



In Session One of our *Artist to Watch* interview with Guitar Player Magazine's 2007 Guitar Hero Winner - [Ladd Smith](#) , you'll hear about how he started playing the guitar. Plus, you'll hear how his family played a big part in his musical development when they moved to Nashville and opened up a music store in 1983. Ladd tells the stories of how he spent his time at the music store from the age of two and was surrounded by some of the best players in the world who would come in for instruments. Needless to say, country music was a part of Ladd's DNA and he was schooled by the best the business. Next, Ladd moves into a conversation about the Guitar Hero competition and discusses the experience as he went on to become the ultimate winner for the 2007 contest.

Enjoy Session One of *Artist to Watch* with Ladd Smith >

{enclose LADD.mp3} **About:** *Born into a musical family, both of Ladd's parents were professional singers and musicians, touring extensively throughout the Midwest. They eventually settled in Hendersonville, TN and opened Argill's Music Store where Ladd grew up. Hendersonville being the place where many session player & country music royalty alike call home, Ladd had racked up hundreds of impromptu music lessons by the tender age of five.*

Ladd began playing guitar at age 4. He began to write songs at the age of 9 and had written over 350 by the time he reached 19. Along the way he managed to record 3 original albums, play on nearly 400 sessions and perform at over 1,000 live shows. Ladd spent his teenage years working on Music Row learning all aspects of the business inside and out, known for saying "If there are any mistakes that are going to be made in my career, I want to be the one to make them." Artist Sheila Aldridge took Ladd to meet John Briggs at Ascap when Ladd was only 15 and John Signed him to ASCAP on the spot. Considered a prodigy by his studio mentors, Ladd was personally sponsored into the Local 257 Musicians Union by President Harold Bradley at age 15. Ladd has spent the last ten years writing songs, playing guitar and singing back-up live and in the studio for tons of Nashville artists and producers. Ladd is often noted as being reminiscent of a young Vince Gill. The kind of artist that his ardently dedicated to being a consummate musician. In turn, with a repertoire of lyrics and music of over 2000 songs Ladd is known by fellow musicians as a "Human Jukebox" and is consistently ranked in the Top 3 Musicians and 1 Guitarist in Nashville by his peers on TheReferralList.com. Ladd has performed in over 17 countries including Kuwait where he was honored to play for our troops. As a Performing Artist and/or Member of the Band, Ladd has

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shared the stage and/or studio with Blake Shelton, Heartland, Phil Vassar, Merle Haggard, Confederate Railroad, Mustang Sally, Clay Walker, Jeanie Sealy, Deborah Allen, Helen Cornelli, Josh Turner, Vern Gosdin, Tanya Tucker, Trick Pony, Scout Cloud Lee, Dr. Hook, Leona Williams, Charlie Louvin, Josh Gracin, Aaron Pritchett, Duane Hitchings, Joe Melson, Ron Williams, Ferlin Husky, Jack Green and many, many others.