No two guitarists are alike. That's why we've customized a star for each player in our infographic. Musicians were scored from 1-10 (1 being good, 10 being godlike) using five criteria: shreditude, volume, emotion, originality, and technique. The length of each point in the star corresponds to the player's score in each criteria. The stars are also colored according to scores, e.g., score best for volume, get a red star. If a player scored equally well among multiple attributes, we assigned a color based on the one that we felt was key. Now start stargazing! By David Marchese; Infographic by Catalogtree

Marissa Paternoster
(Breaking Benjamin)
Sound: Basement punk
Showstopper: “High”
String theory: “If you play just to show off, it’s not gonna be good.”

Marnie Stern
Sound: Maximalist prog pop
Showstopper: “Transformer”
String theory: “I don’t care if soloing is regurgitated. It’s important it’s alive.”

Anna Calvi
Sound: Nuish cabaret
Showstopper: “Love Won’t Be Leaving”
String theory: “It’s about creating beautiful music, not moving your fingers fast.”

Neil Young
Sound: Scoopy lo-fi garage
Showstopper: “Tongues”
String theory: “People say soloing is arrogant. Hell, it’s awesome because it’s arrogant.”

Dave W. (White Hills)
Sound: Power kraut
Showstopper: “You Dream You See”
String theory: “The guitar is not an extension of my dick. It’s my Jesus.”

Kevin Parker
(Tame Impala)
Sound: Bloody-eyed psych
Showstopper: “Inner Self”
String theory: “You can do technical shit and still have soul.”

Colin Marston
(Behold... The Arcturus)
Sound: Anti-metal
Showstopper: “Alcoholism”
String theory: “Real shredding is fast and intense, but it’s flexible.”

Avery Czakier
(Tribal Blood)
Sound: Staccato, melody
Showstopper: “Last Time”
String theory: “The guitar hero is a malleable thing. You’re not boxed in.”

Randy Randall (No Age)
Sound: Trippy noise-punk
Showstopper: “Chem Trails”
String theory: “Solas have bad connotations, but they also have a function.”

Jake Orrall
(Jeff the Brotherhood)
Sound: Hesh metal
Showstopper: “Hey Friend”
String theory: “It feels amazing when you’re ripping a solo.”

Anna Calvi
Sound: Nuish cabaret
Showstopper: “Love Won’t Be Leaving”
String theory: “It’s about creating beautiful music, not moving your fingers fast.”

Ty Segall
Sound: Scoopy lo-fi garage
Showstopper: “Tongues”
String theory: “People say soloing is arrogant. Hell, it’s awesome because it’s arrogant.”

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From rock legends and fictional six-stringers to retail wannabes and the Devil—with callouts to and riffs from today’s hottest players—our highly subjective classification of the guitar-hero galaxy.