

Bob Miles from *Miles of Music*

With a popular music television show and a new series, Bob Miles thrives on his love of music. *By Donna Dvorak*

Bob Miles, a hip, happening guitarist, burst upon the music scene at age twelve, during the days of the Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, and Cat Stevens. And he's still going strong—packing clubs, performing his *Miles of Music* show on regional television, and getting ready to launch a new PBS series on guitar.

"It's informative and features tunes from music's legendary guitarists like Steve Howe, of Yes fame, Les Paul, and Bucky Pizzarella," explains Miles, who grew up in Montgomery County, before moving to Bucks County. "My show, *World of Guitar*, is also on television five nights a week as well as other times. In 1989, I recorded a CD, *Miles of Inspiration*, and a CD with Jackie King and the Willie Nelson Band for the PBS television show *Music Makers*. I'm also on the compilation CD, *Studio Sessions with Stanley Jordan, Victor Wooton and Joey DeFrancesco*."

When I caught up with Miles he was getting ready to meet Peter Yarrow, from *Peter, Paul and Mary*. The next time we met was during a filming of his show surrounded by lights, cameras and action.

"I grew up with rock and switched to jazz when I was 19. That was back in the day when musicians could work five nights a



week and club owners actually kept music alive," he explains. "On my *Miles of Music* show, I showcase high caliber, world-renowned guitarists. Berkley College of Music called my show the 'who's who of the guitar world'. It's the only guitar show in existence and it's been on since 1996. I have an addiction to music that I can't help. I've done more than 100 shows so far and I rarely watch them after I shoot them. I've featured Les Paul, Steve Howe, Pat Martino, and the late Jaco Pastorius's father, Jack Pastorious."

In the rock guitar world Miles interviewed Joe Bonomassa from the Gregg Allman Band, and Mark Farner of Grand Funk Railroad. From the country set, he featured Arlen Roth and Country Joe Dalton.

"They're all majors in the guitar world," he reveals. "I also had the Smithsonian Institution do a show on their Blue Guitar Exhibit at the Natural History Museum."

In December, PBS is presenting a two-hour pledge drive focusing on *Let's Learn Guitar*, a teaching guitar show featuring Steve Howe, John Oates, and Peter Yarrow. Viewers will learn how to play the guitar, from rock and blues, to country and jazz.

"Half of the show is teaching guitar to viewers, and the other half is where people call in and pledge a specific amount of money," explains Miles. "Then, the public can purchase a DVD with additional footage not shown on television. The viewers will learn how to play guitar from these masters; Peter, John and Steve."

Miles is blessed in other ways that show you just can't get enough of a good thing.

"I'm married to Janet and I'd kiss the ground she walks on," he gushes. "And we adopted Lily, a beautiful two year old. They are the focus of my life."

For more information about Bob Miles, call (215) 343-3011 or visit www.milesmusic.tv.

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