

## Rick Parnell helps YVR music series take off



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This summer, Vancouver International Airport brings a series of weekly family fun for its third annual Take-Off Fridays, with Richmond folk rocker Rick Parnell belting out songs of audacious summer spirit on July 13.

Having released his first album in 2009 and his second in 2011, Parnell combines a mix of his classic songs with new compositions from his upcoming album, *Next Time Around*, which is still in production.

"It's really about the Buddhist mentality," says Parnell about his new album. "It's thinking about the what if's. What if something was different? It's a positive way of saying 'let go' to anything holding you back."

Parnell embodies this mindset perfectly, having ditched his suit and tie as a senior executive at Terasen Gas in order to embrace his guitar and vocal abilities as a new career. This life-changing decision has influenced his music and is a reflection of his audacious personality. "I think everything right now has a little bit of that because I'd taken on a completely new role. But even when I was with Terasen, I was the guy you'd turn to to find something new. Music was a natural fit for me. There's that element that's in my personality that says I'm always there to take on something new."

The [Rick Parnell Band](#) doesn't hold back from grasping its wide potential, entertaining across the country as well as

within its own backyard. When asked about expanding to a more global audience, Parnell says that it is something he often discusses with his band. "I would probably just like to have any audience. But the thing is that local audiences get bored with you quickly. So it's important to write music constantly." Parnell has been requested at venues from Ontario to California, and with a new album that's due to release later this year, his ever-expanding fanbase will not be bored anytime soon.

"There's an interest from the band to play for a wider audience, and we've started talking about expanding and playing further abroad." Parnell has played at numerous community events, including the Steveston Farmers and Artisans Market. He is happy to have listeners, wherever they may be from. "As long as I find an audience I'd stay close."

Parnell will be accompanied by his 17-year old son Hart, who also plays the guitar and has a music career of his own. "He is already a very accomplished musician. In fact, he has another band called The Friends, who are currently number two in the Y57 Battle of the Bands. He plays with anybody who is willing to play because he loves it. I can't think of a better thing than to be able to play music with my son." Hart will be attending UVic Music in September, and holds much potential in becoming an established musician like his father, who sees him as a voice of the new generation. "I love today's music. At any age, there's a real strong 'next'. I look at what my son and his band are into. They like a lot of Beatles, Led Zeppelin, and other classics, but they're also fans of new stuff."

Visitors will be able to see Rick and Hart Parnell playing at YVR on July 13 as a part of the Take-Off Fridays event series, which also includes food, free samples, live DJs, and free family activities. The event runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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