

WARINER INDUCTED TO THUMB-PICKERS HOF

Steve Wariner was inducted to the National Thumbpickers Hall of Fame during a ceremony September 25 at the Merle Travis Music Center in Powderly, Kentucky.

"I've been a thumbpicker since my dad taught me when I was young," said Wariner. "In my later years, I was lucky enough to play with Chet Atkins, Jerry Reed and Paul Yandell. Receiving this honor is because of them. It's an incredible honor for me to join the esteemed ranks of the Thumbpickers Hall of Fame."

Other inductees this year include Richard Smith and Chip Young. Members of the National Thumbpickers Hall of Fame include Wariner's friend and mentor Chet Atkins, Merle Travis, Jerry Reed, Paul Yandell, Doc Watson, Grandpa Jones, John Knowles, John Hartford, and Joe Maphis, among others.

REO RELEASES HOLIDAY DISC

REO Speedwagon has released a new Christmas album, *Not So Silent Night... Christmas With REO Speedwagon*. Produced by Joe Vannelli and lead singer Kevin Cronin, the album consists of 13 tracks ranging from traditional carols to obscure songs. In the spirit of the holidays, REO Speedwagon will be donating all artist royalties from "Happy Xmas (War is Over)" to the John Lennon Foundation.

VERHEYEN SLATES TOUR

Guitarist Carl Verheyen is set to play a string of dates along the West Coast with The Carl Verheyen Band, which includes bassist Dave Marotta and drummer Walfredo Reyes, Jr. The band is touring in support of *Trading 8s*, Verheyen's 10th studio album. The



Mark Doyle

Guitar Maniac

Mark Doyle's latest release, *Mark Doyle and the Maniacs: Shake 'Em On Down: A Salute To The '60s British Blues Boom*, is a return to the music that inspired and shaped his learned musical perspective.

One of 13 kids who grew up in a very musical family in Auburn, New York, he has been an in-demand guitarist/collaborator since the early '70s, working with everyone from Kim Simmonds to Bryan Adams to Leo Sawyer.

"My sister, Lisa, is a singer/songwriter and music therapist, my sister, Beth, plays cello, and my late brother, Willie, played harmonica. I was a jazz piano player like my father. He played on radio and on a local TV show called 'The Jim Deline Gang.' He also played

a morning radio show, taught lessons, and played nightclubs in Syracuse. He was amazing.

"I was playing piano on TV when I was 12, but when I saw the Beatles on Ed Sullivan, that was it. I knew what I wanted to be."

As a kid, playing guitar was first in his life.

"I practiced for hours," he said. "My mom would leave meals outside the door."

His first band experiences included a

stint with Jukin' Bone, which released two albums in the early '70s. After its breakup, he began making a living as a session guitarist, and in '81 hooked up with Meat Loaf during the making of *Dead Ringer*, when producer Bob Clearmountain talked him away from a gig with Foreigner. Later, producer Maurice Starr tapped him for string arrangements and guitar for New Kids On The Block, Tiffany, the Stylistics, and others. In '94, he returned to Syracuse and formed the Maniacs.

A longtime fan of Simmonds and Savoy Brown, Doyle and his band, Free Will, opened for them in the '70s. Later, their paths crossed again.

"I was playing with blues singer Kim Lembo, and Simmonds had us open for the '95 version of Savoy Brown. In Syracuse he asked me up to play 'Louisiana Blues' with him – a high point of my career!" He recently served as associate producer, arranger, and musician on Simmonds' *Out Of The Blue*.

On *Shake 'Em On Down*, Doyle employs his '63 Vox AC30, '54 Strat, '68 Gibson SG, and '61 3/4-scale Fender Musicmaster with '54 Les Paul electronics. "I always played Gibson," he said. "An SG, Firebird, and a black Les Paul."

After a Boston show years ago, a fan sold Doyle a Strat for \$700.

"I used it on Andy Pratt's *Shiver In The Night*, started using it live in the late '80s, and really grew to love the tonal options it gave. If I had to bring one guitar to a session – funk, R&B, jazz, country or rock – it would be the Strat."

Today, Doyle is a player/producer/arranger in varying combinations on current projects with Pratt, ex-Jukin' Bone bandmate Joe Whiting, and Mary Fahl. But he is especially looking forward to working with Simmonds again.

"It gets into your chromosomes. Not just because it's the music that captivated you as a kid, but because it's such great music." – **Rick Allen**

in memoriam

DICKIE PETERSON

They were in all likelihood the only band to have a recording session shut down by the Coast Guard, and back when J.J. Cale was a working engineer in L.A. he remembers listening to them record "Summertime Blues" (at full-stage, six-Marshall-stack volume) in the studio, through double-pane glass, with the monitors off. Blue Cheer, the late-'60s power trio, was, as the title of one best-of put it, "louder than God."

They've been credited as the fathers of both heavy metal and punk rock, but those depictions are as inaccurate as ones dismissing them as being nothing but loud. As evidenced by its '68 debut, *Vincebus Eruptum*, the original trio of guitarist Leigh Stephens, drummer Paul Whaley, and singer/bassist Dickie Peterson was a true rock and roll band – a psychedelic/blues product of its time and place, without the folkie roots of most San Francisco groups.

Peterson, who wrote, among others, *Eruptum's* "Doctor Please" and "Just A Little Bit" from *Outsideinside* (its title a reference to the band's attempt to capture their raw power by recording outside, on the Sausalito Pier – hence the Coast Guard reference), died of cancer October 12. He was 63.

GREG LADANYI

Grammy Award-winning producer Greg Ladanyi died September 28 at the age of 57.

After engineering Jackson Browne's *The Pretender* and *Running On Empty* (in '76 and '77), Ladanyi co-produced Warren Zevon's *Excitable Boy* and *Bad Luck Streak In Dancing School*. He went on to engineer and/or producer such artists as Fleetwood Mac, David Lindley, Don Henley (including "Boys Of Summer"), Kansas, REO Speedwagon, and Jeff Healy's debut, *See The Light*.

Toto's *Toto IV* earned him

a 1982 Grammy for Best Engineered Recording.

He received a dozen Grammy nominations, including one for engineering Los Jagueares' *Bajo El Azul De Tu Misterio*, at the inaugural Latin Grammy Awards in 2000.

In 2004, he formed Maple Jam Music Group. He died in Cyprus after suffering severe head trauma from an onstage accident while on tour with Greek vocalist Anna Vissi, an artist on the Maple Jam label.