



Jerry Kosak is guitarist/musician living in Saint Paul, MN. His musical journey began over 35 years ago and continues to flourish with the release of his third recording of original music for solo guitar **Yossarian's Dream**. With this new recording, Jerry has incorporated the structure and complexity of classical, the soul and passion of the blues, the happiness and drive of Americana, and the groove and swing of R&B and jazz. His focus is on bringing something new to each composition and pushing the limits of modern fingerstyle guitar. The tunes on *Yossarian's Dream* have been described as a fusion of rhythmic drumming, grooving bass lines, and thoughtfully disjointed melodies, all performed by one guitarist on one guitar. A lifetime of listening, studying, and performing continues to produce "a great reflection of many different styles" according to Kevin Barnes of KBEM Jazz 88.

As a performer, Jerry is equally comfortable with an acoustic, nylon string, electric, or resonator in his hands. In addition to his performing as an acoustic guitar soloist, his projects have included **Are You Experienced?** (Jimi Hendrix 40th Anniversary Tribute), **The String Trio** (string band and early blues), as well as his current trio, **Blues Contraption** (funky slide guitar, bass, and cajon).

Having received a **Bachelor of Music in Guitar Performance** and a **Master of Music in Musicology/Guitar Performance**, Jerry is also right at home teaching guitar or music history at the college/university level. From 2007 through 2010, Jerry served as **Head of the Guitar Department** at McNally Smith College of Music.

What sets Jerry apart is his versatility. Because he regularly performs, composes, and teaches in all styles - roots and blues, rock, classical, and jazz - he has developed the authentic musical vocabulary of each. Dedication to and study of the wider continuum of music has enabled him to develop his own unique voice as a player and composer.

www.jerrykosak.com

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Jerry was the first 2-time winner of the Zeitgeist Eric Stokes Award. He is a recipient of a **2019 MN State Arts Board Artist Initiative Grant**, and he has been awarded a **Jerome Foundation Grant**. Keeping an active performance schedule of 80+ gigs a year has led to three CDs of original music for solo guitar; **Many Dances, Sounds Like This** and **Yossarian's Dream**. In addition, Jerry collaborated with internationally renown DJ/Producer Freddy Fresh on his album **Play The Music**.

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