

proaudio **M**usicGear **MARCH 2025**  
GUITAR BOARDS, AND AMPLIFIERS



**MICHAEL  
WILSON-TROLLIP**  
**EXCLUSIVE  
INTERVIEW**

**JIMMY PAGE**  
**TIMELESS**  
**GIBSON**  
**LEGACY**

**MARK HAZE**



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**MEET TIA & LUKE**



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who dare to dream,  
play, and inspire.



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# WELCOME TO THE MARCH EDITION OF PROAUDIO MUSICGEAR MAGAZINE

# MusicGear

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Product Library

This magazine is designed to inform, supply, and provide information relating to the industry that we find ourselves in. Some of the material that we have used is resourced from websites around the world to help bring perspective and insight to your business' and your lives. Products highlighted and reviewed may or may not be available, if you have any questions relating to the information herein, please contact us.

Welcome to another exciting edition of Proaudio MusicGear Magazine, where we bring you the best in music, gear, and industry legends!

This month, we're turning up the volume with a special feature on Jimmy Page, one of the greatest guitarists of all time, alongside an exclusive with Michael Wilson-Trollip, a name making serious waves in the music world. We also take a deep dive into the School of Rock in Parktown North, where the next generation of musicians is being shaped.

On the gear front, we showcase award-winning keyboards, jaw-dropping guitars, amps, and pedals, plus a sneak peek at the latest new products hitting the shelves. And of course, no issue would be complete without celebrating some of South Africa's finest artists, bringing you the best in homegrown talent.

So, if you're a musician, producer, or just a fan of great music, there's something in this issue for you. So grab your favorite drink, crank up the volume, and dive in!

Happy reading and keep the music alive!

**HAPPY READING!**  
**Proaudio MusicGear Team**

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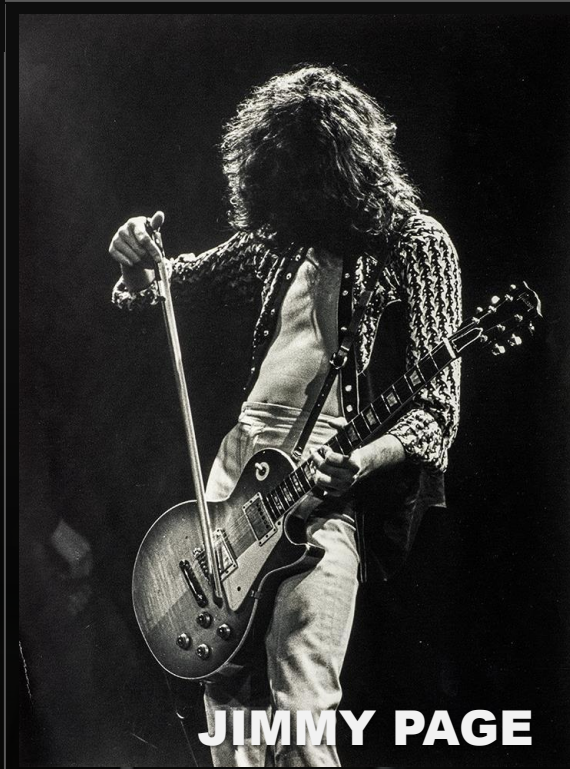
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# Mastering Music & Technology

An Exclusive Interview with Michael Wilson-Trollip

**Michael Wilson-Trollip** is not just a musician—he's a multi-instrumentalist, composer, and sound engineer who has worked on award-winning films, collaborated with South Africa's top artists, and embraced cutting-edge technology like Dolby Atmos.

In this exclusive interview with Proaudio MusicGear, Michael shares his journey from classical training to composing for Hollywood, the challenges of the South African music industry, and his vision for the future. Whether you're an aspiring musician, a film composer, or simply passionate about music, his insights into creativity, technology, and perseverance are a must-read.



**MICHAEL  
WILSON-TROLLIP**

## Your Musical Journey

**Proaudio MusicGear:** You started playing music at a very young age and have mastered multiple instruments. What initially drew you to music, and how has your journey evolved over the years?

**Michael Wilson-Trollip:** I can't remember a time when music wasn't at my core. Even as a child, I would mimic playing the piano on the carpet at my preschool—fortunately, my parents noticed and enrolled me in lessons. That small moment led to 12 years of classical training, eventually earning me a scholarship to Berklee College of Music, where I studied Film Scoring and Music Production. Like any journey, mine has had its highs and lows, but one lesson stands out: in this industry, you have to carve your own path—and never stop learning.

## Composing for Film & TV

**Proaudio MusicGear:** You've worked on award-winning films and a top 10 Netflix movie. What's your process when composing for film? How do you capture the right emotion for a scene?

**Michael Wilson-Trollip:** My process varies depending on the project, but it always begins with understanding the story and the emotions that need to be conveyed. In a recent trailer I scored, the editor wanted to cut the visuals to my music rather than the other way around.

This meant I had to create my own 'film'—a compilation of images and inspiration clips—to compose to, which presented a unique challenge. Most of the time, though, I follow a more traditional approach. I start by watching the scene multiple times to absorb its pacing, mood, and emotional nuances. Then, I sit at my Nord, load up the Royal Grand patch, and let the piano guide the foundation of the score. From there, I build out the arrangement, layering textures and instrumentation that enhance the scene's impact while staying true to the director's vision. It's all about serving the story and making the audience feel something.

## The Role of Technology

**Proaudio MusicGear:** As a Dolby Atmos Engineer and Nord SA/Sennheiser/Neumann artist, how has technology influenced the way you create and perform music?

**Michael Wilson-Trollip:** Technology is both a tool and a paradox in music creation. I've seen firsthand how technology expands the boundaries of sound, allowing for more immersive and precise storytelling. But at the same time, no piece of gear can define a performer—it can only shape the way they express themselves. The soul of the performance is never in the equipment; it's in the intention, the choices, and the connection with the listener. However, technology does have the power to alter identity.



A musician using analogue synths versus a stage piano, or stereo versus spatial audio, becomes a different kind of storyteller—not because of the tools, but because those tools influence the way they think, compose, and interact with sound.

In that sense, technology is both liberating and defining. It does not create the artist, but it does shape the possibilities of their voice. So, I made it my mission to align myself with the ‘tools’ (technology) that define my voice—and that voice is nonexistent without my Nord.

## Working with South Africa’s Finest

**Proaudio MusicGear:** You’ve collaborated with top South African musicians, including SAMA winners and *The Voice SA* artists. What’s been your most memorable collaboration so far, and why?

**Michael Wilson-Trollip:** This is such a tough question because I’ve truly enjoyed every collaboration—it’s impossible to single out just one! But if I had to choose a standout moment this year, it would be opening for Robbie Williams with GoodLuck at the DHL Stadium. The energy of over 50,000 people erupting as the chorus dropped is an experience I’ll never forget. Moments like that remind me why I do what I do.

## Challenges & Triumphs

**Proaudio MusicGear:** The music industry is tough, especially for session musicians and composers. What's the biggest challenge you've faced in your career, and how did you overcome it?

**Michael Wilson-Trollip:** I want to speak specifically about the South African industry because it presents a unique challenge. Here, to earn the trust of an artist, client, or director, you have to be more than just a composer or musician—you have to be a producer, mix engineer, mastering engineer, and, in the film world, sometimes even the entire music and sound department. It's like juggling a dozen balls while constantly looking for new ones to add.

The South African industry reminds me of a bonsai tree—intricately developed, rich with talent, yet carefully contained within a tight pot. The potential is enormous, but the space to grow is limited, forcing us to be adaptable, resourceful, and relentless in our craft. Ironically, it's this very challenge that has led me to opportunities I might never have had anywhere else in the world.

From working on nearly 500 episodes—over 10,000 minutes of music and editing—for a single TV show to performing at a biker rally for 2,000 roaring motorcycles, and even sampling a vuvuzela on a Nord Stage 4 to compose a fanfare for the Cape Town Mayor, my career has been anything but predictable. And honestly, I wouldn't change a thing.



## Advice for Aspiring Musicians

**Proaudio MusicGear:** For young musicians who want to break into session work, composition, or sound design, what are the top three pieces of advice you'd give them?

**Michael Wilson-Trollip:** I know the idea of building a career in music can feel overwhelming right now, but I truly believe that if you give 110% to your craft, someone will notice. Talent is important, but passion, persistence, and professionalism are what set you apart. Here are my top three pieces of advice:

- 1. Go above and beyond.** Be the person who delivers more than what's expected—whether that's in your playing, your attitude, or your work ethic. So many people do the bare minimum, but if you push just a little further, you'll stand out—like a Nord Stage 4 in the middle of a concert stage!
- 2. Don't chase perfection at the cost of progress.** I know from experience how easy it is to get so fixated on making something perfect that you lose sight of the bigger picture. Excellence is important, but momentum is everything. Learn, improve, and keep moving forward.
- 3. Just start.** If you can't see yourself doing anything other than music, take one step every day toward your goal. No matter how small, each step compounds over time. Your journey won't look like anyone else's, and that's the beauty of it.

## What's Next?

**Proaudio MusicGear:** You've just signed a global publishing deal with Peermusic. What exciting projects are you currently working on, and what can we expect from you in 2025?

**Michael Wilson-Trollip:** I definitely want to keep composing for film and aim for bigger, more ambitious projects, while also expanding my presence in the advertising industry.

