



It was geeky, but still very cool to see our event promoted on the big Great American Music Hall sign.



GUITAR HERO 2006

TEN BATTLED, ONE WAS VICTORIOUS, AND ALL ROCKED

BY MICHAEL MOLEND A

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
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IT WAS A CELEBRATION OF GRIT, MELODY, CHOPS, HEART, TONE, and charisma, and, at the end, Pennsylvania's Trey Alexander played his way to the title of *Guitar Player's* Guitar Hero 2006. It wasn't an easy win, either, as Alexander had to face nine tremendous talents: GH06 third-place winner David Powers, GH06 second-place winner Patrick Woods, 15-year-old wunderkind Joshua Karickhoff, Joe Cefalu, Nathan Hahn, Ed DeGenaro, Ron LoCurto, and Russian guitar virtuosos Sergei Roudzinski and Anton Tsygankov. He also



New York's Ron LoCurto opened the competition with his fiery, funky, and melodic "Coolness."



Seattle's Ed DeGenaro was the competition's sole fretless player.



Fifteen-year-old Joshua Karickhoff donned full-on rock-star regalia—and tossed picks into the crowd—for his performance of "Initiation."



Sergei Roudzinski flew in from Russia for GH06, and, despite being jet lagged, uncorked a musically complicated shred fest.



Second-place winner Patrick Woods unleashes his solo-acoustic magic.



Joe Satriani delivers a critique from the "Judge's Balcony."

HEAVILY!

had to pass muster with six stellar judges: Joe Satriani, Steve Lukather, Richie Kotzen, Rafael Moreira, Shredmistress Rynata, and Musician Friend's Steve Read. But, then again, it may be more accurate to state that *everyone* won, as the near-capacity crowd at the September 23, 2006, *Guitar Player's* Guitar Hero competition at San Francisco's Great



Third-place winner David Powers came onstage dressed like Clark Kent, and then ripped off the suit to fire off his Les Paul-powered salvos in a Superman t-shirt.



Nathan Hahn's "Joyful Noise" was a celebration of melody and vocal-like phrasing.



Russia's Anton Tsygankov delivered a vibey, virtuosic reading of his song, "The Centaur."



Joe Cefalu performed a beautifully plaintive arrangement of "Vision"—an adaptation of the Mariah Carey hit, "Vision of Love."

Guitar Hero 06 winner Trey Alexander totally lets loose during his thrilling and multi-layered reading of "The Modern Equivalent."

GUITAR HERO 2006 CONTINUED



GP Editor in Chief
Michael Molenda giving
the competitors a pep
talk before soundcheck.

GH06 judges
(left to right)
Joe Satriani,
Steve Lukather,
Shredmistress
Rynata, Richie
Kotzen, Rafael
Moreira, and
Steve Read.



American Music Hall was treated to a thrilling night of absolute guitar madness.

Further thrills were provided by hosts Greg Kihn and his son Ry, as well as from a smokin' house band comprised of Music-Player editors (including *GP*'s Jude Gold; *Bass Player*'s Jonathan Herrera; and *Keyboard*'s Ernie Rideout, Stephen Fortner, and Michael Gallant). Fabulous prizes were provided by the event sponsors: A choice of a Mesa/Boogie Stiletto amp or other model, a custom First Act "GH06" guitar, a Fender Stratocaster signed by all the judges, and a \$500 Musician's Friend gift certificate (GH06 winner); an Epiphone Les Paul, a Hughes & Kettner Switchblade amp, and a MF gift



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Group Marketing
Communications Manager
Laney Erokan lugging the
First Act and Epiphone prize
guitars into the venue.



Host Greg Kihn (left) and his son, Ry, played
some Kihn-tastic hits such as “The Breakup
Song” before the competition began.

GUITAR HERO 2006 CONTINUED

Guitar Hero 05 runner-up Rodney VerBrugge opened the show with a screamin' version of the 1971 Focus hit, "Hocus Pocus."



David Powers accepts his third-place plaque (and a Musician's Friend gift certificate) from host Greg Kihn.



Holding his prize of a custom-edition "GH06" First Act guitar, a tearful Trey Alexander cited his late father's encouragement as inspiring the drive that led to his winning the 2006 Guitar Hero crown.

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certificate (second place); and a MF gift certificate (third place).

But while the riffs have ceased reverberating at the Great American, and the judges have made their choices, you can still select *your* favorite GH06 guitarist! Just click to guitarplayertv.com, go to the Guitar Hero 2006 channel, and place your vote. All those who vote will be entered in a drawing to win a limited-edition First Act GH06 guitar just like Trey Alexander's. ■



Clutching his prize of an Epiphone Les Paul, Patrick Woods thanks the crowd and the judges.