

# 53<sup>rd</sup> Street Music



## Josh Rickard Bio

Josh Rickard has been an instructor at 53<sup>rd</sup> St. Music for nearly a decade, teaching guitar and music theory lessons to students of all ages and skill levels.

Josh's music education started at a very young age. Growing up with several musical influences, including his grandfather, Josh spent hours listening to all sorts of music. Much attention was given to classical music, military bands and movie scores, as well as more contemporary music such as the Beatles, Boney-M, U2 and the Rolling Stones. Josh had access to large array of records that his father and grandfather collected. By the time Josh was in elementary school, he had very well developed listening skills and an imagination to match. He would often day dream of performing music for others, and much time was spent in front of the mirror with a broom stick, pretending to be a guitarist.

In elementary school, Josh benefited from an excellent music teacher that encouraged creativity. Josh had picked up the harmonica by then, and was inventing little tunes on it that his music teacher would write down for him. Thus began his composing career! Along with the harmonica tunes, Josh like to write short songs and raps, which he would perform with a classmate in front of the class. One of the his rap songs was recorded, and won a contest as part of a school exchange of creative works shared between his school, and one in what was the former Soviet Union.

Josh's first official instrument was the Highland Bagpipes, which he learned on his own at first, and laterwhile he was a member of the Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps. At the same time, Josh was also a member of the Red Deer Legion Pipe Band. He won several awards at various highland games and competitions as a piper. In 1993, Josh penned his first tune for the pipes and by the age of 17, he had written several hundred tunes. At this time, Josh was highly interested in Celtic and traditional Irish music.

Age 17 is when Josh first picked up the guitar, and it has been his main instrument ever since. Josh was self taught at first, learning chords through songbooks, and picking up as many licks and riffs as he could from other local players. It was at this time that Josh began learning how to play various forms of rock, punk rock, and classic surf instrumentals. It wasn't long before Josh was writing songs in these genres.

At age 21, Josh entered the music program at Red Deer College, where he took his first guitar lesson. Learning quickly, Josh's guitar playing skills increased at an accelerated rate. Jazz became a central focus of his playing and composing. Josh gained a good deal of performance experience at college, and was in several bands of various genres including *Wizard's Lab*, a Jazz Fusion combo, and *Positive Action Sliders*, a punk rock group. Josh's composition skills were also honed at college, where he wrote several orchestral pieces and scored student films. Josh graduated the music program in 2002 with majors in performance and composition.

In the next six years, Josh's life was balanced between being a musician, intensely studying the jazz language, and the life of being a full time sushi chef (yes!). In this time, Josh still performed, usually solo guitar for corporate gigs, as well as continued to write music.

Josh began to teach lessons when he moved back to Red Deer in 2008 and was hired at 53<sup>rd</sup> St. Music.

Josh has taught hundreds of students of all ages since. Today, Josh still performs Jazz in several iterations, most notably the *Josh Rickard Trio*. He also has rekindled his love for the surf instrumental genre and performs regularly with the band, *The Boss Novas*.

Josh's Guitar influences: The Edge of *U2*, Pete Townsend of *The Who*, East Bay Ray of *Dead Kennedys*, Surf Guitar master Dick Dale, Dave Wronski of *Slacktone*, Stevie Ray Vaughn, Jazz Guitarists: Bill Frisell, Wes Montgomery, Jim Hall, John Scofield, Mike Stern, Johnathan Kreisberg, Pat Metheney, Jim Hall and several others.

Take lessons with Josh if you are a beginner, or an intermediate/ advanced player looking to expand your musical vocabulary, if you want to be a better reader, music composition, or if you want learn music theory. Also, if you are interested in learning the following styles of guitar: Rock, Classic / Surf Rock, Punk Rock or Pop Punk, Blues, Jazz, Acoustic singer / song writer, Christian Contemporary. Country, Bluegrass, or Finger Style Guitar.

Follow these links to follow Josh and his upcoming performances:

<https://www.facebook.com/TheBossNovas>

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