But this year, I'm also stepping into a completely new space—YouTube. The channel isn't up and running yet, but that's exactly why I need to do this. There's something powerful about starting from ground zero—about stepping into a space where there's no reputation, no expectations, just the work itself. It's easy to stay in your comfort zone when you've built something, but true growth comes from embracing the unknown.

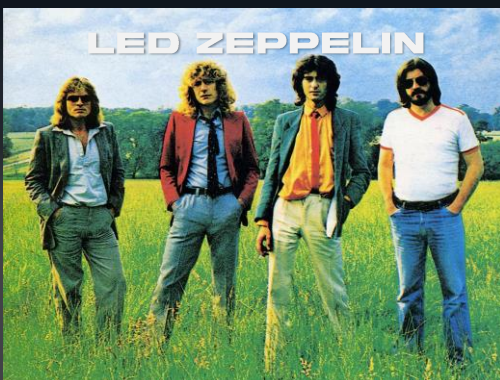
I've held back from starting for a long time, partly out of fear—fear of not following through, of putting myself out there and not delivering. It's the same reason my social media has been so quiet; I've always believed in finishing the work first rather than hyping something that may never materialize.

But that is going to change—I'm writing it down and putting it out there. Hopefully, someone holds me accountable!



# Jimmy Page

## HIS TIMELESS GIBSON LEGACY



### Early Life and Path to Fame

Jimmy Page, born on January 9, 1944, in Heston, England, is widely regarded as one of the greatest guitarists in rock history. His journey to stardom began in the early 1960s as a session musician, where he played on numerous records for artists like The Who, The Kinks, and Donovan. His exceptional talent and innovative playing style quickly made him one of the most sought-after session guitarists in the UK.

In 1966, Page joined The Yardbirds, initially as a bassist before transitioning to lead guitar. However, it was in 1968 when he formed the legendary band Led Zeppelin that his influence on rock music became truly monumental. With Robert Plant on vocals, John Paul Jones on bass and keyboards, and John Bonham on drums, Led Zeppelin pioneered hard rock and heavy metal, leaving an indelible mark on the music industry.

## Musical Style and Technique

Jimmy Page's guitar playing is known for its versatility, blending blues, folk, rock, and psychedelic influences. His distinctive style incorporated rapid alternate picking, intricate fingerpicking, and dynamic riffing. He was also known for his use of the violin bow on the guitar, as heard in songs like "Dazed and Confused," creating eerie and atmospheric tones.

As a producer and songwriter, Page played a major role in Led Zeppelin's sound. He experimented with various recording techniques, including microphone placement for depth and layering multiple guitar tracks to create a massive sonic landscape.

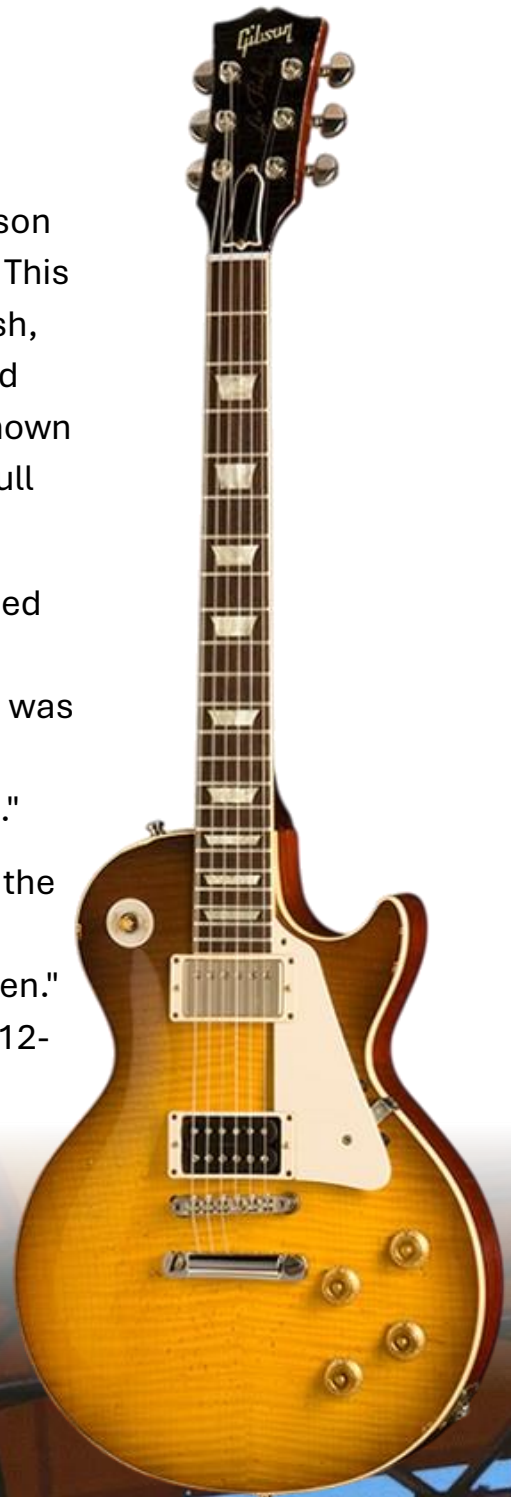


## Jimmy Page and Gibson Guitars

One of Page's most famous guitars is the 1959 Gibson Les Paul Standard, often referred to as "Number 1." This instrument, given to him by fellow guitarist Joe Walsh, became his primary guitar for live performances and studio recordings. He also used a 1960 Les Paul, known as "Number 2," which he had modified with push-pull knobs for greater tonal flexibility.

Page chose Gibson guitars for their warm, full-bodied sound and sustain, which suited his heavy, blues-infused playing style. The Les Paul's thick, rich tone was crucial in defining the signature sound of songs like "Whole Lotta Love" and "Since I've Been Loving You."

Another iconic Gibson guitar in Page's arsenal was the Gibson EDS-1275 double-neck, which he famously used during live performances of "Stairway to Heaven." This allowed him to seamlessly transition between 12-string and 6-string sections of the song without switching instruments.



## Legacy and Influence

Jimmy Page's influence on rock guitar is immeasurable. His work with Led Zeppelin shaped the future of hard rock and heavy metal, inspiring countless musicians, including Slash, Dave Grohl, and Jack White. Beyond his contributions to Led Zeppelin, he has worked on solo projects, collaborations, and soundtrack compositions, further cementing his status as a musical visionary.

In recognition of his contributions to music, Page has received numerous accolades, including inductions into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame twice—once as a member of The Yardbirds and again with Led Zeppelin. His impact on guitar playing, music production, and the overall evolution of rock remains unmatched.

Jimmy Page's legendary status is built upon his groundbreaking musicianship, innovative techniques, and unforgettable riffs. His partnership with Gibson guitars played a crucial role in shaping his sound, helping him craft some of the most iconic songs in rock history. Even decades after Led Zeppelin's heyday, Page continues to inspire new generations of musicians, ensuring his legacy endures as one of the greatest guitarists of all time.





Insert video  
Jimmy page best solo



# Unplugged, Uncomplicated, & Uncompromising

The Gibson Les Paul Special Vintage Cherry



# Alright, let's talk real for a second.

You're a guitarist. You know that sometimes less is more, and when it comes to raw, unfiltered tone, the Gibson Les Paul Special Vintage Cherry gets it right.

This guitar doesn't come with frills or fancy add-ons—it's pure rock and blues in its most authentic form, ready to plug in and play hard.

## Why You Need This Guitar in Your Arsenal

Think of the Les Paul Special Vintage Cherry as your go-to, workhorse guitar. With its **solid mahogany body and neck**, you're getting warm, resonant tones that pack a midrange punch. Whether you're throwing down rhythm chords or tearing into leads, this thing delivers. It's the kind of guitar that feels alive in your hands.



And those **P-90 pickups**? They've got bite. They've got edge. They're not too clean, and they're not too muddy. It's that sweet spot that makes your sound jump out of the speakers. The neck pickup's got smooth, rich tones for solos, while the bridge pickup brings all the grit and power you need for heavy riffs and driving rock.

## The Look and Feel of a Classic

The **Vintage Cherry finish** isn't just a color—it's a vibe. It's that timeless, worn-in look that makes you feel like you're holding a piece of history. And the **wraparound bridge**? It keeps things simple, giving you great sustain and tuning stability without fuss. No complicated hardware, just pure connection between the strings and the body for killer resonance.

The **slim taper neck profile** means this guitar plays like butter, whether you're a beginner or a seasoned pro. Smooth transitions across the fretboard make it feel fast and fluid, so you can keep your hands moving without feeling bogged down.

