

Renowned guitar picker will perform in Denver

by [Staff Writer](#)

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by [Elizabeth Carlton](#)

On Sept. 2, Denver Baptist Church will host a concert featuring Doyle Dykes, one of the world's most renowned finger-style guitarists.

"Being associated with the music industry for as long as I have, I've found most people have heard of him but not many have seen him before because he's hard to get," Denver Baptist worship leader Marty Rhyne said.

Still, Rhyne took a chance and called the musician's manager and discovered that Dykes had an open date in his tour schedule. The church then booked the show, which will be free to the public.

Dykes' name and talent is internationally known. He's toured the world, performed at the Grand Ole Opry, possesses his own signature model of Taylor guitar and has played alongside many iconic names, including finger-picking legend Tommy Emmanuel.

"I call him Tommy Animal," Dykes said. "It's kind of like he's Jerry Lewis and I'm Dean Martin because on the stage he has so much energy. Tommy is a good soul, he has a good heart and he loves playing guitar more than anybody I know."

Inspired by friend and mentor Chet Atkins, Dykes has a heel-tapping style that spans across genres like country, blues, gospel and rock and roll. It's a distinct sound that countless professional musicians and fans have come to know, and his soulful plucking appeals to a vast audience of listeners both young and old.

"I guess [my music sounds] sort of like a good train wreck," Dykes said. "Everybody needs a train wreck every once and awhile! But it depends on the audience and the mood and the way it feels. Sometimes I start fast from the beginning. I will do some patriotic things, and then I'll play some songs that I wrote. I like to include family stories and very recognizable worship songs. I find those are the ones people really enjoy hearing because people aren't doing them anymore. It's very eclectic. I don't know if I'm musically ADD or what. But I think that's what makes it interesting. I learned a lot of that from Chet."

Dykes has many role models in the realm of music, but when it comes to playing the guitar, he is considered self-taught. At 58, the musician has never once taken lessons to hone his extraordinary gift.

"Some instructors would cringe at that," Dykes said. "I just write in my head and create music. That much I just inherited from my family. It's in my genes I guess."

Although Dykes has performed in front of many large audiences and shared the stage with acts like Les Paul, John Fogerty and Duane Eddy, the famed musician admits he still loves playing in small venues, particularly churches where his passion for God and talent for music are brought together.

It's a rare and exciting opportunity for the small town of Denver who will get to see one of the most premiere guitarists in the world.

Want to go?

WHAT: Doyle Dykes in concert

WHEN: Sunday, Sept. 2, 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: Denver Baptist Church, 6917 Forest Hills Drive, Denver

COST: Free

About the author



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