

# Rob Eberhard Young Press Kit



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Contents:

**Bio**  
**Discography**  
**Press & Artist Quotes**

**NOTE:** This press kit, as well as several high resolution photos, is available to journalists and publicists in MS Word and Rich Text formats at [www.robeberhardyoung.com/presskit](http://www.robeberhardyoung.com/presskit).

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# Bio

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Although he had been playing guitar since age 8, Rob Eberhard Young was originally inspired at the age of 15 by the first Van Halen record, and has been at it ever since.

Riding on the heavy metal wave of the 80's, Rob played in top rock and heavy metal bands from Boston to Honolulu, as well as many of his own electric guitar based instrumental projects. As Rob remembers, "I was always about a half-step behind. By the early 90's, my chops had gotten scary—and I think my writing was pretty happening too—but I was missing the big key...I hadn't found my own voice." Within the next year, Rob happened upon a chance meeting that not only led him to find his voice, but would change his life.

In the summer of '93, Rob met street musician Ned Landin while Ned was performing in Harvard Square, playing acoustic guitar through a PA in strange tunings with a huge sound. As Rob recalls, "I was never more inspired in my life...his sound was just jaw dropping...I went home, put the Strat in the closet, and started writing my first solo acoustic guitar record."

A year later, he released his first solo recording, *Consistent Variation*, about which *Guitar Magazine's* John Stix wrote, "*Consistent Variation* is rhythmically propulsive, harmonically rich and melodically compelling. That Rob does this all at the same time on the acoustic guitar makes for one fine ride!" Clearly, Rob's "heavy" background was reflected in his acoustic playing, but the music was far more intriguing than the simple mixture of acoustic and metal. It was homegrown, gutsy, direct, and fresh.

**"Rob sent me *Consistent Variation* and I was just blown away. It had been years—literally fifteen years since I'd heard a voice so new, so unique, and so powerful on the steel-string guitar."**—Will Ackerman

*Consistent Variation* caught the attention of Windham Hill founder, Will Ackerman, who subsequently signed Rob to his new label, *Imaginary Road* and produced Rob's second album, *Sticks & Stones*, in March of '97. *Sticks & Stones* marked the first time Ackerman had chosen to produce a new guitarist since he first produced the late, great composer/guitarist Michael Hedges, in 1980, who, along with Michael Manring, and Ackerman, joined Rob on *Sticks & Stones*.

**"Not a wimp!!! I like the strong pickwork, melody, abstract development, and the way the music moves."**—Michael Hedges

**"Rob's music is powerful, passionate and intense. His creative vision is opening up new worlds for the acoustic guitar."**—Michael Manring

*Sticks & Stones* charted in the top 25 on Billboard's New Age charts and reached #10 on the CD OneSource New Age charts. The lead track, "Trance Dance", reached #1 on both of the top 2 nationally syndicated new age radio shows, *Echoes and Hearts of Space*. In addition, "Trance Dance" hit #11 on the national charts for the NAC radio format and also appeared on the *Guitar World '97* music sampler alongside such greats as Pat Metheny and Nuno Bettencourt. Another piece, "Rhumblin'", is featured as a soundtrack and video performance in the documentary film *Modern Luthier* which aired as a Learning Channel special.

*Sticks & Stones* revealed Rob's compositional talents as well as his incredible virtuosity. As Will Ackerman said, "Rob has these incredible chops that alone would stun the listener, yet he never loses sight of delivering evocative melody in his pieces. Having both talents makes him very rare..." Ironically, however, it was Ackerman's pristine production values and Rob's obligation to fit into the traditional New Age mode which ultimately left Rob chomping at the bit to, as the sleeve on *Sticks & Stones* said, "Play it loud."

Having established his solo acoustic identity with *Sticks & Stones*, Rob took a decisive step toward realizing his true musical vision. Whereas Michael Hedges was the undisputed master of putting the band in the acoustic guitar, Rob had always intended to stake a claim to putting the acoustic guitar in the band...

"Although I enjoy playing and writing for solo acoustic guitar, that was never what I really set out to do. I felt that just too many people were playing solo guitar and that, for the most part, it had become a bit of a 'dime store' genre...there wasn't much left to say with it that hadn't already been said. What I wanted to do is be the first guy to present that 'huge acoustic guitar in open tuning' sound with a full band. Sort of a rock backdrop with huge grooves, but very ambient and beautiful at the same time. It was like, 'OK, we've heard plenty of great solo acoustic guitar without a band, and we've heard plenty of great electric guitar with a band, but what we haven't heard is a really good acoustic guitar instrumental album in a full band setting, which melds rock, jazz, and new age.'"

So Rob set out to enlist his "A Team" to help make this new direction a reality. Much to the surprise of many industry people, Rob asked Kip Winger to produce. "People just have no clue how amazing he is...that 80's

stuff was just the very tip of the iceberg. He's like Stravinsky...his mastery of orchestration and making sense out of 40+ tracks per tune was key in making the sound happen. Plus he's kind of like my big brother, which made the whole process much more fun!"

