

Chilean guitar virtuoso gaining fans in North America

By Brian Mull
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With a diverse musical background and a tremendous singing voice, Chilean musician Nano Stern has spent his entire life training for a career that, even in its infancy, is prolific and meteoric.

Already a star throughout South America and beyond, Stern has produced four albums in five years. He concludes his first North American tour with his 11th show in 22 days on Saturday



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Chilean singer and guitarist Nano Stern started as a child playing classical music, moved to rock 'n' roll

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night at
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as a teen and currently puts a jazz-influenced spin on Chilean and Latin folk. Photo courtesy of Rock Paper Scissors PR

Hall.

Throughout the tour, Stern has tried to treat each show as if it could be his last. But beyond the obvious financial opportunities of gaining fans in the world's most lucrative musical market lies a simpler desire.

"My goal is to enjoy myself, but not in a selfish way," Stern said during a telephone interview. "If I have a bad gig I take it very much to heart and personally."

Stern, 27, is a guitar virtuoso, inspired by Latin legends Violeta Parra, Victor Jara and Inti-Illimani. Yet his roots are planted even deeper, with names familiar to his new, yet blooming North American fan base.

His musical foundation began at the age of 3 with a violin and the compositions of classical masters such as Bach. As a teen, he became infatuated with the power chords of rock 'n' roll, enamored with Led Zeppelin in particular. From there he began to travel, learn, appreciate and understand the traditions and instruments paired with Chilean and Latin folk music.

"I began to learn a whole other side of music," Stern said.

After three years at the Jazz Conservatory in Amsterdam, Stern felt adequately prepared to start his career. Not that a musician ever stops learning or collaborating, but he felt the foundation was set to begin writing, recording and touring on his own. It was time to develop and refine his sound and style, hone his craft.

"Jazz opened my musical mind and heart," Stern said.

He's played an array of venues on the tour, from outdoor festivals and nightclubs to wineries and cafes. One of the highlights occurred in New York City, when he attended a conference where one of his heroes, Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page, sat on the panel.

Facts
Who: Nano Stern, presented by Thalian Hall 's Main Attractions series
When: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22
Where: Thalian Hall, 310 Chestnut St., downtown Wilmington
Tickets: \$18-\$32
Details: 910-632-2285 or www.ThalianHall.org

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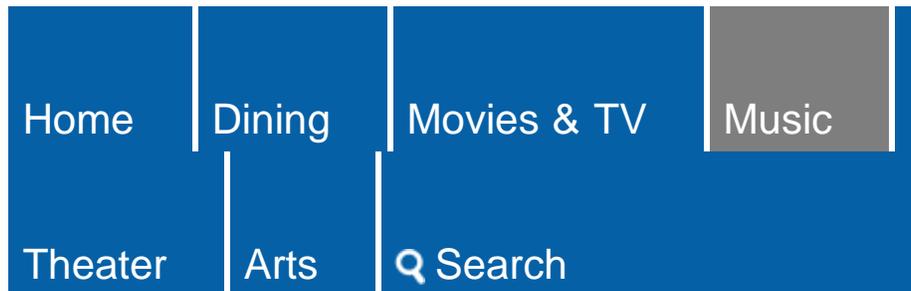



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"It has been really, really good," Stern said of the tour. "I'd like for it to be the first of many trips here. I hope to bring my entire band back for shows next year."

During shows in the southwestern U.S., more fans understood his lyrics, which are sung exclusively in Spanish during his one-man show, although he speaks to the audience in English in between songs. Still, the language barrier doesn't necessarily interfere with the feeling he hopes to convey.

"There is something beautiful about listening to music in a foreign language," Stern said. "You get to hear the sound of the music and not just the words."

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