



# WOODY mann

**“Don’t miss a chance to see him. You are unlikely to hear anything or anyone better in the fields that Mann has chosen to master.”**  
-THE LONDON TIMES

Among guitarists and critics, Woody Mann is considered a modern master. While the blues are his touchstone, he seems to draw inspiration from every direction, blending a myriad of influences with ease and grace. Pioneering guitar legend John Fahey said it well: “You can hear classical, jazz and blues approaches somehow converging into a single sparkling sound – a sound completely his own. Woody takes a fresh approach to his blues re-creations and his own compositions defy category. If there was a category simply called ‘great music’ Woody’s music would belong there.

Woody received his first musical schooling in the living room of Reverend Gary Davis, the legendary blues, gospel and ragtime guitarist. Mann soon went on to perform with blues legends Son House and Bukka White, British great Jo Anne Kelly, and fingerstyle wizard John Fahey. Mann complemented the tutelage of Rev. Davis with formal training at New York’s celebrated Juilliard School. In addition, Mann completed a period of intense study with noted Chicago-born pianist Lennie Tristano, who introduced him to the world of jazz and its infinite possibilities. During this time, Mann’s early musical grounding began to blossom into an improvisational style all his own. Since then, Mann has pursued a rich and diverse career that has included; playing with jazz great Attila Zoller, accompanying songwriter Dory Previn, giving guitar lessons to recording artist Paul Simon, performing in over fifteen countries, and recording eleven albums ranging from 1994’s “*Stories*” to 2008’s “*Road Trip*”, as well as collaborations with blues legends Son House and John Cephas. With his diversity as a singer/songwriter, jazz and blues guitarist, and composer, a recent review in Sing Out magazine describes it best: Mann blurs the line between jazz, blues, classical, and world music creating his own sound in the process. Attempts to categorize his music simply misses the point. This is brilliant playing that demands to be heard.” Acknowledging his artistry, the famed C.F. Martin guitar company has honored Woody with the recent release of the “Woody Mann” signature model guitar.

Mann’s reach as a teacher, and writer has been just as sweeping; he has been a faculty member at the New School in New York, conducted workshops and master classes throughout the world, founded International Guitar Seminars and schooled countless guitarists through his many instructional books and DVDs, including “The Art of Acoustic Blues Guitar” DVD series, “The Complete Robert Johnson”, “The Blues Fakebook”, and “Lisboa – the Guitar of Woody Mann,” a collection of his original compositions. Few guitarists have been so generous with their knowledge.

Mann has not forgotten those early lessons in the Rev. Davis’ living room, however, or the jazz traditions that were his wellspring. He has since become one of the world’s most renowned guitar masters and song writing story tellers with his own contemporary improvisational style.

“Mann is simply spellbinding” – *Fingerstyle Guitar Magazine (USA)*... “Mann has absorbed so many guitar styles that he can change moods on a dime, weaving lyrical single string lines and chord harmonies that can take his tunes across the musical divides between genres” – *Acoustic Guitar Magazine*... “Don’t miss a chance to see him; you are unlikely to hear anything- or anyone – better in the fields that Mann has chosen to master.” –*The London Times*.

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**WWW.WOODYMANN.COM**



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“Mann has absorbed so many guitar styles that he can change moods on a dime, weaving lyrical single string lines and chord harmonies that can take his tunes across the musical divides between genres.” – *ACOUSTIC GUITAR MAGAZINE*

**THE LONDON TIMES** “This is one of those names that should be uttered only in hushed tones. Not only was he taught by the peerless guitar picker the Rev Gary Davis, but Mann has played with Son House, Bukka White and John Fahey and has studied jazz under the great Lennie Tristano. In between giving lessons to Paul Simon and accompanying Dori Previn, he has also managed to cut some dazzling music, both by himself and in collaboration with performers such as Jo-Ann Kelly and bluesman John Cephas. Don't miss a chance to see him; you are unlikely to hear anything- or anyone – better in the fields that Mann has chosen to master.”