## What It's Perfect For

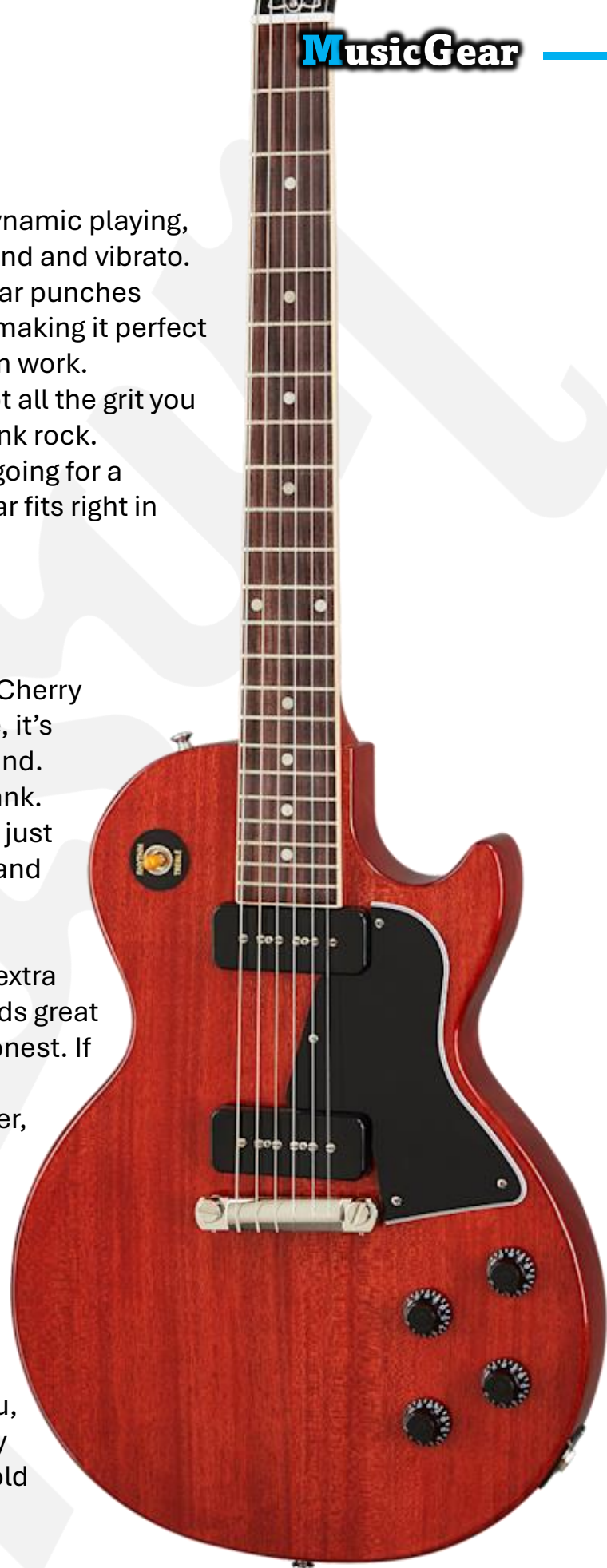
- **Blues:** If you love expressive, dynamic playing, the P-90s will sing with every bend and vibrato.
- **Rock and Alternative:** This guitar punches through the mix with authority, making it perfect for rock leads or crunchy rhythm work.
- **Punk:** It's simple. It's raw. It's got all the grit you need for no-frills, aggressive punk rock.
- **Indie & Garage Rock:** If you're going for a slightly edgy, lo-fi vibe, this guitar fits right in with that scene.

## Built to Last, Born to Perform

While the Les Paul Special Vintage Cherry gives you that classic look and tone, it's built with the modern guitarist in mind. This guitar isn't just reliable; it's a tank. You can gig with it, record with it, or just play it around the house for hours, and it'll hold up.

This is the guitar that doesn't need extra gear to make it sound great. It sounds great *because* it's simple. Because it's honest. If you're looking for a no-nonsense instrument that'll deliver tone, power, and pure playability every time, the **Gibson Les Paul Special Vintage Cherry** is the one you need.

Go ahead—plug it in, crank it up, and let this guitar speak for itself. There's no hiding behind effects or fancy tech with this one. It's just you, your playing, and the raw, legendary tone that's made Gibson a household name for generations.





# Epiphone

## IGCKFWW-ANA 1958 Korina Flying V

### A COLLECTOR'S DREAM THAT KEEPS GROWING IN VALUE

Epiphone, a subsidiary of Gibson, is known for making high-quality guitars that mirror Gibson's legendary models at more affordable prices. While most Epiphones don't appreciate in value as much as their Gibson counterparts, some special editions have become sought-after collector's items.

One standout example is the **Epiphone 1958 Korina Flying V**—a tribute to one of the most revolutionary electric guitars ever made. Developed in collaboration with Gibson's Custom Shop, this limited-edition model faithfully recreates the original **1958 Gibson Flying V**, a guitar that was ahead of its time and is now considered a classic.

So why is the **Epiphone 1958 Korina Flying V** gaining value and demand? Let's take a closer look.



## The Korina Legacy

When Gibson first released the Flying V in **1958**, it was too futuristic for most players, and sales were underwhelming. However, its radical design and use of **Korina wood** later made it a favorite among musicians and collectors. Over time, the original 1958 Gibson Flying V became one of the most valuable guitars in the world.

The **Epiphone 1958 Korina Flying V** continues this legacy, offering players a faithful recreation of the original in both **design and tone**, making it a must-have for fans of vintage guitars.



# Why Its Value Is Increasing

## 1. Growing Popularity

Vintage-inspired and **limited-edition guitars** have seen a major surge in demand. Many players want guitars with a **classic look and tone** but can't afford an original 1958 Gibson. The **Epiphone 1958 Korina Flying V** is the perfect alternative.

## 2. Collector Interest

Collectors are always on the lookout for rare models that have potential **investment value**. The **1958 Korina Flying V** fits this category perfectly—its **scarcity, design, and Gibson connection** make it a top contender for appreciation in value.

## 3. The Gibson Connection

Since **Epiphone is owned by Gibson**, their **special-run models** benefit from Gibson's reputation. The Flying V's **heritage and craftsmanship** add to its desirability.

## 4. Strong Resale Market

The demand for **collectible guitars** continues to grow, and instruments like the **1958 Korina Flying V** are being recognized as **valuable assets** rather than just instruments. Players and collectors alike see this model as a **smart investment**.



# Why This Guitar Holds Its Value

## 1. Limited Production Run

Epiphone only produced a **limited number** of these guitars, making them rare. Collectors always prefer **special-edition models** over mass-produced ones, and scarcity drives up demand.

## 2. Historical Significance

The **1958 Gibson Flying V** is a legendary instrument, often selling for hundreds of thousands of dollars. While the **Epiphone version** isn't in the same price range, it carries the same iconic design and history—making it an appealing choice for those who want a piece of guitar history **without breaking the bank**.

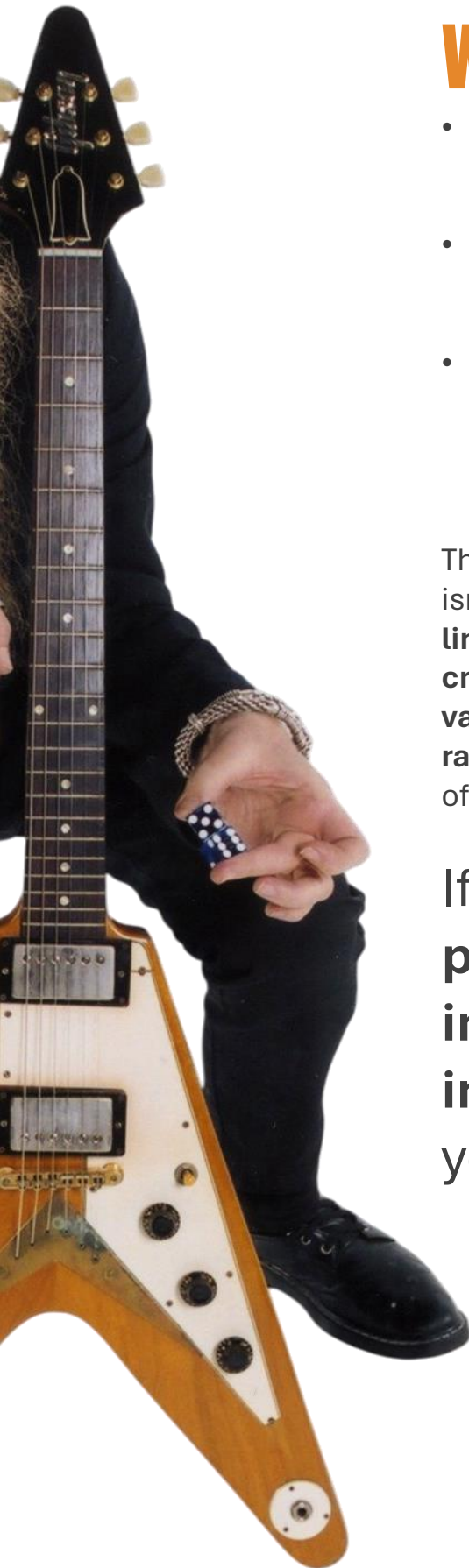
## 3. Unique Tone and Aesthetic

The **Korina wood** used in this guitar isn't just about looks—it delivers a **rich, warm tone** with **sustain and clarity** that players love. The combination of sound quality and striking **vintage design** makes it desirable for both collectors and musicians.

## 4. Excellent Playability

Epiphone is known for making guitars that are both **affordable and comfortable** to play. The **1958 Korina Flying V** features a smooth, fast neck and a balanced body, making it perfect for **rock, blues, and metal**. The **pickup configuration** provides a **versatile sound** that suits various music styles.





## Why You Should Own One

- **Eye-Catching Design** – The **sharp, angular body** makes this guitar a statement piece in any collection.
- **Own a Piece of History** – A chance to own a **tribute to one of the most iconic guitars ever made**, without the six-figure price tag.
- **Potential Investment** – With its **limited production, rising demand, and historical significance**, this guitar is likely to appreciate in value over time.

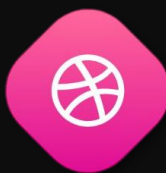
The **Epiphone IGCKFW-ANA 1958 Korina Flying V** isn't just a guitar—it's a **collector's dream**. With its **limited availability, historic roots, and impeccable craftsmanship**, it has already cemented itself as a **valuable and sought-after instrument**. As interest in **rare and vintage-style guitars** grows, so will the value of this stunning **Epiphone Flying V**.

