

SHORT LIST

# Pick the Allmans' Next Guitar God!

The Allman Brothers Band got a big blow in January when longtime guitarists Warren Haynes and Derek Trucks announced they were leaving the group to focus on other projects. ("It's a good place to stop," said Haynes.) The current lineup will finish out the year, including its annual epic residency at New York's Beacon Theatre in March; after that, the band's future is unclear. But if the Allmans do continue, what guitarists have the skill, style and stamina to withstand the band's three-hour-plus sets and 22-minute "Whipping Post" mega-jams? Here are five suggestions.

PATRICK DOYLE



## David Hidalgo

Hidalgo has been making south-of-the-border rock with Los Lobos for four decades and has played with everyone from Tom Waits to Bob Dylan during his downtime. A monster frontman and a guitarist, he's also in the Allmans' extended family: Watch him shred on "Dear Mr. Fantasy" with Gov't Mule in 2011.



## Jason Isbell

The Southern-soul disciple wrote some of the Drive-By Truckers' swamiest rockers before moving into a solo career. His soulful howl and rich storytelling would fill the frontman role left by Haynes – and after getting sober and putting years of hard living behind him in 2012, he'd have plenty to bond over with the band.



## Joe Bonamassa

A virtuoso who competed against Trucks in shredding competitions as a kid, the 36-year-old packs the Beacon on his own with his proggy, symphonic solos. Bonamassa, who prefers British guitarists like Peter Green and Rory Gallagher to Americans, would inject fiery new blood into the band.



## Robert Randolph

Randolph's revved-up, blues-steeped pedal-steel excursions make him a must-see on the jam circuit. His recent jubilant cover of the Allman Brothers' "Don't Keep Me Wonderin'," from 2013's *Slide Brothers*, proves he could fill the gap left by Trucks' otherworldly slide.



## Luther Dickinson

The son of Muscle Shoals producer Jim Dickinson, Luther has brought gritty, Duane Allman-influenced slide mastery to the Black Crowes and North Mississippi Allstars. He gets bonus points for nailing "One Way Out" while sitting in with the Allmans in 2009, all while "deep into a mushroom zone."