



By Jim Basara - GJD Contributor

There's always something extra special about seeing guitar players that have developed completely unique playing styles and do things on a guitar that are very different from any other player. That's a big part of why I always look forward to seeing Sonny Landreth. We caught up with Sonny on day 1 of a two-day stop in Virginia at a terrific venue called the Barns at Wolf Trap. "The Barns" is part of the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts and is actually made out of two adjacent 18th century barns. It's a small venue with great acoustics and an excellent house sound system.

With a Sonny Landreth show, you pretty much know what you're going to get – driving Louisiana blues with masterful slide and finger techniques that will leave you wondering how in the heck he can play the way he does. Sonny's unique style of using fingerings behind the slide and his world-class right-hand picking technique produces some of the most unique and exciting guitar work I have ever seen.

Sonny, along with drummer Mike Burch and bassist Dave Ransom took the audience on a roller coaster ride of sensational music that was flawlessly performed. By the end of the show, the normally mild-mannered crowd of about 400 were dancing in the aisles and begging for more. It was easy to pick out the guitar players in the crowd, because we were the ones standing motionless in a sort of awe-induced trance. His playing is mesmerizing and his tone from his Strats and Dumble Overdrive Special is incredibly thick and creamy.

If you're not familiar with Sonny's playing, I urge you to check out his music and some of his performances on YouTube. Whether or not you are a fan of his style of blues, his technique is so original that any guitar player would find it fascinating and impressive.

In addition to his fan favorites, Sonny performed several songs from his eagerly-awaited CD, *From the Reach*, which is scheduled for release on May 20. "Blue Tarp Blues", "Storm of Worry", "Howlin Moon", "When I Still Had You", and "Ubressa" offer tangible evidence that the new CD will be amazing. On the CD, Sonny is joined by a litany of Landreth friends and music greats such as Eric Clapton, Mark Knopfler, Robben Ford, Eric Johnson, Vince Gill, Nadirah Shakoor, and Jimmy Buffet. Definitely mark May 20 on your calendars for this exciting release.

Song List – April 4 – Wolftrap Barns – Vienna Virginia

Port of Calling
South of I-10
Native Stepson

Promise Land
When in Denver
Hell at Home
Blue Tarp Blues
When I Still Had You
Storm of Worry
Howlin' Moon
Uberesso
All About You
USS Zydecoldsmobile
Back to Bayou Teche
Pedal to Metal