Billy McLaughlin

Empowering others to rethink the impossible

Billy McLaughlin is a Billboard Top-Ten best-selling international guitar virtuoso whose real-life drama propelled him through the devastation of an incurable disorder to one of the most remarkable comebacks in musical history. Companies around the world are asking Billy to speak for one simple reason- impactful inspiration!

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Billy's honest and deeply personal account of battling and ultimately conquering insurmountable odds inspires everyone to acknowledge their unlimited potential for success.

Billy is an engaging speaker committed to delivering the highest musical aesthetic while warmly acquainting himself with every audience through stories and humor. He captivates audiences with live musical illustrations while telling his true story with disarming honesty and engaging emotion. Billy shares memorable and practical lessons from his journey of transforming "incurable" into "unstoppable"!

Gain the competitive advantage through your most unique resource – your own inspiration!

About Billy

Billy McLaughlin is recognized internationally as a world-class guitarist, composer and inspirational performer who has appeared on Billboard's TopTen Chart. Previously signed to Virgin Records' *Narada* label, McLaughlin has 14 CD releases, 3 National Campus Entertainer of the Year Awards, 5 Minnesota Music Awards and his decades of national concert touring earned him the Hall of Fame Achievement Award (National Association for Campus Activities).

Now serving as Ambassador for Awareness for the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation, McLaughlin is the winner of the 2010 Public Leadership in Neurology Award (American Academy of Neurology) whose previous winners include Paul Allen, Julie Andrews, Leon Fleischer, Michael J. Fox, and Cuba Gooding, Jr.

Billy maintains an international schedule of concert appearances and speaking engagements. He resides in his home state of Minnesota where he is proudly raising two boys.

Billy's Inspiration

In 1999 Billy vanished from sight of his national fan base, his career crumbling due to a little-known neuromuscular disorder called Focal Dystonia. After suffering several years without a cure, he embarked on an unlikely attempt to reclaim center-stage by re-learning his unique guitar music one note at a time…left-handed!

His amazing comeback is captured on the concert DVD *Coming Back Alive*, and the award-winning documentary *Changing Keys*, which is currently airing on many PBS stations. Learn how Billy turned the worst thing that ever happened in his life, into the best thing!

"Many people fail because they quit too soon"

-Fortune cookie saying taped to Billy's dashboard

Some of Billy's Programs:

From Adversity to Innovation: A Look at the Other Side

Billy shares insights into the problems facing professionals today through stories from his personal experience. In a straightforward, down-to-earth style, Billy deals with complex issues in an understanding and often humorous way. A master of reinvention, he takes his audience on a journey from skyrocketing success to total failure and back again; a road that he now helps others to navigate. He combines solid, actionable advice with exceptional music and an entertaining style for an unforgettable experience that will change your perspective on challenges.

Doing More With Less: Making an Impact with all that you've got!

Are you asked to do more with less? Budget cuts, re-organization, ownership changes and shifts in the economy all create an environment of expectations for results that are seemingly unattainable. Yet, as dramatic and painful as circumstances may be, they come with a gift: self-discovery. Having endured a condition that took away his health and career, Billy McLaughlin understands the importance of celebrating this gift. He demonstrates the marvel of discovering what you CAN do with the resources you HAVE when you stop focusing on those you've lost. It might require you to think upside-down or "left-handed". It might require that you stop focusing on what is broken or how you can't do something "the way you used to". Listen to Billy's story; you, too, will choose to be a "difference-maker"!

Life after Diagnosis

Whether in healthcare, business or personal challenges, understanding and having a diagnosis for what you are facing is a critical step towards your future. Diagnosis may be unwelcome news, but it doesn't have to be final. When diagnosed with focal dystonia, Billy McLaughlin was actually relieved to know what was wrong with him. He put into action the words of Norman Cousins…."Accept the diagnosis, reject the verdict!" Billy has created this program especially for business, foundations, healthcare professionals, Insurance professionals and individuals who have been affected by sudden, future-changing events. He takes them along with him on a personal journey from diagnosis to self-discovery, which led him to a new and more exciting phase of his business development and career building future.

From Billy

"I've been on stages playing guitar for decades but sharing my story and inspiring others to stop under-estimating our own potential is truly my life's calling. Our goals are not set high enough if they do not include the impossible! We need to believe in ourselves and each other. Once we truly begin working together I believe all things are possible."

What People Are Saying About Billy

"Billy was absolutely amazing. The feedback has been off the charts! I am a big fan and would love to have him join us for future events. The minute he started…it was pure magic!"

-Chance Garrity, General Manager, North Central District, Microsoft Corporation

"Billy McLaughlin made the night magical for our guests and his efforts did not go unnoticed - so I am not surprised at the outpouring of support he received at the conclusion of his performance! He is such a ray of light and hope for so many and I am glad that he is sharing his message through his gift of music and the warm way in which he interacts with his audiences. He illuminates joy and that helps people keep the faith!" *-Koleen M. Roach, Director, Meetings & Conference Management, Securian Financial Group*

"The people at Upsher-Smith are kind, caring and open-minded. When they observe and listen to someone like Billy they work harder, better and faster to develop solutions. Billy captivated everyone. Whatever expectations they may have had were blown away, mine included."

-Mark Evenstad, President & CEO, Upsher-Smith Laboratories, Inc.

"It was our honor to have you join us in Orlando and frankly, you stole the show…you did awesome! Changing lives with your music and life's journey. Pretty cool! You're the one changing lives Billy. Yours and then others. That is how it goes. Change the man and the world changes. Focus on what matters and people begin to focus on making you matter. That is what is happening to you. Thanks for your gift. "

-Gary Keller, Founder, Keller Williams Realty

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