

PAUL PIGAT aka COUSIN HARLEY

BIOGRAPHY

Paul Pigat started playing the guitar at 11 years of age and was gigging steadily in downtown Toronto by the time he was 12. Through a lifetime dedication to live performance, recording and study he has developed into a superb guitarist, vocalist and songwriter.

Paul attended the Claude Watson School of the Arts and graduated from the University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Music in theory and composition in 1992. He taught at the Eli Kassner Guitar Academy while continuing to explore live performance opportunities with various bands. Shortly thereafter Paul headed for the west coast, where he has made his home since 1994, and has earned a reputation as one of the best guitarists around.

An extremely versatile artist, with projects ranging from delta blues to classical music, he heads four diverse Vancouver bands and is in high demand as a sideman, having recorded and toured with the likes of Neko Case, Michael Kaeshammer, and Carolyn Mark, and has shared the stage with Taj Mahal, Mae Moore, Lee Aaron, the Blind Boys of Alabama, Joshua Redman, Big Sandy and His Flyrite Boys, Aaron Neville, Jim Byrnes, Zubot & Dawson, and more.

He has played performance venues ranging from small clubs to large stadiums, and festivals covering the entire spectrum of roots, blues, rockabilly and jazz music. He toured the UK with Neko Case in November 2006, and had the honour of performing with Jim Byrnes and Jesse Zubot at the Closing Ceremonies of the 2006 Torino Paralympic Games earlier in the year.

Paul's central touring project is his rocking hillbilly trio, Cousin Harley, considered to be western Canada's premier rockabilly and roots band. His Cousin Harley style is deeply rooted in the playing of Les Paul, Charlie Christian and Link Wray with a modern twist to create a style that is exhilarating in its intensity, yet at the same time fluid and precise. Paul's creative use of tone and dynamics is a hallmark of everything he plays, and his sense of rhythm is both sophisticated and dead on. His superb talent as a guitarist is matched by his songwriting and his vocal abilities; a warm baritone equally at home singing flat-out rockers and relaxed country swing.



Management and Contact

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Paul released Cousin Harley's second album, *Jukin'*, to critical acclaim in 2002, followed by a year living and playing in China, before settling in Vancouver on his return to Canada in 2003.

Cousin Harley's latest CD *Hillbilly Madness* was released in August 2006, and Paul is wrapping work on two solo acoustic albums, to be released in 2007. *Hillbilly Madness* aims to capture the blistering spirit of Cousin Harley's dynamic live performances, with Edmonton bassist Pete Turland (Ray Condo & the Richochets) and Victoria drummer Jesse Cahill (Fathead Newman). The album showcases the swing, rockabilly, blues and jazz elements that make Cousin Harley truly unique in the roots music world.

Other current projects include the Paul Pigat Trio (bebop jazz); Pigby (acoustic swing/jazz duo with Paul Rigby); and the Knotty Pines (western swing quintet with Jimmy Roy Kinloch, Stephen Nikleva, Linda McRae and Ed Goodine).

Paul is also an accomplished teacher, and has produced two of the most popular instructional DVDs in Doug Cox's LearnRootsMusic series.

Releases:

CDs:

- 2006 Hillbilly Madness! (Cousin Harley - Eastside)
- 2006 Knotty Pines (Knotty Pines)
- 2006 CBC Radio One—live recording
- 2002 Jukin' (Cousin Harley - Eastside)
- 1999 Cousin Harley and the James Gang (Cousin Harley - limited EP)
- 1997 Smokin' Jackets (Smokin' Jackets)
- 1996 Paul Pigat aka Cousin Harley (Cousin Harley)

Instructional DVDs:

- 2006 Travis Picking – Hillbilly Fingerstyle Guitar with Paul Pigat (learnrootsmusic.com)
- 2004 Rockabilly Hot Licks & Tricks with Paul Pigat (learnrootsmusic.com)

www.cousinharley.com

www.myspace.com/cousinharley

www.sonicbids.com/cousinharley

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