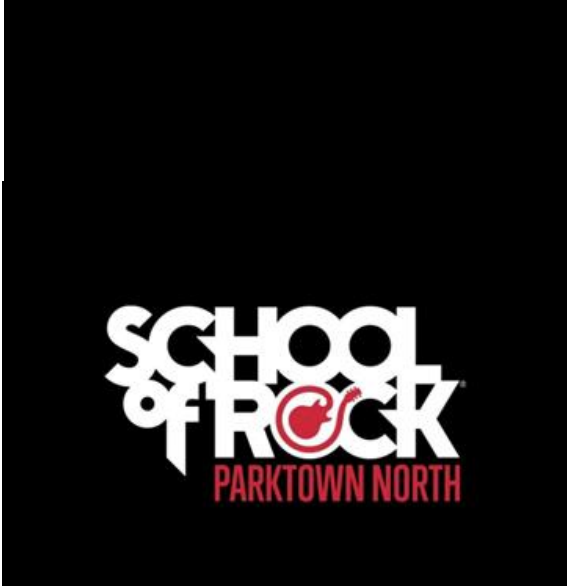
If you're looking for a **standout piece** for your collection—or an **investment-worthy instrument**—this is one guitar you won't want to miss.



## Where Musicians Are Made

School of Rock Parktown North has established itself as a hub where aspiring musicians of all ages can transform their passion for music into real-world performance skills. This performance-based music school combines one-on-one lessons with group rehearsals, creating an immersive learning experience that sets students up for success on stage and beyond.





With a unique SongFirst approach, students dive into real music from their first lesson. They also benefit from the School of Rock Method Books and the Method App, which provides access to thousands of songs, progress tracking, and interactive features. It's a fun and practical way for students to develop real musicianship while gaining valuable performance experience.

School of Rock Parktown North proudly supports their students' musical journeys by using quality brands like Nord keyboards, Gibson and Epiphone guitars, Kramer guitars, Blackstar amplifiers, and Carry-On instruments—tools that help them shine as performers.



**Over a three-month period,** students at School of Rock work closely with experienced instructors to master songs and develop their musical abilities. But the real magic happens when they take the stage for a live rock concert—an experience that embodies the school's philosophy of using the stage as a powerful teaching tool.



At School of Rock Parktown North, we're passionate about helping students bring their music to life. Whether you're interested in guitar, vocals, drums, bass, or keyboard, we're here to guide you on your journey to the stage. Book a FREE trial lesson today at [www.schoolofrock.com](http://www.schoolofrock.com) and take the first step toward becoming the rockstar you were born to be!

# Meet Tia

## A Rising Star at School of Rock Parktown North

Tia holds a special place at School of Rock Parktown North as the very first student to join their musical family. From the moment she picked up a guitar, it was clear that her passion for music was more than just a hobby—it was an undeniable part of who she is. Tia’s love for music radiates every time she walks through the doors, and her dedication and hard work have paid off in remarkable ways.

Tia’s talent and determination earned her a coveted spot in the school’s House Band, an elite group of students who’ve passed rigorous auditions to perform at venues, festivals, and concerts. This experience gives her a taste of life as a professional musician, helping her hone her skills and gain real-world experience on stage.

When asked about her experience at School of Rock, Tia expressed her love for the welcoming environment and the sense of belonging she feels there. Her excitement about performing live on stage at the Barnyard Theatre on March 15th is palpable, as she looks forward to sharing her passion for music with friends, family, and fellow music lovers. Tia’s journey is an inspiring example of what can be achieved through dedication and a love for music.



## Meet Luke

### Dedication, Friendship, and Music at School of Rock Parktown North

Luke's musical journey at School of Rock Parktown North began as one of the school's first students, and he's been an integral part of their community ever since. As a member of the Rock 101 Programme, Luke enjoys a combination of individual lessons and group rehearsals, where he gets to learn alongside his newly made friends.

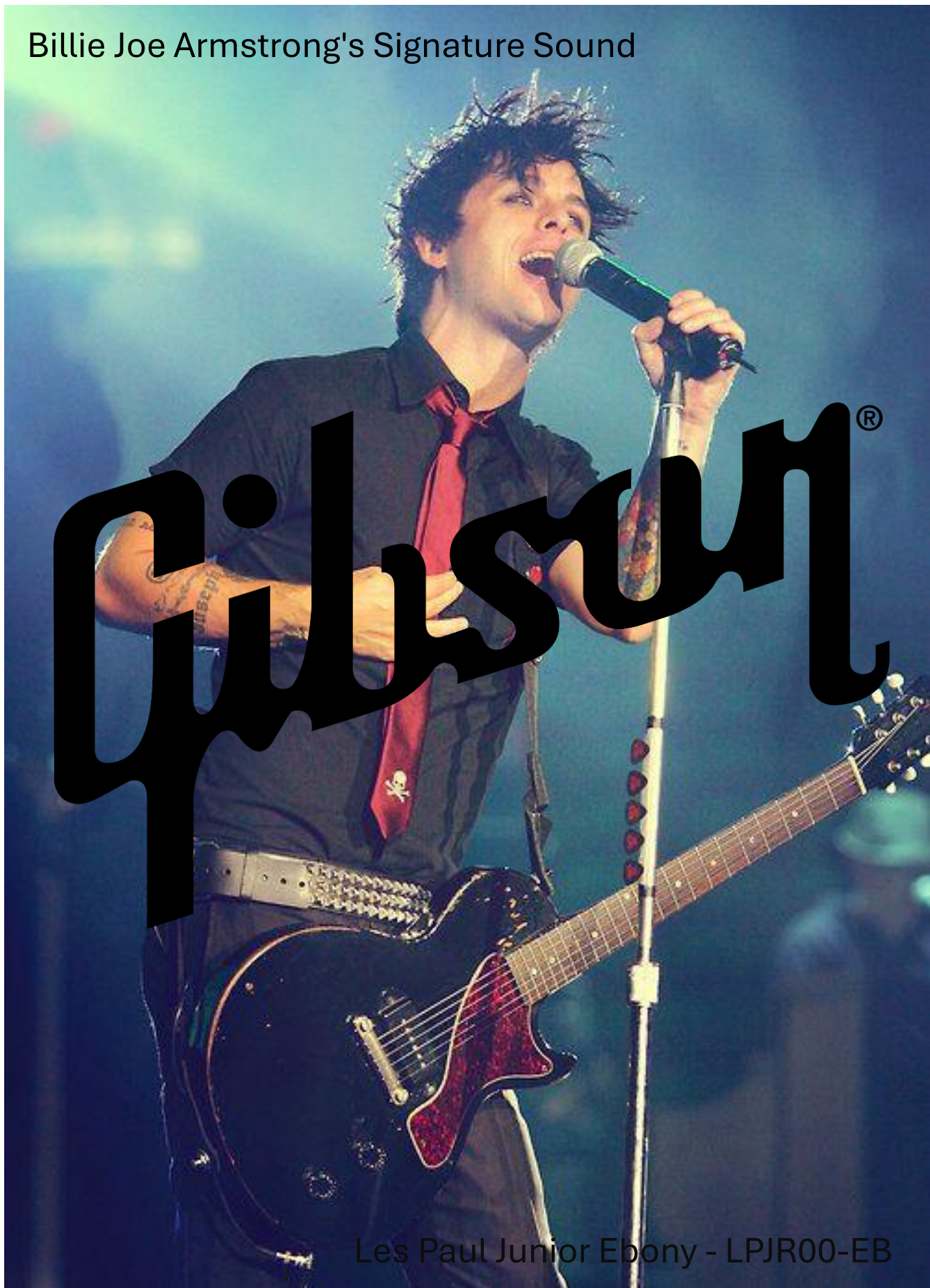
Luke's focus on learning the keyboard has sparked his interest in iconic songs, and he dreams of one day performing and singing "Africa" by Toto. His favorite part of the experience is the thrill of rocking out with a band, and he's found that making music with others is one of the most rewarding aspects of being at School of Rock.

The camaraderie, fun learning environment, and support from instructors make every lesson a highlight for Luke. His enthusiasm for the upcoming live performance at the Barnyard Theatre is undeniable, as he looks forward to showcasing the results of his hard work and practice.

Luke's story reflects the power of community and collaboration that's at the heart of the School of Rock experience—proving that learning music is as much about forming connections as it is about mastering an instrument.



Billie Joe Armstrong's Signature Sound



**proaudio®**

Les Paul Junior Ebony - LPJR00-EB



**The Gibson Les Paul Junior is a rock icon known for its raw tone, simplicity, and affordability.** A favorite of Billie Joe Armstrong from Green Day, this guitar is ideal for beginners and experienced players alike. Let's explore why it's a great choice for those starting their musical journey.

### **Simplicity and Raw Power**

The Les Paul Junior features a minimalist design with a single P-90 pickup and basic volume and tone controls. This setup provides a no-nonsense experience, allowing players to focus on technique and playing without getting lost in complex electronics. Billie Joe Armstrong's signature sound is built on this simplicity, enabling him to dial in raw punk-rock tones effortlessly.

For beginners, the straightforward design helps them learn the basics quickly and experiment with sound without worrying about complicated settings.





## Versatile Tone

The P-90 pickup delivers a punchy, gritty tone that suits punk, rock, and blues styles. It's versatile enough for clean riffs or aggressive overdrive, making it easy for beginners to explore various musical genres without switching guitars.



