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## PETER FURLER

steps back from the microphone



Artist Profile:  
**FIREFLIGHT**  
Between The Chaos



Product Review:  
**Voyage-Air Guitar**  
The Next Step



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Selective Hearing:  
Mandisa • FM Static • Falling Up  
Phillip Larue • Joy Lippard • newsboys  
The Boasting Weak • Jonny Diaz • Jars of Clay

**Tech Talk:** The Making of the newsboys' *In The Hands of God*

## Product Review

# Voyage-Air Guitar - The Next Step

For me, the concept of travel guitars started with Tacoma's Pappose guitar (a small scale acoustic guitar that tuned to "A") that would fit easily into the overhead compartment of an airplane. The Pappose had an interesting voice but it was odd being in the key of "A". Then Taylor broke the market open with their Baby Taylor, a fun little travel guitar that you could tune to "E". Its little gig bag said, "Take me with you". Martin followed with the Little Martin.

Another well crafted small-scale guitar that I liked quite a bit. The only problem with any

of these highly portable guitars was that after you played them for more than 20 minutes or so, cramping

**The "show and tell" factor on the Voyage-Air guitar is through the roof.**

your fingers into smaller width necks and frets closer together than usual - you start to say to yourself, "I should either start playing mandolin or boy I sure miss my full size guitar". Until now, the instruments general called "practice guitars" were all the choices we had when it came to portable acoustics.



Last Summer I met the folks at Voyage-Air Guitar and they have taken an entirely unique approach to having your full size guitar and easily traveling with it too. They have designed a "folding" neck guitar. Your first impression is, "No way!"

Then when you actually hold the instrument in your hands and take the full size guitar neck, loosen the screw/strap holder that securely bolts the neck to the body and fold over the neck towards the top of the body you can see the uniquely patented hinge system that makes this feat possible. Now when the "folding-

your-guitar-in-half" conversion takes place keep in mind that your strings are fully up to pitch (tuned to "E"). Reverse the action and tighten the neck screw down again and guess what? You are in tune! What! Yes, you are in tune (or close enough for rock n' roll). A captured nut system keeps the strings from jumping out of their proper position during the process. This is really fun to do and quite impressive to guitar playing onlookers.

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*you... amplified*

## New from LR Baggs venue D.I.

- All discrete 5-Band Para D.I. style EQ with breakthrough high-headroom analog circuitry.
- Isolation transformer D.I. guarantees elimination of ground loops.
- Chromatic tuner.



*LR Baggs*

**3 BOXES IN 1!**

## Product Review (cont. page 18)

There are several aspects about this Voyage-Air guitar that I like. First of all, it is a well constructed guitar to begin with. They make several models and the one we are reviewing is the Songwriter VAOM-06 model (an OM size body similar to a Martin 000-18, they also make a full dreadnought size one as well – VAD-06). The Songwriter sports a solid spruce top, mahogany back and sides, adjustable truss rod and a really nice playing neck.

The fashionable convertible back back/gig bag that comes with all Voyage-Air guitars is another part of its appeal for travel. It is designed to fit well on the back. It houses a Velcro padded strap on the inside that protects the top of the body from the folded neck. The unique shape of the gig bag



also hosts a compartment for your lap top computer. What this means is that you can walk through the airport and place your back pack in the overhead bin with your guitar and computer all together in one carry on. Take it from a guy who has schlepped many a guitar and briefcase through crowded airports... this is a cool feature.

The “show and tell” factor on the Voyage-Air guitar is through the roof. Your enthusiasm about the guitar that folds in half is contagious. We had it at our Guitar Gallery event during Gospel Music Week and I did not get tired of blowing guitarist minds with popping the neck on the instrument. It is fun!

But the bottom line is, all the great travel features and exhibiting it’s merits aside, when I get to my destination or if I am just noodling around on the guitar in my house... would I be happy with the guitar itself for the amount of money I spent on it (the VAOM-06 retails for \$899.00 – street price is around \$749.00)? The answer is “yes”. It feels good, sounds good; the detail work – binding etc. is well done. The last word... there are some songs to be written on this guitar.

Watch the demo videos at [www.voyage-airguitar.com](http://www.voyage-airguitar.com)

## Sound Control:

# Rocktron Patchmate LOOP 8 & All Access LTD

The days of giant racks may be gone, but most of the Praise and Worship guitarists I know face similar challenges in terms of routing and controlling the effects and amps. Thanks to my friends at Rocktron, this challenge has become wonderfully manageable.

Access LTD I can assign separate midi channels for up to sixteen pieces of gear. Once I’ve assigned a channel to the Patchmate LOOP 8, my Eventide pedals, and my Rocktron XPression multi-effects, I can call up unique presets on each device and in turn record that into a

single preset on the



At the epicenter of my current touring rig is a Rocktron Patchmate LOOP 8. This unit is fully programmable, midi compliant, and controls eight loops that can be easily configured to achieve three vital functions. I use the four loops for stomp boxes going into the front

All Access. With the push of a single button, I can change channels on my amp, add or remove effects in my signal chain, and change patches on all midi compliant devices. The All Access LTD also comes with an expression pedal, which can be assigned to specific midi



end of my amp. In loop five, I simply connect a cable from send on the Patchmate to the channel switching jack on the back of my Orange head to change channels. Loops six, seven and eight are running in the effects loop of the head, and like the stomp boxes they can be activated separately or in series. To create a preset, I simply toggle the on/off button on the front of the unit for each loop, and then hit ‘store’.

In conjunction with the Patchmate, my Rocktron All Access LTD allows me to control several key elements of my setup. By default, when you hook a bunch of midi compliant gear together, preset one on the All Access calls up preset one everywhere else. With the All

functions like controlling delay or chorus volume. The Song/Set Mode is what really separates the All Access LTD from traditional midi controllers. It’s easy to map out an entire song across the 15 presets buttons, and in turn create a set of up to fifty songs. If you’re looking for total control of your sound, Rocktron has the answer!



*Doug Doppler tours the world as an instrumentalist, has played on two Guitar Hero video games, and along with his wife Melissa works to help worship teams develop their gifts for the glory of God.*