

FROM: CHILLIWACK ARTS
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High Resolution photo: [Chase Padgett.jpg](#)

Photo Description: Chase Padgett transforms before your eyes into six separate guitar players, from the narrative mastery of a country singer to the colourful metaphors of a classical guitarist.

Photo Credit: N/A

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PITCH PERFECT: ONE MAN, SIX GUITARS, AND A MUSICAL MASTERPIECE

Chase Padgett is just one man - but when he hits the stage in fringe festival darling *6 Guitars*, his personalities multiply.

6 Guitars heads to the **Chilliwack Cultural Centre** on March 16 and 18 at 7:30 p.m., and five years of sold-out shows and standing ovations have proven it's a show you won't want to miss!

Armed with a masterful knowledge of guitar and years of improv, Padgett has created a show around six characters who have nothing in common but guitar - and their love of music. And as Padgett proves, whether you're a fan of rock and roll or classical jazz, music is one of the best equalizers on earth.

"Music is really the universal language," he says. "There's a genre for everyone, in the show. No matter who comes to see it, there's something for everybody."

Padgett switches characters as easily as putting on a different hat, bringing each to life with simple subtlety and spot-on inflection.

There's Tyrone Gibbons, the blues man - 87 years old and unflappable.

"He's seen it all, done it all, and he's got a song for everything that's happened to him along the way," Padgett says.

There's Michael Marsh, the teenage lead guitarist for a heavy metal band and a secret sweet momma's boy.

There's a country singer, a folk guitarist, a classical guitar player, a snobby jazz aficionado.

"The jazz guy is actually based on the jazz professor I had in college," Padgett says with a laugh. "Not that he knows that!"

Together, these characters paint a picture of music as vibrant as it is colourful. It's a powerful production and a masterful range of music and personality, brilliantly constructed and executed with an eye for detail.

"Some people say that characters are based in stereotypes at times, but I think they're based in archetypes that are just truly real - specifically, the kind of archetypes who influenced me as a musician in my life," Padgett explains. "And these are characters that the audience really connects with. I can't tell you how many times I've had people say, 'Oh, I just loved the jazz guy so much - he reminds me of my uncle.' Or, 'Oh my gosh - my son is just like that rock guy!'"

Padgett's perfect characterization brings each guitarist to life in turn - from a gay man who used music to come to terms with his orientation, to an octogenarian blues virtuoso who unabashedly hits on women in the front row of the audience.

"I'm a crusty old theatre critic, but Chase Padgett's accomplishment in **6 Guitars** is so virtuosic that he had me on my feet," says **Colin Thomas of the Georgia Straight**.

"His ability to switch from one character to another is magician-like," wrote **Michelle Thompson at the Edmonton Sun**. "Padgett tells each story with such passion and commitment that it's impossible to avoid getting caught up in it all."

This show has won a host of awards across the continent - including Outstanding Solo Performance and Critic's Choice at the Ottawa Fringe Festival, Best of Fest at the Edmonton Fringe Festival, and Pick of the Fringe at the Vancouver Fringe Festival.

Padgett has created a pitch-perfect blend of comedy, music, and characters in a show that ultimately serves as a love letter to music in all its forms. And after five years on the road, he's shaped the show into a beautiful ode. Telling the stories of these six guitar players has changed the way he views music, he says - and the years he's spent with these characters have been the best years of his life.

“They’re just characters and voices in the script, but outside of the show it’s really given me a wonderful life to lead,” he says with a smile. “It’s got a good blend of comedy, and storytelling, and music - and any time you put that together you have a recipe for something special.”

6 Guitars plays in the **Rotary Hall Studio Theatre** on March 16 and 18 at 7:30 p.m. All seats are \$25. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit the Box Office in person, by phone at 604-391-SHOW (7469), or online at www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca.

6 Guitars is generously sponsored by *the Chilliwack Progress*, the Chilliwack Academy of Music, the Department of Canadian Heritage, the City of Chilliwack, Fraser Valley Custom Printers, and Long & McQuade musical instruments.

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Additional Information

<http://www.sixguitars.com/>

For additional information and to arrange interviews, contact:

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Chilliwack Cultural Centre

Owned by the City of Chilliwack, the Cultural Centre houses two unique performance venues, an art gallery, music instruction studios, arts and crafts studios, meeting rooms, offices, and is home to the Chilliwack Academy of Music and the Chilliwack Art Gallery. Since opening in 2010, more than 220,000 tickets have been sold through the Centre Box Office, with a value exceeding three million dollars. The Centre is overseen by The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society on behalf of the City, and boasts The Chilliwack Academy of Music, The Chilliwack Visual Artists Association, The Chilliwack Players Guild, The Chilliwack Symphony Orchestra, and the Chilliwack School of Performing Arts as partners.

Chilliwack Cultural Centre highlights:

- 597 seat performance theatre
- 168 seat recital hall / rehearsal space / dance studio / meeting space
- Chilliwack Art gallery (22-foot high display area)
- 21 music instructional rooms
- Arts and crafts studios
- Storage and Archival Resource Room

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Chilliwack Academy of Music

Chilliwack Players Guild

Chilliwack School of Performing Arts

Chilliwack Symphony Orchestra and Chorus

Chilliwack Visual Artists Association

The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society is registered under the British Columbia Society Act as a not-for-profit society (society number S-54973), and is a registered Canadian charitable organization under the Canadian Charities Directorate. (charity number 805742897 RR0001)

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