



FFS

Community

# The 2009 GP Readers' Choice Awards

## The Magazine

### FAVORITE COVER

The Ultimate Guide to Pedalboards  
May 2008



### BEST GP ARTICLE

Multi-Dimensional Miracles  
Carlos Santana Celebrates the Power of Intangibles  
By Michael Molenda,  
December 2008



### WORST GP ARTICLE

Retro Rejuvenation  
The Black Crowes' Rich Robinson and New Wingman Luther Dickinson Fashion Vintage Tones and Classic-Rock Riffs into a Fresh Roar on *Warpaint*  
By Jimmy Leslie, August 2008



### FAVORITE GP LESSON

Master Class: Sonny Landreth  
By Jude Gold, October 2008



### BEST GP GEAR REVIEW

Dr. Z MAZ-18 Junior NR  
By Jude Gold, September 2008

ONCE EACH YEAR, SCORES OF GUITAR PLAYER READERS answer the call to vote for their favorite artists, products, and best/worst GP articles. The ballot is always published in our December issue, and it is also posted online until December 31. Like the Oscars and the Grammys, the focus is on the previous 12 months. Gear picks are limited to products actually reviewed in the magazine the past year, with the sole exceptions being the write-in categories, where it's a bloody free-for-all.

As we tallied our readers' "best of 2008" votes for this year's award, it was interesting to note so many players clinging to the Stratocaster as "All-Time Favorite Piece of Gear" for the fourth year in a row. Eric Clapton's reemergence in the community mindset as "Best Overall Guitarist," a gear application winning "Favorite Cover" (The Ultimate Guide to Pedalboards), Jennifer Batten's revitalized solo activity gaining her a "Best Female Guitarist" nod, and Brad Paisley's double bull's eyes for "Best Country Guitarist" and "Most Ferociously Brilliant Guitar Album."

To all the artists and manufacturers who nabbed awards this year, the *Guitar Player* staff sends congratulations and "bravos." We'd also like to thank our passionate and insightful reader community for its annual participation in this poll.  
—Michael Molenda

## Artists



**BEST ACOUSTIC GUITARIST**  
Tommy Emmanuel



**BEST BLUES GUITARIST**  
Joe Bonamassa



**BEST CLASSICAL GUITARIST (TIE)**  
Sharon Isbin  
John Williams



**BEST COUNTRY GUITARIST**  
Brad Paisley



**BEST EXPERIMENTAL GUITARIST**  
Bill Frisell



**BEST FEMALE GUITARIST**  
Jennifer Batten



**BEST JAZZ GUITARIST**  
Pat Metheny



**BEST METAL GUITARIST**  
Kirk Hammett

## Gear

**BEST SOLIDBODY ELECTRIC**  
Gibson Historic '59 Les Paul  
Vintage Original Spec

**BEST HOLLOWBODY ELECTRIC**  
Godin 5th Avenue



**BEST STOMPBOX OR MULTIEFFECTS PEDAL**  
MXR M-169 Carbon Copy Analog Delay



**BEST ACOUSTIC OR ACOUSTIC-ELECTRIC**  
Taylor 816ce Grand Symphony

## PRODUCT WRITE-IN CATEGORIES

**ULTIMATE VALUE AWARD**  
Roland Micro Cube RX



**MOST INNOVATIVE PRODUCT**  
Moog Guitar

**FAVORITE ELECTRIC PICKUP**  
Seymour Duncan JB Model

**FAVORITE ACOUSTIC PICKUP**  
Fishman Matrix Infinity

**FAVORITE GUITAR CABLE**  
Monster Rock Guitar Cable

**FAVORITE STRINGS**  
D'Addario XL, Ernie Ball Slinky, GHS Boomers

**ALL-TIME FAVORITE PIECE OF GEAR**  
Fender Stratocaster



**BEST COMBO AMP**  
Dr. Z MAZ-18 Junior NR

**BEST HOME STUDIO GEAR**  
Peavey ReValver MKIII



**BEST AMP HEAD**  
Marshall JVM 210H

**BEST ACCESSORY**  
Seymour Duncan P-Rails



**BEST NEW TALENT**  
Ozzy



**BEST OVERALL GUITARIST**  
Eric Clapton



**BEST ROCK GUITARIST**  
Warren Haynes



**BEST SLIDE GUITARIST**  
Derek Trucks



**BEST WORLD GUITARIST**  
Fareed Haque



**BEST GUITAR SOLO ON AN ALBUM RELEASED IN 2008**  
"Revelation," Professor Satchafunkilus and the Musterion of Rock, Joe Satriani



**HIPPEST RHYTHM-GUITAR PART ON AN ALBUM RELEASED IN 2008**  
"Rock 'n' Roll Train," Black Ice, AC/DC



**MOST FEROCIOUSLY BRILLIANT GUITAR ALBUM IN 2008**  
Play, Brad Paisley