



**Rick Burke**

**GL** - What do you do for a living?

**RB** - I've owned a company called Lease Administration Solutions for 24 years. We specialize in Lease Administration, Lease Auditing, Lease Abstracting and Training for Commercial Real Estate Tenants across the country. It's fairly boring but it keeps me pretty busy (I'd much rather be playing music).

**GL** - When not playing your guitar what else do you do for recreation?

**RB** - My other hobby is Billiards (shooting pool), and when I am not doing that, I'm hanging out with my wife and 3 kids and my dog Django (named after Django Reinhardt, the 3 fingered gypsy jazz guitarist).

**GL** - What got you interested in playing the guitar?

**RB** - My first instrument was drums at a young age and I was in a few garage rock bands. I started to pick up the guitar while in these bands to write songs. I was not serious about guitar at that time; I basically made up my own chords. Then when I left home and headed west, I wasn't able to take my drums, so eventually I picked up guitar. But I really did not get serious about playing it until later in life.

**GL** - How long have you been playing the guitar?

**RB** - Many years of just messing and noodling around but playing seriously only about 5 years.

**GL** - What music gets you excited and why?

**RB** - Tough question. I enjoy music that has a strong melody and interesting lyrics. I really like to deconstruct songs to understand their structure. It could be a basic or complicated song, but if it is well written I get excited. I jump around on types of music depending on my mood. Currently, I'm listening to some countryish stuff, like "3 or 4 Chords and the Truth." Song writers like Hayes Carll, Tyler Childers, Ray Wylie Hubbard, and Rodney Crowell to name a few. Some songs can have a simple chord structures, but the lyrics are interesting. Also, I'm listening to Bluegrass, stuff like Billy Strings and Molly Tuttle. Really trying to learn the soloing techniques using the major scales like Bluegrass guitar players mostly use.

**GL** - Are you playing guitar as much as you would like to and if not why?

**RB** - Well, like with everyone, life has a habit of taking over at times. Time is finite, so between family and business, the day seems to slip by. But I do squeeze in the guitar when I can.

**GL** - When was the last time you listened to a new artist, band or guitar player?

**RB** - I'm always looking for new and original music. It's interesting. One could make the case that music progressions and song structures repeat through so many artists, and this is true, but there are so many variables that can change the music's sound and feel, and of course, the depth of the lyrics. I find it very interesting to listen to new music. Even if the person is performing a cover, I love to hear how they make it their own song, instead of trying to copy the original artist.

**GL** - What are you practicing and why?

**RB** - On guitar I'm working on soloing techniques, scales, modes, riffs, and soloing over chord changes. Learning a lot of theory that I never had the chance to learn. I'm also trying to learn Mandolin and Harmonica, but there's just not enough time in a day.

Who are your top three musical influences and why?

**RB** - Beatles, Steely Dan, Big Bands like Duke Ellington, and too many singer songwriters to mention, from Billy Joel, Richard Thompson, to David Wilcox.

**GL** - What is your greatest guitar playing challenge?

**RB** - Finding the time to learn more! It is a never-ending journey.

**GL** - What musical accomplishment are you most proud of?

**RB** - While playing drums, we played a lot of gigs, one at Canobie Lake Park opening up for bigger name bands. Playing guitar, a few stage performances by myself and with other musicians.

**GL** - How would you describe yourself as a musician in one sentence?

**RB** - Average. I just like to have fun and watch others have fun with music.

**GL** - Do you keep your guitar playing to yourself or do you play for audiences?

**RB** - Both. I enjoy just jamming or playing in front of audience, but my best audience is my dog Django. If I pick up the guitar, he will follow me wherever I go and lie beside me while I practice or play. And he never complains when I'm off key.

**GL** - Do you have any ambitions to form a band or duo?

**RB** - Yes, but it would need to be with the right mix of people and talent. Being in a band can be tough; everyone needs to have similar commitments and objectives. If not, it can get frustrating.

**GL** - What style do you mostly play and why?

**RB** - Fingerstyle, Blues, Folk, Bluegrass, and currently trying to learn some jazz.