## Lightweight and Comfortable

The Les Paul Junior's lightweight mahogany body makes it comfortable to play for long periods, and its short scale length reduces string tension, making it easier for new players to master chords and techniques. Armstrong relies on this playability for high-energy performances, and beginners will appreciate the comfort during practice sessions.



## Quality and Affordability

More affordable than many other Gibson models, the Les Paul Junior still offers high-quality craftsmanship and tone. This makes it an excellent investment for beginners looking for a reliable guitar that can grow with them. Armstrong's choice of this guitar highlights its reliability and stage-ready durability.



## An Inspiring Choice

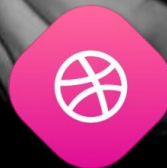
Billie Joe Armstrong's use of the Les Paul Junior is proof that a great sound doesn't require complexity or a hefty price tag. The Les Paul Junior allows musicians—beginners and pros alike—to express their unique musical voice with clarity and power.

With its simple design, versatile tone, and comfortable playability, the Gibson Les Paul Junior Ebony is the perfect choice for anyone starting their musical journey or seeking a classic rock instrument to rely on for years to come.

MARK HAZE



[www.markhaze.com](http://www.markhaze.com)  
[linktr.ee/realmarkhaze](https://linktr.ee/realmarkhaze)



South African Singer-Songwriter and full-time touring musician **Mark Haze** is known for his wide vocal range and electric large live performances.



South African Singer-Songwriter and full-time touring musician Mark Haze is known for his wide vocal range and electric large live performances. Mark skilfully delivers a signature combination of high energy Rock 'n Roll and silky Old-school Soul, fused with raw emotional Blues ... guaranteed to have audiences singing along on their feet!

On-stage Mark oozes charisma, with the distinctive ability to confidently command both large audiences, and personally connect with audiences in intimate venues – not an easy task when moving from large stages with a full band to a smaller acoustic setup where he is face to face with the audience.



Off-stage, Mark shows appreciation for his fans, always taking the time to meet them at every show. Mark shares that “I believe to really love music, is to find the beauty in all forms and genres and embrace it”

His powerful soaring vocals, skilled soulful guitar playing, and pulsing rhythms are a force to be reckoned with, delivering a show experience like no other - an escape into a world where nothing else matters, where you find yourself lost in the moment and his music. Each performance is treated as though it would be his last.



Mark is a natural showman with influences ranging from Rock Icons like Queen, The Beatles & Lenny Kravitz, Blues Masters Eric Clapton & B.B. King, to modern artists like Bruno Mars, The Weekend, Fallout Boy & Jack Garrat. Mark is known for experimenting sonically, merging contemporary Pop & Electronic Cultures with the historic timelessness and beauty of Rock, Soul, and Blues.





# GUITAR



# Epiphone

## Les Paul Muse in Radio Blue Metallic

### A Modern Classic with a Touch of Mystery

If you're looking for a guitar that blends classic Les Paul tone with modern versatility, the **Epiphone Les Paul Muse in Radio Blue Metallic** is a dream come true. Designed for the musician who wants to push boundaries, this lightweight, high-performance instrument combines vintage aesthetics with cutting-edge features to create a playing experience that's as inspiring as it is powerful.

### Stunning Design That Turns Heads

The first thing you'll notice about the **Les Paul Muse** is its eye-catching **Radio Blue Metallic finish**. It's not just another blue guitar—it's a deep, shimmering shade that changes subtly under different lighting conditions, making it as dynamic visually as it is sonically. The metallic gloss reflects the artistry of the musician, whether on stage or in the studio. The body is made from **chambered mahogany**, ensuring a **lightweight feel** without compromising sustain or tone.



## Built for Performance

Epiphone designed the Muse for versatility. Whether you're rocking out on stage, recording in the studio, or jamming at home, this guitar offers the perfect balance between playability and sonic flexibility.

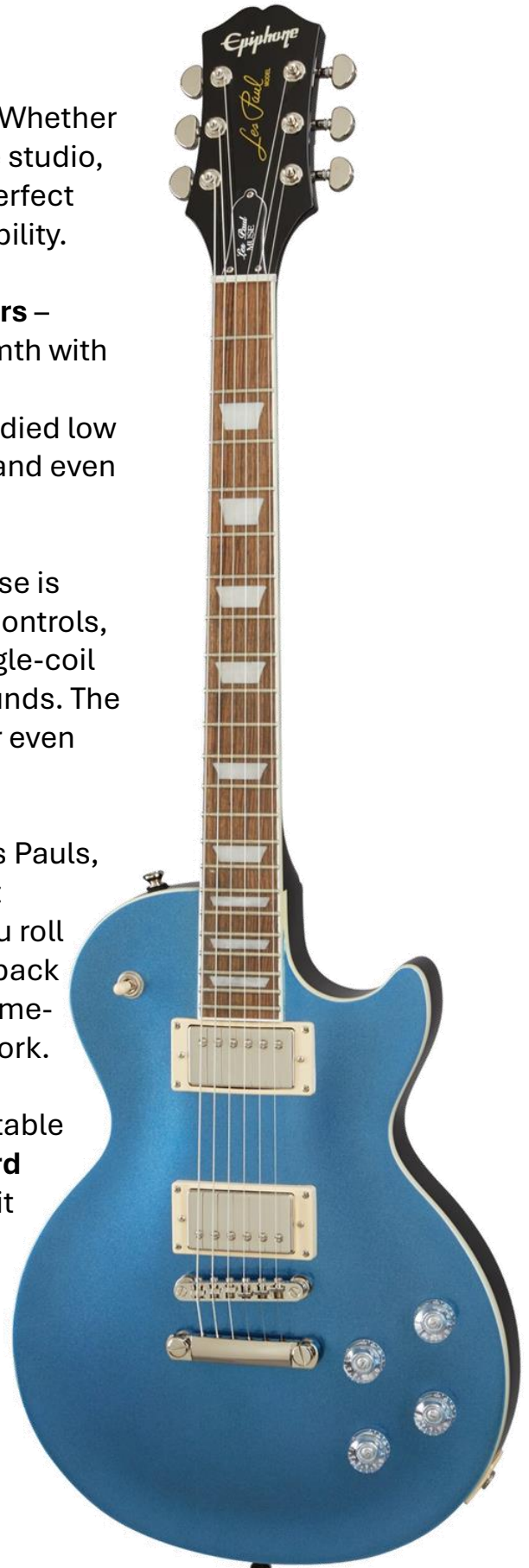
### **Powerful Alnico Classic PRO™ Humbuckers –**

These pickups deliver vintage Les Paul warmth with a modern edge. The Alnico V magnets offer articulate highs, punchy mids, and a full-bodied low end, making it perfect for rock, blues, jazz, and even high-gain styles.

**Coil-Splitting & Phase Switching –** The Muse is packed with tonal options. With push/pull controls, you can split the humbuckers into crisp single-coil tones, opening up a whole new range of sounds. The phase switch adds an out-of-phase tone for even more tonal exploration.

**Treble Bleed Circuit –** Unlike traditional Les Pauls, the Muse features a treble bleed circuit that maintains clarity and sparkle even when you roll down the volume. This means you can dial back your volume without losing definition—a game-changer for live performances and studio work.

**SlimTaper™ “C” Profile Neck –** The comfortable mahogany neck and **Indian Laurel fretboard** offer smooth, effortless playability, making it easy to navigate intricate solos and extended sessions without fatigue.



## The Sound of Inspiration

Whether you crave **classic rock crunch**, **smooth blues warmth**, or **chiming clean tones**, the Epiphone Les Paul Muse delivers. It's a guitar that adapts to your playing style, offering **expressive dynamics and rich harmonics** that let your personality shine through every note.

## Who Is the Les Paul Muse For?

This guitar is for the modern musician who demands more from their instrument. It's **lightweight yet powerful, vintage yet innovative**, and stylish yet deeply practical. If you want a guitar that lets you explore new sonic territories while still delivering that legendary Les Paul sound, the **Epiphone Les Paul Muse in Radio Blue Metallic** is the perfect choice.

The **Epiphone Les Paul Muse** isn't just another Les Paul—it's a bold reimagination of a classic.

**Are you ready to unleash your inner Muse?**

# Bridging Tradition and Innovation

AeroBand Guitar



**The AeroBand Guitar has emerged as a fusion of classic guitar elements and modern technology.**

Designed to cater to both novices and seasoned musicians, this instrument offers a unique approach to playing and learning the guitar.



## **User Feedback**

The AeroBand Guitar has garnered attention from the music community. Some users appreciate its innovative features, noting its potential as a practice aid and its comfortable design. However, others have expressed reservations, particularly regarding its departure from traditional guitar feel and certain limitations in advanced techniques. It's essential for potential users to assess their specific needs and consider how this instrument aligns with their musical goals.

## Simplify Chords

Simplify difficult chords. You can customize F chord to make it easier.



## Multi-Tone

AeroBand Guitar offers different sounds like piano, bass, etc. You can experience all in one guitar.



## 4-DSP Chips

Powered by 4-DSP chips to deliver authentic instrument tones.

## Interactive APP Tutorials

Real-time feedback on your finger placement, instantly correcting any of your playing mistakes.

