



Dave Kilminster Interview

March 25, 2013

We recently supplied Dave with an Xotic EP Booster and he kindly agreed to do a short interview for Toneworld. You can catch Dave on tour with Roger Waters later this year.

Which players do you think influenced you the most?

Van Halen was a huge influence on me when I was growing up... I love the passion and energy, and I almost feel like he's part of my DNA!! And also Brian May, but that's because I was a huge Queen fan!! I've studied a lot of other guys for various reasons, or to improve on a particular technique... Sonny Landreth's slide playing, Yngwie's vibrato, Robben Ford's phrasing, etc, etc... but I tend to be more influenced by bands and songs, rather than by actual guitarists.



Regarding your tone, is there a recording that influenced your guitar tone?

That's probably Van Halen I. That first album just sounds incredible. Put on 'Eruption', and it still sounds just as mind-blowing today as it did over thirty five years ago!!! In fact I did a little guitar clinic for Brunetti amps in Milan, Italy in 2011, and it was the first time I'd really had the chance to play around with the amps away from the Roger Waters tour. So I cranked the amp and played some riffs from the first two Van Halen albums, and it sounded just like the record!!! Absolutely incredible... I really couldn't believe it!!!! I think it's been the 'Holy Grail' of guitar tone for a lot of guitarists... and there it was, coming out of my speakers!

How much time do you dedicate to practising in a day?

That tends to vary, depending on what I'm doing... I'll obviously 'up' the regime if I have a tour or something important coming up. Before the 12.12.12 concert for Sandy Relief in New York, I noticed on the website that it was going to be broadcast to over two billion people, so I definitely played a lot more running up to that! But I really don't have a set routine...

Which current players do you like or inspire you?

I guess by 'current' you mean 'new' players? And if so then I can't really think of any 'current' players that I actually like!!

Ummm... does my friend Guthrie Govan come under the 'current' category? As he's totally incredible...

I really respect Jeff Beck, and find him very inspiring... I feel like most players hit a peak early on in their careers, and then everything else they do is a poor imitation... but Jeff is definitely someone to aspire too, as he just keeps getting better!!!

What is your desert island album (and you can only pick one)?

'Grace' by Jeff Buckley

What is your guilty pleasure album?

Oh that's a toughie... I have so many to chose from!!! Haha... Ok, top of my head 'Post' by Bjork.

It must be a great gig playing with Roger Waters, have you had any special moments that have stood out to you?

Far too many to count... getting this gig was undoubtedly the best thing that's ever happened to me!! The last gig we played in beautiful Quebec was unbelievable though... and very emotional, as we all knew it was the last one for a while... Over 70,000 people in the Fields Of Abraham, and the 'Wall' was also the biggest one ever... almost a sixth of a mile wide!!!!!!

Can you tell us about your live rig?

Sure. My main electric is a custom made Suhr (called 'Rose'), which has roses & vines burnt into the wood... It's 'Tele' shaped, with a swamp ash body and maple neck, and has a trem and three pickups in it... a Seymour Duncan Custom Custom in the bridge, and two Suhr JST FL singles in the middle & neck.

The guitar goes (wirelessly) into a Dunlop volume pedal, a Dunlop Wah pedal and a Suhr Riot pedal. Also on my main board I have an Eventide TimeFactor and a Boss Chorus Ensemble, both of which are in the effects loop. Finally for amps I'm using two Brunetti Mercury 50w heads into two Brunetti 4x12 cabs. I'm using both of these amps in stereo by taking the second output of the Eventide, and plugging it directly into the effects return of the second amp. For anyone that's curious there's more technical details and pictures on my website, www.davekilminster.com on the 'gear' page.

Is there an effects pedal that you couldn't live without?

Yes, a Boss tuner!! I'm really fussy about tuning, and I'm constantly checking it during a live show.

Who would make up your dream band?

Is this an 'alive or dead' type question? If so then Jeff Buckley on vocals... as for the rhythm section, the guys on my album are amazing and I wouldn't change them!!! Pete Riley (drums) & Phil Williams (bass) played with me in the Keith Emerson Band, and also on my solo album 'Scarlet – The Director's Cut'... in fact we're going into the studio in three weeks to record the follow up, and I really can't wait!!!

Posted by **Dave**