**GUITAR PLAYER MAGAZINE** “With impeccable tone, gutsy phrasing, beautiful harmonies, and cool dynamics, Mann is in a class by himself. Phenomenal.” *“Stairwell Serenade” CD Voted top ten “Guitar recordings of Destiny.”*

**DOWN BEAT MAGAZINE** ★★★★★ “Connecting folk and blues, Woody Mann fingerpicks his acoustic guitar with complete assurance on a dozen songs that collectively take your breath away.”

**SING OUT MAGAZINE** “Dazzling and technically flawless finger style guitar at its most listenable. Mann's wizardry on the fret board is matched by his ability to convey deep feelings with his songs- creating moods that incite, delight, or simply soothe.” “Throughout (the recording), Mann blurs the lines between jazz, blues, classical, and world music creating his own sound in the process. Attempts to categorize his music simply misses the point. This is brilliant playing that demands to be heard.”

**ACOUSTIC GUITAR MAGAZINE** “This excellent instrumental set from one of the most talented and eclectic finger style guitarists on the scene can be heard, more metaphorically, as a recap of his musical journey. Mann has absorbed so many guitar styles that he can change moods on a dime, weaving lyrical single string lines and chord harmonies that can take his tunes across the musical divides between genres.”

**SWEDEN NATIONAL TIMES** “Mann's concert was a mix of brilliance and intensity- moving and inspiring. His music is a blend of so many styles, it becomes something different, something his own.”

**ACOUSTIC MUSICIAN MAGAZINE** “Every now and then, you hear a guitarist whose sound is completely his own and whose music flirts with several styles, never resting for very long with just one. Woody Mann is an artist who seems to have internalized many different genres and combined them in a way that is more than the sum of its parts. What is remarkable is how he can draw from several styles and techniques within a single song and have them blend without the feeling of inconsistency. Woody Mann's performance is inspired from start to finish.”

**JOHN FAHEY, from the liner notes to the CD “Stories”** “You can hear classical, jazz, and blues approaches somehow converging into a single sparkling sound – a sound completely his own. Woody Takes a fresh approach to his blues re-creations and his own compositions defy category. If there was a category simply called “Great Music,” Woody's C.D. would belong there.”

**MUSICIAN MAGAZINE** “He nails very complicated stuff so cleanly that optimists will grab their guitars, thinking, “Hey, that's humanly possible,” while pessimists will get drunk and spread dark rumors about moral turpitude.”

**VILLAGE VOICE, NEW YORK** “A brilliant convergence of guitar and song...completely original.”

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“He has certainly learned from the older players but he is giving back and pushing the boundaries even further... an exceptionally gifted musician”

– BLUES AND RHYTHM MAGAZINE

**BOSTON GLOBE** “Having studied, literally, at the feet of the Rev. Gary Davis and other blues ‘greats’, Woody has taken the traditional blues feeling and evolved it into his own highly personal, energized approach while practicing his teachers gift for telling powerful stories in the song form, as exemplified by his Shanachie CD *“Heading Uptown.”*”

**FOLK ROOTS MAGAZINE** “There are no rambling New Age guitar noodlings here: these tunes have vibrancy and life... an enormously talented and accomplished guitarist.” “Woody’s vocals are better than ever. Its always a pleasure to witness an artist who just keeps getting better. This (*“Heading Uptown” CD*) has to be Woody Mann’s best album yet. Positively inspiring.”

**ACOUSTIC GUITAR MAGAZINE** “Mann is a masterful player with a distinctly contemporary perspective in his songs.”

**FINGERSTYLE GUITAR MAGAZINE** “Mann is simply Spellbinding.”

**MANCHESTER GUARDIAN, UK** “In last nights concert he held a large audience spellbound for nearly two hours with a mixture of blues and jazz in addition to his original material.”

**JERSEY EVENING POST, UK** “The self effacing Woody Mann charmed his audience with a set that defies pigeon-holing even into a genre as wide as blues: his brilliant technique merges his jazz and classical ideas into something truly his own. The guitarists in the audience may have been inspired – or, more likely, made to feel like taking up another instrument altogether.”

**BLUES REVIEW MAGAZINE** “Mann’s mastery of finger-style guitar is astonishing, and in person the precision of his playing is even more amazing than on his CD’s. His fingers are up and down the fingerboard, with every note of every chord loud and clear. The performance was at times introspective and at times exuberant, and the appreciative, knowledgeable audience responded loudly after each piece, leaving no doubt that Woody Mann puts on a great show.”

