

From Bach to Beatles and barn-burners to ballads

Audiences delight, when world-renowned
fingerstyle guitarist Richard Smith cuts loose

Having witnessed one of his live performances, fellow musicians and music lovers alike sing hymns of praise about world-renowned fingerstyle guitarist Richard Smith. With **fretboard fireworks** and lyrical endeavours he will melt your heart-strings, make your toes tapping and your jaws hanging open. Richard's ever growing repertoire comprises a wide variety of music from classical Bach to Beatles pop. It includes Scott Joplin Rags just like Sousa marches, Chopin, Mozart and fiddle tunes. It ranges from jazz standards to Chet Atkins and Jerry Reed and to Django Reinhardt gypsy swing, not to mention his intriguing originals. He delivers both, lightning fast barn-burners and beautiful ballads, occasionally spiced with vocals.

His **incredible stylistic wealth** is founded in a lifelong love for music. Born in Beckenham, Kent, England in 1971, Richard started playing guitar at age 5 under the instruction of his father. Concentrating initially on the country picking of Chet Atkins and Merle Travis, young Richard digested everything he heard, learning even the most complicated of these tunes with ease, and **confounding everyone** with his dexterity. It seemed that not only did he possess amazing physical skill, but a photographic musical memory as well. Often, a single hearing was all it took to get a piece under his fingers, using all ten to play bass, rhythm and melody simultaneously and creating a universe of sounds, while easily switching between thumbpicking and flatpicking like hardly anybody else.

Richard first met his hero, the “Godfather” of fingerstyle guitar, Chet Atkins, when he was only eleven. Richard was **invited by Chet** to share the stage with him at Her Majesty’s Theatre in London in front of an audience of 1,000. At first, the master accompanied him, but later on he just listened in stunned silence while the child played Chet’s own arrangements – perfectly. By the time Richard reached his early twenties, both Chet Atkins and Jerry Reed began to refer to him as their “Hero”.

It's no surprise, that the **hymns of praise** subsequently never faded. Now residing in Nashville, Richard has toured the world as a solo artist, teaming up with his wife Julie Adams for a unique guitar and cello duo, performing with his brothers Rob and Sam as the Richard Smith Guitar Trio and with his swing band, The Hot Club of Nashville, featuring Stuart Duncan on fiddle, Pat Bergeson on guitar and Charlie Chadwick on bass. Fellow guitar wizard Tommy Emmanuel prefers Richard Smith as one of his **favourite duet partners**. In 2001, Richard became the National Finger-

style Guitar Champion in Winfield, Kansas. He was elected Thumbpicker of the Year in 2008 and inducted into the National Thumbpickers Hall of Fame in Kentucky in 2009. He is also a recipient of the Golden Thumbpick Award by the Association of Fingerstyle Guitarists in California.

Richard has been a **mainstay** at the Chet Atkins Appreciation Society Convention in Nashville since 1991, where he has played with many world renowned artists including Nato Lima of Los Indios Tabajaras, sax legend Boots Randolph and John Jorgenson of Desert Rose Band and Elton John Band fame. He has also performed with **other great musicians such as** Marcel Dadi, Tommy Tedesco, Thom Bresh, Joe Pass, Biréli Lagrène, Bryan Sutton, Les Paul, Mark O'Connor, Sam Bush, Martin Taylor, Jorge Morel, Suzy Bogguss, Muriel Anderson, Guy Van Duser, Béla Fleck, Victor Wooten, Tony McManus and Buster B. Jones and **shared the bill** with a host of others, most notably Steve Morse, Albert Lee, Paco Peña, Barney Kessel, David Russell and Johnny Hiland.

What fellow musicians say

“The most amazing guy I know on the guitar. He can play anything I know, only better.”

Chet Atkins, CGP (*music legend*)

“If you like my playing, you should hear Richard Smith! The world champion!”

Tommy Emmanuel AM, CGP (*two-time Grammy nominee*)

“Guitar playing at its finest. Don't miss this one.”

Doyle Dykes (*thumbpicking wizard*)

“He is one of the world's greatest guitarists.”

Muriel Anderson (*All-Star Guitar Night*)

What the critics say

“Richard Smith's fingers move so fast across the guitar strings that they're virtually a blur, but the music is pristinely clear ... The heroes' hero ...”

Kyra Gottesman, Chico Enterprise-Record, Chico/CA

“If you're a love of the only instrument able to turn mere mortals into gods, then here's a date for your diary.”

Champion Newspapers, Southport/United Kingdom

“There seems to be no limit to Richard's ability to quickly master whatever guitar style captures his fancy. The complex styles of many guitar greats including Django Reinhardt, Les Paul, and Lenny Breau have proved to be no impediment to his voracious musical appetite.”

The Chattanooga, Chattanooga/TN

“The unlimited lightness of guitar playing ... Smith masters everything with an effortlessness, that makes all music go straight to the heart.”

Lippische Landes-Zeitung, Detmold/Germany

“Known as 'The Finger-Picking Virtuoso,' Smith performed stunningly complex renditions of classical and contemporary music alike ... a fantastic example of his dexterity and wide repertoire of songs ...”

Paige Cunningham, The UTD Mercury, Dallas/TX

On the web:

Website: www.richardsmithmusic.com

Myspace: www.myspace.com/richardsmithandjuliadamsguitarandcello

Youtube: www.youtube.com/richardsmithmusic