

HEATING - AIR CONDITIONING  
**mk Russell & Abbott**  
 SINCE 1977  
 865-982-5133  
 Click Here   
*It's Hard To Stop A Trane*

81°  
Few Clouds



HOME NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS COMMUNITY ENTERTAINMENT OPINION PUBLIC RECORDS COLUMNS MULTIMEDIA CLASSIFIEDS ARCHIVE



*The most-wanted brands.  
Up to 70% off.*

*Rue La La*  
SHOP NOW



**2014**  
Blount County  
Election Guide  
Full candidate  
profiles online

## Breaking News Head-on collision in Townsend sends one to hospital

Thank you for reading **TheDailyTimes.com**. Because you have already viewed this article, you may view it again as many times as you would like without subtracting from your remaining free article views.

29 Remaining

Home Entertainment

# Up-and-coming guitar virtuoso Jacob Johnson on tap for 'First Fridays at Vienna'

Story Comments YouTube (1)

Print Font Size:

Posted: Wednesday, April 30, 2014 8:15 pm

By Steve Wildsmith | [steve@thedailytimes.com](mailto:steve@thedailytimes.com) | 0 comments

The whole time he was driving up to Knoxville from his South Carolina home last August, Jacob Johnson was telling himself that the trip was a bad idea.

Initially, the fingerstyle guitarist and songwriter had been asked to open for virtuoso Phil Keaggy at The Square Room. The original arrangement would have been a dream come true for Johnson, considering that Keaggy has long been a musical hero of his. But a phone call that morning changed everything.

"They told me that something had come up, and that Phil needed to leave Knoxville by 10 or 10:30 p.m. that night, so they wanted to put him up first — and then they told me, 'Phil said it's OK if you play a short set after him,'" Johnson told The



COURTESY OF MARY CATHERINE RAMEY

## Daily Deals!

### Half-Off Deals

Browse our daily Half-Off deals or sign up for Daily Deal Alerts!

## Public Notices

Find your local public notices here

## Jacob Johnson

### IF YOU GO

"First Fridays at Vienna"

**HOSTED BY:** Eric Spurgeon

**THIS MONTH'S PERFORMER:** Jacob Johnson

**WHEN:** 7 p.m. Friday, May 2

**WHERE:** Vienna Coffeehouse, 212 College St.,  
downtown Maryville

**HOW MUCH:** Free

**CALL:** 681-0517

Daily Times this week. "My first thought was, 'Me ... going on after Phil Keaggy? That sounds like the worst idea I've ever heard. I don't want to do a 20-minute set after any headliner, much less Phil Keaggy."

"But I drove up there, just to have a crazy story to tell and be able to say that I did. I get there and meet Phil, and he's just so cool. He says he's seen my YouTube videos and that he enjoys what I do. And then he just so nonchalantly says, 'Hey, I hope you don't mind me going first tonight,' like it wasn't any big deal! He went on and killed it, and he gave me a nice little plug to the audience and told them to stick around, which I didn't think they were going to do."

"But after the change-over, 90 percent of the people were still there, and they stayed," he added. "I sold out of all the CDs I had with me, and Phil sent me a really nice email the next day, which was the cherry on top."

It's easy to see and hear, of course, why even a maestro like Keaggy can become a fan of Johnson. The 27-year-old is nothing short of a guitar genius, a player whose fingers seem to dance and fly up and down the strings, and he's completely self-taught.

"I was 12 or 13 when I first started playing relatively seriously, and I played by ear," he said. "I just tried to play with people who were way over my head, and I still do. That's the best way to learn; if you're the strongest link in any group of musicians,

you need to find a different group to play with."

By the time he was 18 or 19, he began to focus solely on the acoustic guitar, and he felt a musical kinship with players like Keaggy and Tommy Emmanuel. He listened to Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins and Willie Nelson early on — "those old songs have really great guitar parts that sounded so cool, but were pretty simple to play," he said — and as he got older, he got into Stevie Ray Vaughan and Hendrix. The whole time, he kept in mind the advice given to him by his grandmother, who showed him the first three or four chords he ever learned to play.

"She said, 'Jacob, if you only learn these three or four chords, you'll always be able to pick up and play for people,'" he said.

He played in a band in high school, and around the same time he tried his hand at songwriting. To his surprise, he was successful, and one of his originals, "Try," is one he still performs.