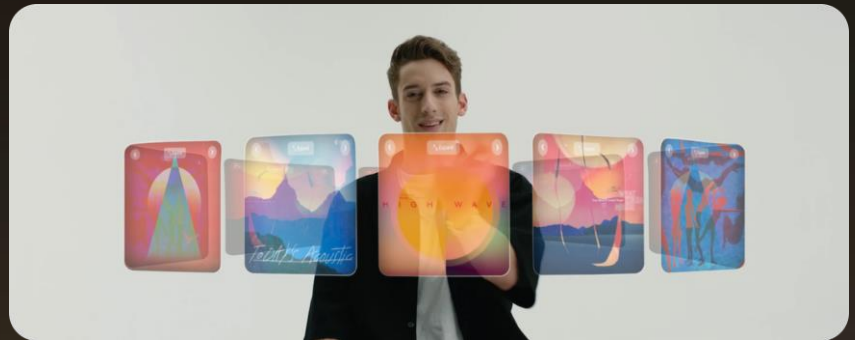


## Score Challenge

Play the song you've selected and get feedback across five dimensions to guide your practice.

## Get Started with a Song You Love

Pick your favorite song and we'll break down the chords making it easy for you to master it!



## Silent Practice

You can turn down speaker volume or plug in headphones, the guitar will be completely silent.

# All in One Guitar

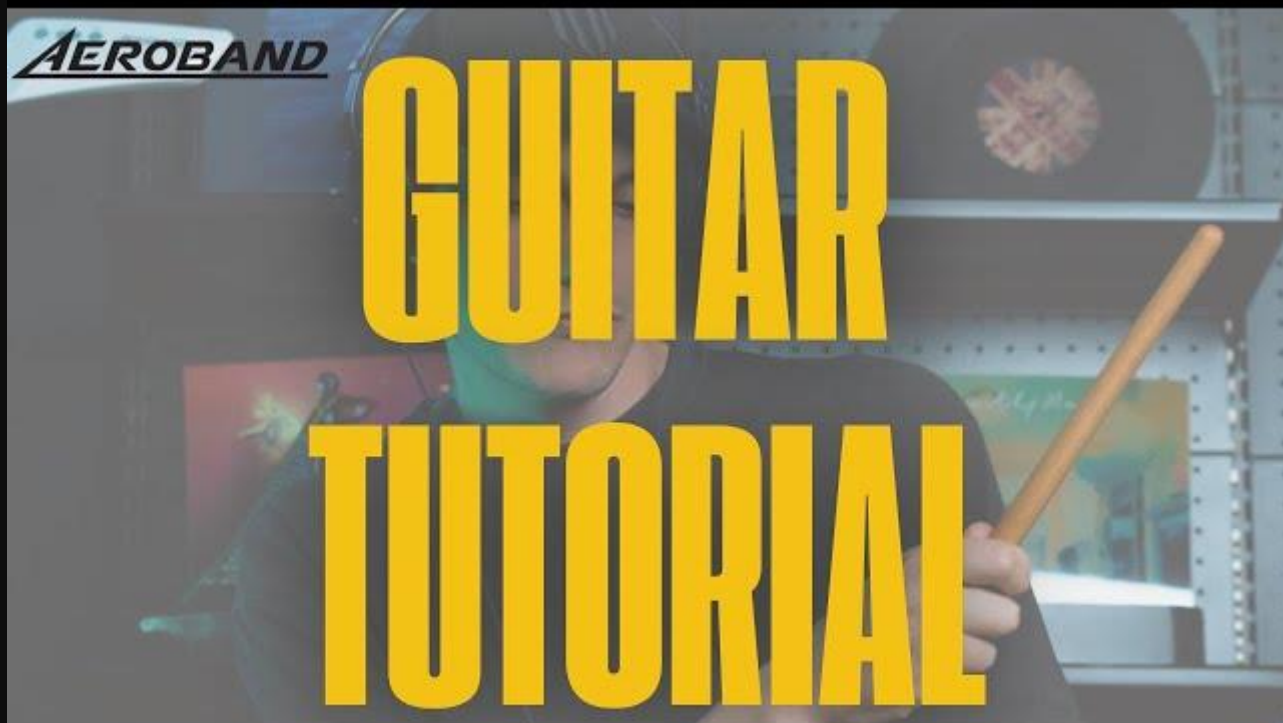
Built-in 30W speaker, microphone and drum loop system. You are one man band!



## Portability

Designed with mobility in mind, the AeroBand Guitar features a detachable neck, making it easy to disassemble and transport. This is particularly beneficial for musicians on the go.





# Maestro MOCFTP Fuzz-Tone FZ-M

A CLASSIC, REFINED



The Maestro Fuzz-Tone FZ-M is a tribute to one of the most iconic effects in guitar history, reviving the legendary fuzz tones that shaped rock, blues, and alternative music. This pedal blends vintage warmth with modern enhancements, allowing guitarists to explore both classic and contemporary fuzz sounds with ease.

One of its standout features is its dual-mode functionality. The Classic mode delivers the warm, woolly fuzz reminiscent of the '60s, perfect for players chasing vintage tones, while the Modern mode provides increased gain and clarity for those looking for a more aggressive, cutting fuzz. With true bypass switching, the FZ-M ensures that when disengaged, your guitar's signal remains pure and unaffected.

Its rugged design is built to withstand both stage and studio use, making it a reliable tool for any musician. The simple control layout, featuring Volume, Tone, and Fuzz knobs, makes shaping the perfect sound effortless, while the LED indicator ensures visibility even in dark performance settings.

The history of fuzz is inseparable from some of the greatest musicians of all time. Keith Richards famously used the original Maestro FZ-1 Fuzz-Tone on "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction," creating a biting, aggressive tone that became a defining moment in rock history.

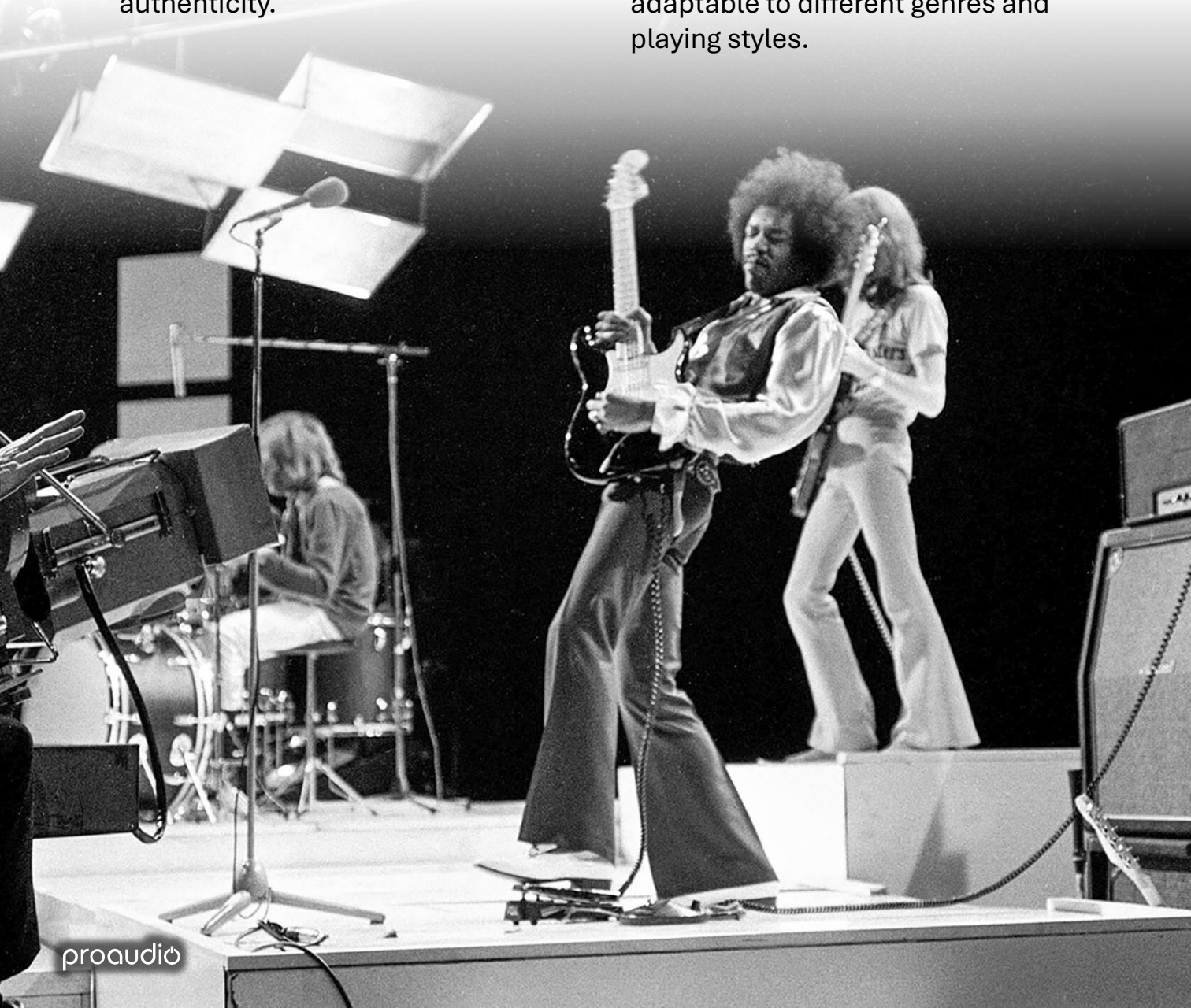


Jimi Hendrix took fuzz to new heights, using it to craft soaring, psychedelic leads that transformed the landscape of electric guitar playing. Ron Asheton of The Stooges pioneered a raw and raunchy garage rock sound, a quality that the FZ-M's Modern mode replicates perfectly.

Dave Davies of The Kinks created a buzzing, overdriven tone by physically slicing his amp's speaker cone, an effect that this pedal captures with remarkable authenticity.