In addition, Rob invited his all-time favorite musicians to play. Bassist Michael Manring joined Rob again as well as Rod Morgenstein (Dixie Dreggs/Winger) on drums, pianist Alan Pasqua (John Williams Orchestra/Alan Holdsworth) on keys, and additional players including Andy Snitzer (Rolling Stones) on soprano sax, Chris Botti (Sting) on trumpet, Joel Derovin (Eric Clapton Band) on violin and Marc Clark (Ottmar Liebert) on percussion.

**"Rob's unique rhythmic style is right up my alley, lending itself to a wide and dynamic range of drumming. We had a blast recording SPEAK!"**—Rod Morgenstein

**"So you think this guy is pretty good, huh? Well he's not! I punched him in at every bar!"**—Kip Winger

**"This guy can't possibly be played loud enough!"**—Al Olsen

The result is Rob's newest recording, SPEAK!, an album which is that most exciting type of music—an indescribable and new hybrid. The range established on Sticks & Stones, from solo meditations to in-the-gut grooves, has been widened and deepened, with Kip Winger's masterful production keeping the entire album cohesive and seamless.

From SPEAK!'s opening track—a radically groovy reworking of "Wandering Minds" from Consistent Variation, featuring Rob, Michael Manring, and Rod Morgenstein slamming it in the pocket—to the chunky juggernaut, "Trades" (with Rod and Kip Winger), to the beautifully austere duets, "Islamorada" (with Andy Snitzer on soprano sax) and "Resolutions" (with Joel Derovin on violin), Rob has produced his most diverse and dynamic recording to date. With SPEAK!, Rob Eberhard Young has spoken again.

# Discography

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## Solo:

Consistent Variation (1994)  
Sticks & Stones (1997)  
SPEAK! (1999)

## Videos:

Modern Luthier (1997). Rob performs "Rhumblin'" from Sticks & Stones

## Compilations:

On a Winter's Night (1997). Rob plays parlor guitar on the otherwise unreleased REY original, "Solstice".  
Winter Solstice v. VI (1997). Rob plays guitar with Will Ackerman on Will's tune, "This Clearness Of Light".  
Summer Solstice (1998). Rob plays guitar with Will Ackerman on Will's tune, "Incondizionatamente". This recording also appears on Will Ackerman's album, The Sound of Wind Driven Rain.

Echoes Living Room Concerts v. IV (1998). Includes an in-studio performance of the otherwise unreleased REY original, "Glass Houses".

## As Guest:

Will Ackerman: The Sound of Wind Driven Rain (1998). Rob plays guitar on "Incondizionatamente".

## Feature Films:

Ricochet River (1998)  
Painkiller (due out 2001)

## Theater Soundtracks:

Time Tunnel (1999)

## Television:

ABC, NBC, CBS, USA, Sci-Fi Channel, and 2000 Olympics

# Press & Artist Quotes

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"An intense guy...and certainly not a New Age wimp...his playing is percussive and aggressive, his arrangements austere."—Associated Press

"His music explores soundscapes and moody textures, but with an underlying rock'n'roll attitude, with intense tone and technique."—Acoustic Guitar

"An incredible talent on the acoustic guitar...a player with soul as well as expertise."—Guitar World

"A welcome new twist on the ever expanding role of the acoustic guitar."—Fingerstyle Guitar

"No doubt guitarists will be drooling over (and struggling to emulate) the various techniques he employs, while other listeners will be mesmerized by his nuanced, textured melodies."—Jazz Times

"The music of Rob Eberhard Young meets or exceeds anything out there in the acoustic guitar arena. Along with a supporting cast of some of the best players in the country, Rob breaks new ground on the acoustic guitar."—Alternative Music Press

"He's incredible."—Bob Ludwig

"Not your typical froufrou New Age artist...Strongly original!!!"—Guitar

"Rob's unique rhythmic style of guitar playing is right up my alley, lending itself to a wide and dynamic range of drumming. We had a blast just hanging and recording this album."—Rod Morgenstein

"...Inventive..."—Billboard

"He's got a slightly harder edge than most acoustic guitarists. He really attacks the guitar with intensity. More importantly, he writes really good tunes."—John Diliberto

"Right now I'm working on an acoustic arrangement of 'Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap', then I'm going to the hot springs to meditate on 'Mr. Possum'...I'm thinking power chords on the parlor guitar..."—Michael Hedges

"Rob's music has vibe and soul. He's not afraid to take left turns to see where the road takes him and although he has virtuoso chops, he's much more interested in creating a musical space that is personal, passionate and deep..."—Michael Manning

"So you think this guy is pretty good, huh? Well he's not! I punched him in at every bar!!!"—Kip Winger