[View Public Notices](#)

## Related YouTube Video

[Jacob Johnson - Treat Her Right - Guitar Love](#)

## Marketplace

Find Local Businesses

Search

### Stories

**Owners of horses seized at Wheelon Stables sue BCSPCA**

**Maryville High School football star arrested on aggravated assault charge**

**The Daily Times e-Edition**

**Knoxville shoplifter cited, arrested after second attempt**

**Maryville woman charged with violating computer crime act**

[More](#)

[Photos](#)

[Videos](#)

“There are a couple of lines in that one I almost can’t believe I came up with,” he said. “That was the first one where I thought, ‘I can really write songs! If I wrote more songs like this, I might be doing OK.’ There was no turning back after that.”

A resident of Travelers Rest, S.C., he’s shared the stage with singer-songwriters like Edwin McCain and David Wilcox, and he’s struck up friendships with Emmanuel and Tim Reynolds. Friday night, he’ll travel to Maryville to perform at Vienna Coffeehouse as part of the “First Fridays at Vienna” series, and despite his prowess, he’s very much aware that the key to continued greatness is a humble attitude.

“Playing with guys like Tommy and Phil, it reminds you that you’ve still got so much to learn, and it totally takes away the idea of being the best,” he said. “On stage with guys like that, you know you’re not going to be the best, so you can focus on just being yourself and putting on a good show for the audience and doing what you do, and that’s what’s most important.”

#### More about *Fingerstyle Guitar*

- **ARTICLE:** Father-son duo to showcase instrumental and songwriting skills at the Palace

#### More about *Singer-songwriter*

- **ARTICLE:** Back home in East Tennessee, Jodie Manross settles back into life and music

#### Reference Links

- [JACOB JOHNSON ONLINE](#)

[Discuss](#)
[Print](#)

Posted in Entertainment on *Wednesday, April 30, 2014 8:15 pm.* | Tags: [Jacob Johnson](#), [Fingerstyle Guitar](#), [Singer-songwriter](#), [Phil Keaggy](#), [Vienna Coffeehouse](#), [“first Fridays At Vienna”](#)

## Rules of Conduct

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1 Keep it Clean.</b><br/>Please avoid obscene, vulgar, lewd, racist or sexually-oriented language.</p>                         | <p><b>4 Be Nice.</b><br/>No racism, sexism or any sort of -ism that is degrading to another person.</p>  |
| <p><b>2 Don't Threaten or Abuse.</b><br/>Threats of harming another person will not be tolerated. AND PLEASE TURN OFF CAPS LOCK.</p> | <p><b>5 Be Proactive.</b><br/>Use the 'Report' link on each comment to let us know of abusive posts.</p> |
| <p><b>3 Be Truthful.</b><br/>Don't knowingly lie about anyone or anything.</p>   | <p><b>6 Share with Us.</b><br/>We'd love to hear eyewitness accounts, the history behind an article.</p> |

**Welcome to the discussion.**

## Calendar

[today's events](#)
[browse](#)

**Screen Name or Email**

**Password**  
 [Forgot?](#)

**Remember me on this computer**

[Need an account? Create one now.](#)

<p>TheDailyTimes.com  <b>Phone number:</b> (865) 981-1100  <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:webmaster@thedailytimes.com">webmaster@thedailytimes.com</a>  <b>Address:</b> 307 E. Harper Ave  Maryville, TN 37802</p>	<p><b>SECTIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Home</li> <li>News</li> <li>Sports</li> <li>Business</li> <li>Community</li> <li>Entertainment</li> <li>Opinion</li> <li>Public Records</li> <li>Columns</li> <li>Multimedia</li> <li>Videos</li> <li>Online Features</li> <li>Weather</li> </ul>	<p><b>SERVICES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>About Us</li> <li>Contact Us</li> <li>Subscription Services</li> <li>Rack Locations</li> <li>Submission Forms</li> <li>Site Index</li> <li>Add Search Toolbar</li> </ul>	<p><b>SEARCH</b></p> <p><input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Search"/></p> <p>Search in:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Community</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Columns</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> News</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Photos</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Sports</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Opinion</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Video</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Business</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Public Records</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All	<input type="checkbox"/> Community	<input type="checkbox"/> Columns	<input type="checkbox"/> News	<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos	<input type="checkbox"/> Sports	<input type="checkbox"/> Opinion	<input type="checkbox"/> Video	<input type="checkbox"/> Business	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Records	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All	<input type="checkbox"/> Community	<input type="checkbox"/> Columns													
<input type="checkbox"/> News	<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos													
<input type="checkbox"/> Sports	<input type="checkbox"/> Opinion	<input type="checkbox"/> Video													
<input type="checkbox"/> Business	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Records														

© Copyright 2014, The Daily Times, Maryville, TN. Powered by BLOX Content Management System from TownNews.com. [Terms of Use | Privacy Policy]