

# MICHAEL SPEAKS

An Interview with Michael Wilton

By Sean Webb

Sean Webb: First off, I'd like to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule for this interview.

Michael Wilton: No problem, you don't seem like a long-winded person.

*(Interviewer's Note: If he only knew ;)*

SW: I'd like to say, and I think I SPEAK! for anyone who was there, that you guys sounded very good on Jan 16th at the fanclub show! You and Kelly seem to have that chemistry that is going to enable you two to play well together. When did it become apparent to you that you two were going to gel?

MW: Actually, the first time I jammed together with Kelly I knew he would be all right. He is a smokin' guitar player and a gifted songwriter with a level personality that fits right in with the new Queensrÿche.

SW: Seeing you amidst the piles of equipment makes me wonder what kind of gear was used by you to get that "Queensrÿche sound."

MW: That night I was using what I call my "A" rig. The list of equipment is what I use primarily in the studio and sometimes on the road. My speakers are 1x12 Celestion vintage 30's enclosed in my "coffin" isolation case. My stage monitor is a 2x12 stereo Wizard cabinet with the same speakers. My amps are Marshall JCM 800 100 watts, a Bogner 100 watt Ecstasy and a Peavey Classic 100 watt. My effects are an Eventide H3000, a Lexicon LXP 15, a Roland SDE-330, a TC electronic flanger, a Peavey Tubefex and a Jimi Hendrix Wah-wah. My guitars were 2 ESP custom Eclipse, one silver sparkle one blue sparkle and an ESP vintage sunburst Strat.







SW: Ok, taking all that gear into consideration, how do you think your playing on the upcoming CD rates against the stuff you've done previously?

MW: I would say that it was less thought out and more naturally inspired. You can definitely sense more of an improvised feel...

With attitude!

SW: I'd like to change the subject just a bit, if you don't mind. What is your take on mp3's (digital audio files)? Some make the argument that it allows a listener to sample what a band sounds like before plunking down \$15 for a CD when it may turn out the listener only likes one or two songs.

MW: This is a tough one. Personally I feel illegally copying songs and then making them available for other people to download does a disservice to the musician.

I think the record companies are partly to blame for not keeping up with technology and instigating a common protocol to regulate piracy. I hope in time these Internet companies work out the legal issues with the record industry to pave the road for a new way to do business.

SW: I understand you are an active participant in the stock market. What advice would Michael "Wallstreet" Wilton give to someone who is considering entering the arena for the first time?

MW: Obviously read all you can about it. The stock market is not for everyone because of the potential risk involved. I log on to the <http://www.motleyfool.com> web site. There I can get market news, stock quotes, portfolios, opinions and a general education from a couple of interesting guys. If you don't have the web they have books as well.

SW: Considering that, how do you think the stock market is going to do over the next 12 months?

MW: Well, nobody really knows and if they say they do then I would be skeptical. For me it is a "feel" thing. For the most part I am a long-term investor so I just endure the ups and downs. I do dabble in some day trading once in a while but that can get addicting so I have to limit myself.

SW: I'd like to thank you again for taking time out to answer a few questions. On that note I'd like to leave you with these last questions: When can we hear the new album, and what can we expect from it?

MW: Hopefully sometime this summer because that is when we would like to hit the road. You can expect a New Queensrÿche experience that won't disappoint you.



Next on The Crossroad's Edge... nah, just wait. It'll ruxor ~!

- Sean  
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