues rock, instrumental rock and progressive rock solo-artist, guitarist, multi-instrumentalist, songwriter and vocalist Neil Rambaldi is a musical force to be reckoned with. With two solo albums under his belt and a third underway, his highly-acclaimed latest 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. Neil's guitar sound and compositions, time and time again, have been described as powerful and virtuosic, with one influential critic calling them "a stunning barrage of sound" (20th Century Guitar Magazine, USA/Canada). 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, Neil peaked at #6 on the Reverb Nation rock charts for Los Angeles, surpassing artists such as rock guitar legend George Lynch. The San Francisco area veteran radio DJ Don Campau (KKUP 91.5 FM) has even called Neil's *A Call To The Wild* one of his "favorite albums of the year."

Currently based mainly out of both his native New Jersey / N.Y.C. area and L.A. (having initially built his career for a decade in N.Y.C. and later in L.A. for 12 years as his full-time residence), he also spends time touring on both the U.S. coasts and in the Southwest on guitar and vocals in both his [solo format](#) (as mostly solo-electric with some acoustic) and [three-piece live band](#). His music and songwriting are heavily inspired by his vast and somewhat nomadic life experiences, having especially soaked up both the U.S. Southwest and West Coast landscapes and energy, along with the vast opportunities in L.A. that have come to him and continue to come to him for his musical talents, including working in various capacities as a performer with tremendous talents such as legendary guitarist Nuno Bettencourt of both the band Extreme and Rihanna, bass virtuoso Stu Hamm (credits: Joe Satriani / Steve Vai), and many others.

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), his monumental 67-minute *A Call To The Wild* is Neil's second solo release on his own label Prismism Music, with worldwide distribution on CD, download, and streaming through all major platforms including CD Baby, Amazon, iTunes, Spotify, Apply Music, Tidal, Deezer, and many more online music retailers and services, as well as additional CD distribution through Alliance Entertainment and its affiliates worldwide. Influenced by classic rock, progressive rock, blues, hard rock, soul, and even classical, funk, jazz, Latin jazz, and flamenco, Neil's second album has crossover appeal—and although Neil's sound is eclectic, it has a distinctive thread throughout that is all his own. His guitar playing has been known to be highly melodic, soulful, sometimes aggressive, and often deeply-textured with sounds spanning his wide stylistic palette. He has been likened to guitar greats such as Eric Johnson, Jeff Beck, Joe Bonamassa, Stevie Ray Vaughan, and Joe Satriani, among others.

Some of Neil's greatest musical influences include Eric Johnson, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Al Di Meola, Tommy Emmanuel, Joe Satriani, Jimi Hendrix, Greg Howe, Vinnie Moore, Jon Finn, The Hellecasters, Freddie King, Albert King, B.B. King, Steve Vai, Yngwie Malmsteen, Francisco Tárrega, Niccolò Paganini, Agustín Barrios Mangoré, Johann Sebastian Bach, Ludwig van Beethoven, Antonio Vivaldi, Led Zeppelin, Jeff Beck, Cachao, Eddie Palmieri, Paco de Lucía,

Jaco Pastorius, Brecker Brothers, Joe Pass, Wes Montgomery, Django Reinhardt, Miles Davis, and Michael Hedges among others.

And Marc Roy of ProGGnosis (USA/Canada) says:

"I'm very much impressed by what I hear on A Call To The Wild... Obviously Rambaldi is a great guitar player that can shred with lightning speed, but he does not use his music as a vehicle that allows him to showcase his technical abilities. His emphasis is more on the melody, not just on prowess. References can be made with great Blues Rock guitarists like Joe Bonamassa, Jeff Beck or Stevie Ray Vaughan, but his playing style is quite unique... He even sings (very well)... One thing that really got me hooked on A Call To The Wild is that Rambaldi inserts a good number of pieces in a "Non Blues Rock" style; Latin Rock, Spanish guitar... Luckily he manages to do this without breaking the general mood of his album. A Call To The Wild is an excellent album that is good from beginning to end. Highly recommended indeed." ...And from Facebook (@ProGGnosis): "Fans of Jeff Beck, Joe Bonamassa... this album should really interest you."

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."

Vinnie DeMasi, a writer for Guitar Player Magazine (USA) says:

"It (A Call To The Wild) really is exceptional! Somewhere between shred and blues. Great balance of both! ...Shred equal parts Satriani, SRV (Stevie Ray Vaughan), and Eric Johnson. This is a fantastic CD! Highly recommended. Neil has a lot of diverse aspects to his playing and writing which are all highly developed!"

