

Wayne Kusy

Guitarist Vox & Sound Writer

Wayne has a unique style of guitar playing that combines blues, rock, blue grass, jazz with a little heavy metal. He plays with finger picks, including guitar solos. The finger picks allow him to do arpeggio runs and other tricks regular pickers struggle with. He has a fast driving sound, playing a vintage 1965 pre-CBS Stratocaster. The vintage Strat gives Heavy Mental it unique sound. Having spent his early childhood in Tennessee, Wayne used to listen to the Grand Ole Opry with his grandmother along with numerous Country music TV shows. He remembers seeing Lester Flatt and Earl Scrugg and was impressed by their fast rhythms and banjo pickin' sound. While experimenting with playing a bass, Wayne started using finger picks and found they were the better way of playing the guitar. Sub consciously, his exposure to Roy Clark found its way into Wayne's style.

Before Wayne started playing guitar, we was already writing songs in early high school. Heavily influenced by the Beatles, he used to imagine what the music would sound like to the lyrics he wrote. Like the Beatles, Wayne writes songs in pieces, and stores them in his memory. He used special marks to indicate how the music went. When writing a new song, he pulls from his vast song inventory to assemble it. Wayne picked up the guitar after listening to Jimi Hendrix. So impressed was he of Jimi's creative spirit, Wayne decided he wanted a piece of the action. The irony is that Wayne always HATED guitar solos, and thought they were useless, having no place in a song. Jimi changed his mind. About the same time Wayne was exposed to the Sex Pistols and Richard Hell. They gave Wayne the notion, that music should have teeth, and be in your face, but most of all creative.

Influences:

1. Beatles
2. Jimi Hendrix
3. Sex Pistols
4. Nirvana
5. Dr. Who (Tom Baker era)
6. Monte Python