

## Evet's Guide for Breaking Out of the Box

I wanted to offer some ideas for musicians seeking to attain higher levels of expression. Hopefully I can pass on my over 500 songs worth of experience, and help people understand where I am coming from, and to help aspiring artists overcome comfort zones and invoke new heights of creativity and productivity. Things to be covered will be:

Voice, Guitar, Bass, Drums, Synths, Sampling;  
Overdubs, harmonies, chords, dynamics, execution, performance;  
Lyrics, mixing, arranging, theory;  
Winamp Visuals;  
Music of the World

**Voice:** Where is it one's voice should come from? The throat? Chest? Diaphragm? Answer... the entire body! To get the most out a performance, feel it with your body... express yourself as though dancing vocally.

Vibrato should come from deep below, and through the back of the throat to the surface. Exaggerate inflections dynamically and purposefully. Keywords: control, diaphragm, whole body, vibrato, pitch, power, inflections, dynamics, emotion, each part a separate performance, harmonies, counterpoint, low, med, high, knowing one's range, balance, breathing

Really feel the meaning- release energy from the entire body

Follow chord changes with your voice; augment them

Find other singers with a similar voice/range to practice alongside

**Guitar:**

Widen scope, find your vision, basic interval shapes with open strings (open string chords), 2 note per string octave shapes.

Look beyond the first four chords and pentatonic scales, of having to think things have to be blues-based. Learn rhythmic inflections and grooves from all the styles- Reggae, Funk, Spanish Tuba Music, Swing/Big Bands, Indian Tablas and Ragas, Punk, New Wave, Bulgarian Choir Music, Byzantine Church Organ Music, Polka, Slavic Dances; find and discover new things you can resonate with. The key is to have an open attitude, and not "change the channel" when something new comes on.

**Winamp: Milkdrop Visualizations**

Take your listening to a new level- become visually and emotionally absorbed in real-time images that pulsate to the music, imagine sand dunes, stormy seas, fractal bliss, journeys through 3d Mandelbrot sets, and other exotic worlds.

This gives you a chance to totally devote your attention to the listening experience, and the visuals are known to help produce Alpha brainwaves, the state of floating creativity. Look for extra presets on the web. Suggested configuration settings are: Time between presets: 60, Add Random Time: 60, Blend preset: 9, User Solicited: 1, and check disable hard cuts. The secret is to let each preset evolve with the music, and see how it interacts with it.

[www.winamp.com](http://www.winamp.com)

**Music of the World**

The entire planet is a global jukebox, with Rock music being only one page. Go to your local library and browse through the world music section. Good bands to start with that are exotic but still with a "Rock" edge would be: Cocteau Twins (of course), Dead Can Dance, Vangelis, Delirium, Bel Canto, Le Mystere Voix Bulgares, Bill Laswell/Material, Makyo, Muslimgauze, Natacha Atlas, Prem Joshua, Sakamoto, Japan, Talvin Singh, Sheila Chandra, Shankar, Cornershop, Xmal Deutchland, Yoko Ueno; plus the music of Egypt, India, the Middle East, China, Polynesia, Bali, Japan, Africa, Eastern and Western Europe, Scandinavia, Spain, Mexico, Greece, and all other exotic places you can find!

Choose from this mixture ideas and points of reference to add to your own vocabulary. To stand out from the crowd, we must each endeavor to provide something unique, with our own spin on it you might say. The more elements you have in your "pot" the better tasting the meal will be!