Many professional guitarists recommend combining fuzz with overdrive pedals to enhance sustain and add harmonic richness. Placing a wah pedal before the fuzz in the signal chain can also create sweeping, vocal-like textures.

Rolling back the guitar's volume knob slightly allows for greater dynamic control, taming the fuzz for a more refined, expressive response. Pairing the FZ-M with an EQ pedal further fine-tunes the tone, making it adaptable to different genres and playing styles.



The FZ-M pairs exceptionally well with Gibson guitars, particularly those equipped with humbuckers for a thick, saturated fuzz tone. The Les Paul Standard '50s is an excellent choice for warm, vintage fuzz textures, while the SG Standard cuts through the mix with clarity and bite, making it ideal for aggressive lead playing.

The ES-335 offers a smooth yet dynamic fuzz tone, great for blues and soulful playing, while the Epiphone Casino's hollow-body resonance adds extra depth to fuzz-driven textures.

Balancing historical inspiration with modern versatility, the Maestro Fuzz-Tone FZ-M is an expressive and powerful tool for any guitarist. Whether recreating classic rock tones, experimenting with psychedelic leads, or pushing the boundaries of raw, gritty fuzz, this pedal is a worthy addition to any pedalboard.



**Maestro**  
SHAPE YOUR SOUND  
FUZZ-TONE FZ-M



# The Guitarist's Audio Interface



# As a guitarist,

you know that capturing that perfect tone can make or break a recording. You've spent hours dialing in your sound, and when it's time to record, you want an audio interface that's built with your needs in mind.

Enter **POLAR** – a USB audio interface designed by guitarists, for guitarists. This isn't just another piece of gear; it's your ticket to achieving legendary studio sound without compromise.



## Built for Tone and Versatility

POLAR is equipped with **two high-headroom FET input channels**, giving you pristine sound quality and plenty of headroom to handle everything from electric guitars and effect pedals to microphones and line-level instruments. The FET stage improves tone and signal quality, ensuring that the nuances of your playing shine through without distortion.

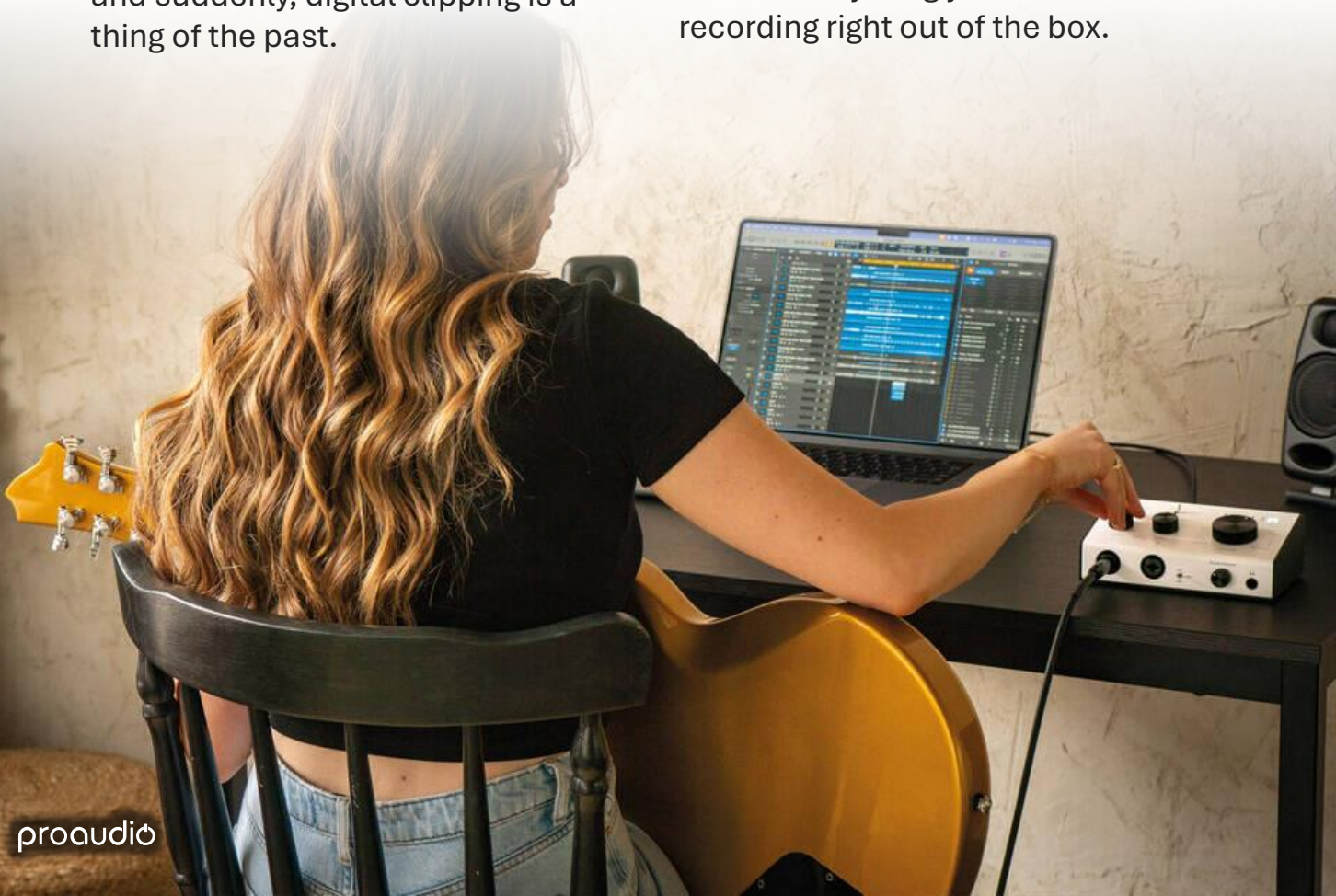
## The “Enhance” Magic

What truly sets POLAR apart is the proprietary **“Enhance” switch**. This isn’t some gimmick – it’s your secret weapon for achieving classic amp-like tone while recording. Engage “Enhance” on your instrument input, and suddenly, digital clipping is a thing of the past.

Feel free to crank your input levels like it’s a real amp – no more fussing with the “correct” gain settings. Recording vocals or acoustic guitars? The “Enhance” feature works wonders there too, adding natural clarity and air to your performances. It’s like having a top-notch DI and vintage mic preamp rolled into one compact device.

## All-in-One Recording Solution

With POLAR, you’re not just getting an audio interface – you’re getting a complete recording package. It comes bundled with the **St. James Plugin Suite** (worth \$129/£129/€129), giving you a collection of professional-grade plugins designed to elevate your sound. You also get **Ableton Lite, ReLab LX480 Essentials, Melodyne Essential**, and more – everything you need to start recording right out of the box.





## Studio-Grade Mic Preamps

POLAR's microphone preamps are inspired by the most renowned vintage studio preamps. Whether you're laying down vocals or capturing acoustic guitar, you can trust POLAR to deliver warmth, richness, and detail that rivals high-end studio gear.



## Fine-Tune Your Sound

Take control of your monitoring with **POLAR Control** mixing software. You can adjust levels, panning, and routing with precision, ensuring that what you hear is exactly what you want. And with **balanced outputs** for professional monitoring and a high-output headphone amp, POLAR guarantees that you'll hear every detail of your mix.



## Plug, Play, and Record

Running on USB 2.0 bus power, POLAR is as portable as it is powerful. Need phantom power for your condenser microphone? Just flip the **+48V switch** and you're ready to go.

# Debut

100R

ALL TONE. NO FUSS.

# Blackstar®

## Vintage Tone Meets Modern Reliability

Tube amps are making a strong comeback, and the **Blackstar Debut 100R** is a perfect example of why. Beloved for their **warm, dynamic sound**, tube amps offer a rich, organic tone that digital alternatives often struggle to replicate. The Debut 100R brings this vintage charm into the modern era, offering classic tone with **practical upgrades** for today's musicians.