**LIVING BLUES MAGAZINE** “Mann is a gifted musician.”

**WEB CONCERT REVIEW 09** “One can easily get lost in his rhythms and sounds, lost in an endless universe of the blues. His voice is compelling, it’s tone sad, sweet, and pleasing, all at the same time. He’s one with his guitar, and it’s blatantly obvious that they’ve been through many years of music and change together; it’s an extension of him. Woody Mann was so incredible live that it sounded as though his set on Friday could have been a recording, which I think says a lot about him as a musician. He doesn’t play strictly blues, but more of a jazz/blues fingerstyle fusion, and his guitar playing has perpetual motion — it’s never stagnant, which is one of the reasons I love his music.”

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## DISCOGRAPHY

Heading Uptown - *Shanachie Entertainment / Stairwell Serenade - Acoustic Music Records*  
Stories - *Greenhay's, Rounder Records / When I've Got The Moon, with Susanne Vogt - Lee Haywood Records*  
Get Together, with Bob Brozman - *Acoustic Music Records / Cat Burglar - Acoustic Sessions Records*  
Been Here And Gone, with Son House & Joanne Kelly - *Acoustic Music Records*  
Together in Las Vegas, with John Cephas & Orville Johnson - *Acoustic Sessions Records*  
Road Trip - *Acoustic Sessions Records / Waltz For Joy - Acoustic Music Records*  
Out Of the Blue, with Susanne Vogt - *Acoustic Music Records / Donna Lombarda - Barcode Records*

## VIDEOGRAPHY • MUSICAL PERFORMANCE and INSTRUCTIONAL

"Songs From the Blues" Guitar Artistry of Woody Mann "The Guitar of Robert Johnson" / Mel Bay Publishing  
"Art of Acoustic Blues", Video/DVD Series "Woody Mann, in Concert" / Acoustic Music Videos  
"Early Roots, "Do That Guitar Rag", "The Roots of Robert Johnson" / Grossman's Guitar Workshop  
Handful of Riffs" / Acoustic Sessions Inc. "The World of Jazz Guitar" / Vestapol Videos  
"World of Fingerstyle Jazz Guitar" / Mel Bay Publishing "The Guitar of Blind Blake" / Mel Bay Publishing  
"Stairwell Serenade" / Acoustic Music Videos "Country Blues Duets", with Bob Brozman / Mel Bay Publishing  
"The Guitar of Big Bill Broonzy" / Mel Bay Publishing "Fingerstyle Blues Guitar" / Mel Bay Publishing  
"The Basics, "Logic of the Fretboard," "Delta Blues Guitar Duets" / Mel Bay Publishing  
"Ragtime and Gospel" / Acoustic Sessions Inc. "Country Blues Masterpieces" / Grossman's Guitar Workshop  
"New Dimensions & Explorations" / Vestapol Videos

## BIBLIOGRAPHY • BOOKS IN PRINT

Mann, Woody, Lisboa, the Guitar of Woody Mann, Music Sales Inc. / Oak Pub. New York, NY  
Mann, Woody, The Complete Blues Guitar Method, Music Sales Inc.  
Mann, Woody, Blues Roots, Acoustic Music Books  
Mann, Woody, The Guitar of Lonnie Johnson, Mel Bay Publishing  
Mann, Woody, The Guitar of Robert Johnson, Mel Bay Publishing  
Mann, Woody, The Guitar of Big Bill Broonzy, Mel Bay Publishing  
Mann, Woody, The Guitar of Blind Blake, Mel Bay Publishing  
Mann, Woody, The Roots of Robert Johnson, Co-authored with Stefan Grossman, Mel Bay Publishing  
Mann, Woody, The Gigbag Book of Alternate Tunings, Music Sales Inc.  
Mann, Woody, The Anthology of Blues Guitar, Music Sales Inc.  
Mann, Woody, The Blues Fakebook, Music Sales Inc.  
Mann, Woody, Bottleneck Blues Guitar, Music Sales Inc.  
Mann, Woody, The Complete Robert Johnson, Music Sales Inc.  
Mann, Woody, Six Early Blues Guitarists, Music Sales Inc.

