Trout Rocks Kodiak

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Erik Wander/KMXT

Legendary blues guitarist Walter Trout is in Kodiak for two shows at the Rendezvous Bar and Grill Thursday and Friday nights. Trout, who has performed with Canned Heat and John Mayall, among many other renowned groups and musicians, is making his second visit to Kodiak.

KMXT's Erik Wander has more.

The last time Trout performed for Kodiak audiences was five years ago. He the crowds as responsive and enthusiastic and he expects the same this time around. 2009 marks the 20th anniversary of Trout performing as a solo artist. He said fronting his own band is a completely different experience from performing with others, such Canned Heat, of which he said his memories are a little foggy, or Mayall.

-- (Trout 1 50 sec. "Canned Heat I don't really ... years at this, you know?")

Trout said he performs over 200 live shows a year in the U.S. and Europe with a band that includes some accomplished musicians in their own right. Formerly known as "The Radicals," the band recently changed its name. Trout said chemistry among band members and good communication are the keys to a successful group.

-- (Trout 2 45 sec. "We're no longer the Radicals ... a lot of chemistry together.")

Just this year, the Blues Foundation added a new category of award, Rock-Blues album of the year. Trout's latest album, "The Outsider," was nominated for the award. He said its an eclectic mix of musical genres and influences.

-- (Trout 3 33 sec. "I think the Outsider ... what I set out to do.")

No stranger to accolades, Trout was named the 6th greatest guitar player of all time by the BBC's Bob Harris show, which conducted a poll in 1993. Trout said he's flattered by such honors but tries not to take them too seriously.

-- (Trout 4 34 sec. "You have to keep all that ... focus on your art.")

Trout said he'll perform primarily songs from "The Outsider" but also older and even unreleased material at the two Kodiak shows.

-- (Trout 5 16 sec. "The majority of the show ... we just jam for a while.")

After the two Kodiak performances, Trout will perform on Saturday night at Raven Hall in Anchorage.
Tickets for the Rendezvous engagements will be available at the door and are also available at KMXT. For more information, call us at 486-3181. I'm Erik Wander.

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