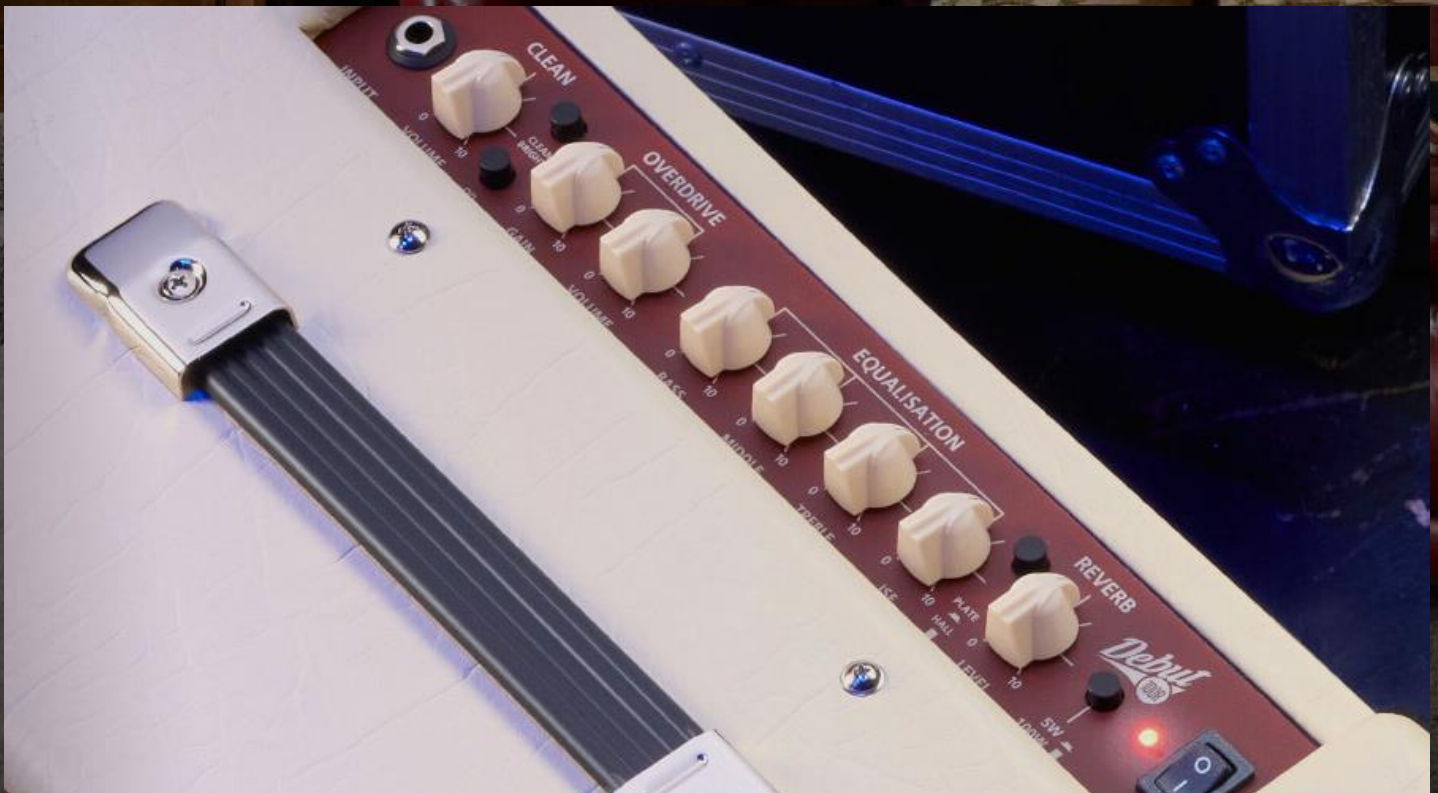


## Blending Classic and Modern

While traditional tube amps can be bulky and high-maintenance, the **Debut 100R** solves these issues with its **MOSFET preamp design**—delivering a tube-like tone in a **lightweight, reliable** format. With **100W of power** and a **5W reduction option**, it adapts to both **live performances** and **quiet practice**.

## Why Tube Amps Are Back

Tube amplifiers deliver harmonics, natural distortion, and smooth overdrive, making them highly **responsive** to a guitarist's touch. Unlike solid-state amps, they provide a **more personal playing experience**, reacting dynamically to every note.



## A Gig-Ready Workhorse

The **Debut 100R** is more than nostalgia—it's a **serious amp for musicians**. Whether you're gigging, recording, or practicing at home, it **delivers vintage warmth with modern flexibility**. The **resurgence of tube amps** proves that analog tone isn't just a trend—it's timeless.



## Key Features

- **100W Combo Amp** with a power reduction to 5W
- **2 Channels** – Clean & Overdrive
- **ISF Tone Control** – Shape your sound from US to British-style tones
- **Reverb Options** – Plate & Hall for added depth
- **Speaker-Emulated Line Out** – Silent practice & direct recording
- **Effects Loop & Line In** – Pedal-friendly and jam-ready
- **Custom 1x12" Speaker** – Classic Blackstar tone
- **Dual Footswitch Compatibility** – Switch channels & reverb on the fly

# The Journey of Sound

Ainsley Kisten's Path to Musical Mastery



**Ainsley Kisten** is a talented multi-instrumentalist, music director, arranger, and producer with a deep passion for music. Growing up

as a pastor's child, he developed a strong musical foundation in church, which shaped his distinctive sound and approach. His style seamlessly blends gospel, classical, and jazz influences, honed through training with esteemed mentors, working alongside industry professionals, and using cutting-edge gear like Nord keyboards.

### **Background and Training**

Ainsley's early experiences in church played a pivotal role in building his musical foundation. Being a pastor's kid, he was encouraged to learn multiple instruments, which taught him the importance of musical placement, teamwork, and creating a cohesive musical experience. This upbringing instilled in him a distinctive feel and a fresh perspective on music.

Ainsley's journey began at a young age, starting with drums at the age of five in 1998. When he turned six, his parents transitioned him to the piano due to a need for it in their church and community. This early start in various church meetings, conferences, and gatherings helped him hone his skills.



Studying under Bev Hoffmann introduced Ainsley to the world of classical music when he was just six years old. This guidance laid a solid foundation of music principles.

Later, his time at the Msunduzi Jazz Music Academy opened up an entirely new world of jazz, where he refined his skills under the mentorship of accomplished musicians like Vincent Mthethwa, Nhlanhla Mnikatha, and Mtobisi Mthlane. The fusion of his gospel, classical, and jazz background contributed significantly to his versatility as a musician, both in playing and arranging music.

Learning music theory through the ABRSM curriculum instilled a sense of discipline in Ainsley. He developed adaptability to different musical settings and situations, building grit by taking on challenging exams at a young age. This experience taught him hard work and endurance, qualities that he continues to apply in his professional career.

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## Career and Industry Experiences

Working with Lucas Bok, a two-time Grammy and Emmy Award winner, had a transformative impact on Ainsley's career. In 2013, he gained exposure to the professional music industry, mixing with top musicians in the country and learning about various aspects of the music business, including performance, stage presence, attire, and extensive music tours.



Although initially challenging, this experience shaped him into the musician he is today. Starting as an auxiliary keys player, Ainsley eventually took on the role of music director, arranger, and producer for Lucas Bok and Africa in Praise, a significant honor and achievement in his career.

Ainsley believes that great collaboration is built on good musical chemistry, openness to different styles and perspectives, and a shared vision and set of goals. As a music director, he emphasizes the importance of strong leadership, understanding the objectives and requirements of different artists, attentive listening, organizational skills, and technical proficiency.





## Gear and Nord Keyboards

Ainsley has been using Nord keyboards for 15 years. His admiration for Nord began in 2011 when he met his hero Buddy Strong, who was playing a Nord Stage EX. Inspired by the sound, Ainsley soon purchased his first Nord Electro 3, with the help of his brother Wayne Rengasamy. Since then, Nord has become a central part of his setup, as he appreciates its authentic sound and design, reminiscent of real pianos he grew up playing.

Ainsley's favorite features of Nord keyboards include the four assignable outputs that allow him to send different signals to the sound engineer for a clean mix, the stereo/mono option for sound control based on the venue, and the dual function that enables him to layer multiple synth, piano, and organ sounds.

He also values the USB integration with external keyboard patches and the ability to control reverb settings individually for each section. His current setup includes Nord Stage 2/3/4 and sometimes Nord Electro 3/5, depending on availability. He also uses other essential gear, such as the Big Sky Reverb pedal, Focusrite Clarett 8Pre audio interface, and a MacBook for auxiliary sounds when needed.

## Projects and Industry Insights

Ainsley is currently involved in several projects, including developing a new production company in the Middle East to outsource musicians and artists for private events.



When arranging and composing for different artists or genres, Ainsley focuses on understanding the artist's vision and expectations. Once he grasps the desired outcome, he begins the production phase while staying true to the artist's sound and authenticity. He also ensures that the right team is in place to achieve the project's goals, while incorporating his musical touch.

He advises musicians looking to improve their arranging and production skills to network with experienced musicians, producers, and artists, understand their tools and strengths, seek feedback, experiment, practice consistently, and collaborate with others.



He is also handling arrangements and production for Lucas Bok's upcoming album, launching the African Music Development Initiative in 2025 to provide music training and studio facilities, and working on Jody Naidoo's 2026 Live DVD project. Additionally, he is part of a theater production with his U.S. team, set to tour Europe from May to December.

Ainsley believes that maintaining a long-term career in music requires humility, authenticity, character, and high standards. Staying true to one's sound and values, while building strong relationships and maintaining a high level of musicianship, is essential for longevity in the industry.



# Nord Grand 2

AWARD-WINNING INNOVATION

The Nord Grand 2 has won **Best Musical Instrument Hardware** at the **40th Annual NAMM TEC Awards 2025**, held on **January 23, 2025**, at The NAMM Show in **Anaheim, California**. Selected by industry professionals, this award highlights its exceptional design and innovation.



“Best Musical Instrument Hardware”





## Enhanced Sound and Effects

With 120-voice polyphony, dynamic compression, and advanced string resonance, the piano section offers expressive depth. The Sample Synth section includes **expanded memory**, **unison mode**, and **Tru-Vibrato** for rich, natural tones. New effects include **Spring**, **Booth**, and **Cathedral Reverb**, **Spin Effect**, and an improved **Delay with Filter**, **Flam**, and **Ping Pong**.



# Well Done!

## Superior Touch and Playability

The new-generation Kawai Hammer Action keybed delivers an authentic grand piano feel. Offering two **independent Piano Layers** and two **Sample Synth Layers**, it enables intricate textures and dynamic performances. **Individual Split settings with optional crossfades** provide precise sound control.

## Performance-Ready Features

The Nord Grand 2 supports **Nord Piano Monitor**, includes the **Nord Triple Pedal 2**, and offers an intuitive interface for seamless control. Winning the **NAMM TEC Award** cements its place as a leading professional keyboard, delivering **unparalleled depth, richness, and playability** for musicians and composers.



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