## PUBLICATIONS

Contributing writer /Columnist (recent): Guitar Player Magazine, Player Magazine (Japan), Acoustic Guitar Magazine, Fingerstyle Guitar Magazine, Guitar World Magazine, Sing Out! Magazine

## PERFORMANCES

TOURS: : Solo and collaborative tours throughout the US, UK, Japan, France, Italy, Brazil, Denmark, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Croatia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Republic of Georgia, Sweden, Austria, Germany.

## RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Great Britain International Guitar Festival - Liverpool, England (14 appearances) / Douai Le Guitare Festival - France / Open Strings Festival - Osnabruck, Germany / Blues to Bop Jazz Festival - Lugano, Switzerland / Merlefest - Wilkesboro, NC / Burnley National Blues Festival - UK / Postonja Blues Festival, Slovenia / Chet Atkins Appreciation Fest - Nashville, TN / Djursland Festival - Denmark Croatia National Festival - Zagreb / Jersey World Music Festival, UK / Augusta Heritage Concerts - VA / Port Townsend Festival, WA Tbilisi International Guitar Festival, Tbilisi, Rep. of Georgia / Worlds Fair Expo - Lisbon, Portugal / Madison Parks Concerts - NYC National Public Radio: 'Mountain Stage', 'West Coast Live', BBC Radio UK, 'Manchester Live', 'London Sessions', 'Paul Jones Show' CBS, BBC 4, UK.

## WORKSHOPS/ TEACHING

International Guitar Seminars, Director. NY, CA, WA, Vancouver / Acoustic Sessions, Director, NY, Holland, France, UK / Jorma Kauokonen's Fur Peace Ranch / Universitat Hannover, Germany / The New School University, NYC / Great Britain International Guitar Festival, UK / Augusta Heritage Center, / Port Townsend Blues Week, / California Coast Music Camp / Puget Sound Guitar Workshop / Bard College / Master classes, workshops: UK, Germany, Austria, Italy, France, Japan.



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## did you know?

- The renowned Guitar Company C.F MARTIN &CO GUITARS has issued a WOODY MANN artist signature model?
- Received his first musical schooling in the living room of Rev. Gary Davis, the now legendary blues, gospel and ragtime guitarist?
- Has headlined at the Great Britain International Guitar Festival in the UK for eleven consecutive years and was recently chosen to be the festival Ambassador for the USA?
- Has performed and recorded with John Fahey, British great Jo-Ann Kelly, as well as early masters of the blues including Bukka White and Son House?
- Was formally trained at New York's celebrated Juilliard School and studied Jazz improvisation with noted Chicago-born pianist Lennie Tristano?
- Played with guitar legend John Fahey, who said, "...if there was a category simply called 'Great Music,' Woody's music would belong there".
- Founded International Guitar Seminars and Acoustic Sessions guitar workshops?
- Taught guitar to legendary recording artist Paul Simon?
- Has online lessons with Jorma Kaukonen's Breakdownway.com?
- Was a faculty member at the New School in New York City?
- Was the recipient of: 'Meet the Composer' grant. NY State Council on the Arts?
- Was chosen to narrate and re-launch the "Hot Licks" DVD series of instructional videos?
- Is described by Tony Rice as one of his favourite players ?
- Was contacted to teach Sean Combs (Puff Daddy) basic blues guitar when he was scheduled to play the legendary Robert Johnson in a film?
- Has 8 solo recordings as well as collaborations with many other artists including blues greats Son House and John Cephas?
- Has authored over twenty-five books, videos and dvds, including the series "The Art of Acoustic Blues Guitar," "The Complete Robert Johnson," and "The Blues Fakebook"?
- Had a book/cd package "Lisboa – The Guitar Of Woody Mann", A Collection of His Original Compositions?
- Had his solo guitar album "Stairwell Serenade" voted into the top ten "Guitar recordings of Destiny" by Guitar Player Magazine?
- Did a sell-out duo tour in Japan and performed in over 15 countries?
- Is the resident host of the celebrated "On Patriot's Stage" concert Series in Trenton, New Jersey, USA?

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