Neil has had the honor of being introduced to associates as "an amazing guitarist" by the guitar titan himself, Nuno Bettencourt, and Neil was once even voted as a top-10 international finalist by guitar legend Steve Vai in the *Tonos.com Steve Vai Guitar Challenge*. With honors and accolades like this, 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 a Billboard #4 hit Dance Club Songs Chart single of Michelle Kash's (INgrooves Music Group) cover of Depeche Mode's "Personal Jesus," on which Neil played lead guitar and did the arrangement for—making it to the top of the charts!

Neil's collaborations and performances also include with 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, the aforementioned Nuno Bettencourt of Extreme (A&M Records), the aforementioned bassist Stu Hamm (credits: Joe Satriani / Steve Vai), Aaron Kamin of The

Calling (RCA Records), Nuno Bettencourt's protégé recording artist Gabriela (and touring vocalist member of Trans-Siberian Orchestra), guitarist Ty Oliver of Powerman 5000 (Dreamworks Records), drummer Chris Reeve (credits: Filter / Tom Morello), multi-instrumentalist Carl Restivo (credits: Tom Morello / Perry Farrell / Rihanna), drummer/percussionist Demian Arriaga (credits: Miley Cyrus / Richie Kotzen / Nick Jonas / Jonas Brothers), Emmy-winning songwriter Andrew Rollins, guitarist Spacey T. of Fishbone and Sound Barrier (Columbia Records and MCA Records respectively), and top-10 Americana charts recording artist Stoll Vaughan among many others.

Between his live solo band, solo electric, solo acoustic, and these other projects, he has performed extensively 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 or music featuring his guitar playing 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 ESPN feature film "199 Lives: The Travis Pastrana Story," the extreme sport DVD series "Nitro Circus," and many others including productions for or featured on National Geographic, ESPN, MTV, AMC TV, and Fuel TV, among others.

In addition to these forms of sync licensing, Neil has also signed direct agreements with Equinox Media, Apple Fitness+, and the virtual reality technology company Within, whose "Supernatural" fitness experience is used in the Oculus Quest virtual reality headset. In all cases, Neil's music is accessible and/or sourced for these exercise experiences. Additionally, Neil has signed licensing agreements with the educational music services Yousician and Fender Songs—both of which feature or have featured Neil's song catalog for guitar students who wish to learn his songs using AI-based song-transcribing technology.

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 highly-successful musicians and actors, first in New Jersey and New York City, and later in Los Angeles. His roster has included multi-Grammy nominated solo artist Phoebe Bridgers (PAX-AM Records, and member of the supergroup Boygenius), platinum-selling producer / songwriter / multi-instrumentalist Andrew Wells (Jason Mraz / Celine Dion / Halsey / Phoebe Bridgers), actress Zoey Deutch (Zombieland: Double Tap / Buffaloed), touring bassist Alicia Vigil for DragonForce (Roadrunner Records / Universal Records), members of The Regrettes (Warner Brothers Records), actor Will Bradley (Pretty Little Liars), and many more.

Neil has also received artist sponsorships from guitar companies and related companies including Taylor guitars and Spectraflex cables, and has even been selected to do beta testing for a then-new line of guitar strings by D'Addario strings. He is currently an officially endorsed artist by Spectraflex.

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 his 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, his bluesy influences 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.

On the stage and on tour, both Neil's [solo-electric](#) and [three-piece live band](#) shows currently consist of mainly his blues rock and multifaceted rock fusion side of his catalog from both his upcoming third album *Path of the Warrior* and similar track selections from his album *A Call to the Wild*, while revealing his American roots music influences, including blues, soul, and jazz, plus his instrumental rock, progressive rock, and classical influences. For his longer shows, he also includes his own spin on some of his favorite classics among blues, blues rock, and soul music. ...His exceptional performances and musicianship always quickly become apparent at his live shows, and with his solo format (in addition to his guitar and vocals) Neil also shows his mastery of creating a live percussion soundscape with a loop pedal and tambourine at his feet. Whether it is a solo show or band show, they are not to be missed!

All of Neil's solo tour dates and other updates can be found at www.NeilRambaldi.com, BandsInTown.com, and Songkick.com, with additional information being posted on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram under his "@NeilRambaldi" handle. Parallel to his touring in support of *A Call To The Wild* and writing of new material, Neil also continues to occasionally do tour dates and recording sessions for other artists where his schedule permits, which in recent years has mostly included with Michelle Kash (INGrooves Music Group), among others.

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); and Pete Pardo of Sea Of Tranquility (USA) states: "*He's a guy that deserves to be heard by the masses.*" With no need to concern himself with current trends to make great songs, Neil walks his steady path as he clearly is turning heads with his music, which all walks of life are relating to—and he is doing so from a seemingly endless source of inspiration, whether it be through his broad life experience residing for many years on both sides of the U.S., or soaking up the desert highway sunsets where he feels most at home. Come join him for the ride!

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