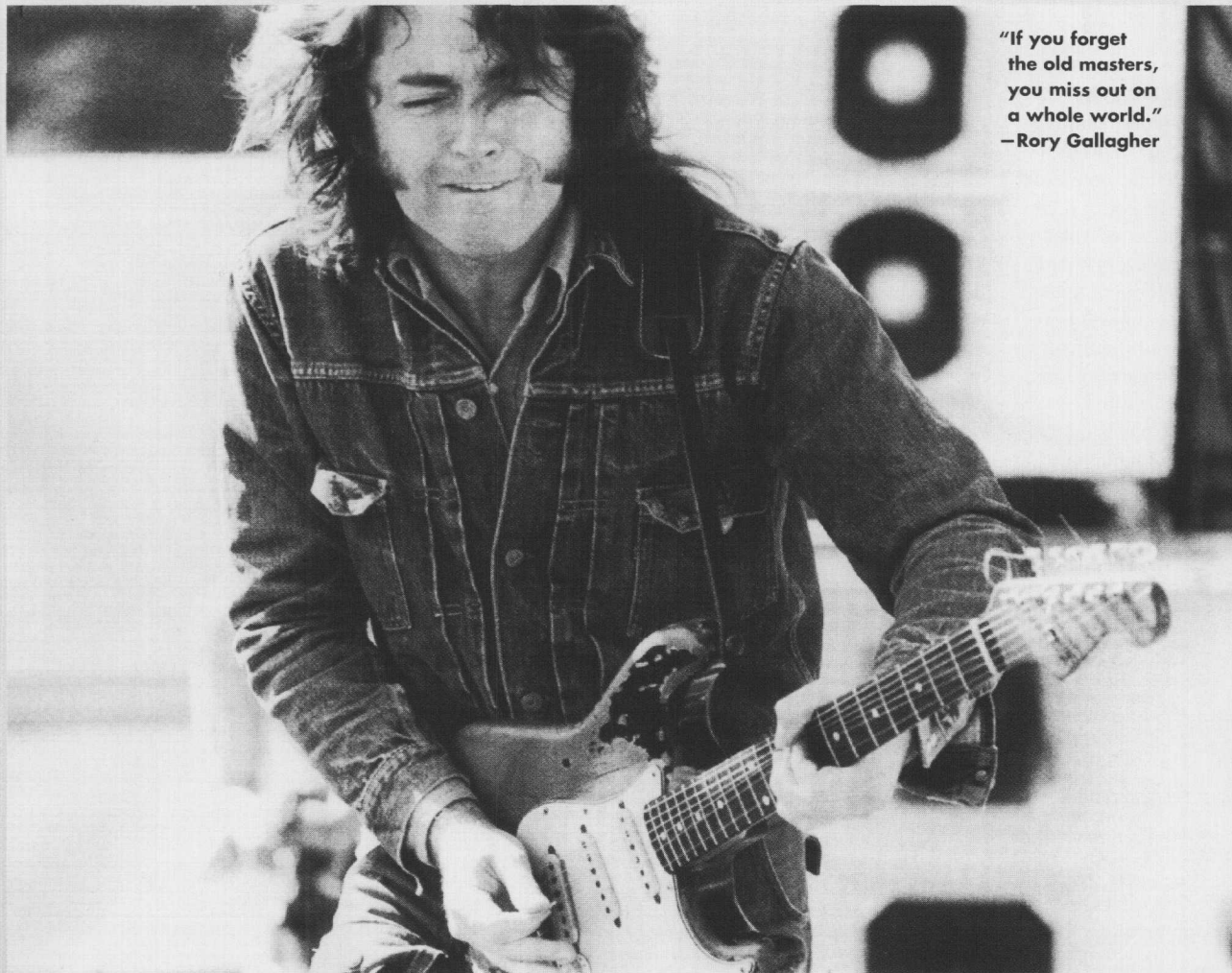


Treating the Strat as an Acoustic



"If you forget the old masters, you miss out on a whole world."
—Rory Gallagher

IN HIS JULY '74 GP INTERVIEW AND March '78 cover story, Rory Gallagher shared his views on dynamics, tone, and setting playing levels: "I try to get a volume where my Strat still responds like an acoustic instrument. You know, if you hit the string you'll get a hard note, and if you pick quite gently, you can get a soft tone. Does that sound crazy? I don't like to see a guy let his volume control do all the work. I like to go *woomph* and really dig into the note. I'm into getting as much as possible out of the guitar with my hands—almost a classical ap-

proach. For an intro or solo, I have my guitar at maybe 9½ to give myself a little room. For rhythm, I'll have it at about 7½ or 8. I like single-coil pickups because the volume goes down nice and gradually. Even at 6, the guitar is still doing something.

"For amps, I've always liked a Vox AC30 or a Fender 4x10 setup. I find old amps have an atmospheric sound. I've never been a fan of 100-watt stacks. Instead of a wall of sound,

where you lose your tone because it's spread out among eight speakers, I'd rather see a small amp turned to 8 or 9 and really hopping off the chair. I like to overdrive the amp, as opposed to using a fuzz box. And I still prefer to get a wah-wah effect by manually working the guitar's tone control. It's more fun. The Strat is ideal because you can get the crying sound with the volume and tone controls." ■



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