

Notes from the Folklore Center



photo source: The Kingston Trio - Alfred Eisenstaedt/The LIFE Picture Collection, via Getty Images

Welcome to our April newsletter! This month we're featuring our musical friend, Bill Frisell. He's on tour supporting his latest album called *Four*. Read our interview with him. Then learn about our Eastman Octave Mandos! Are you going to the Colorado Dulcimer Festival? It's happening this week and we've got all the information for you from dulcimer pros Tina Gugeler and Bob Elieson. Then meet Big Richard! The band is performing in Boulder this weekend. All this and more so start scrolling.



The Denver Folklore Center is Now Closed on Sundays

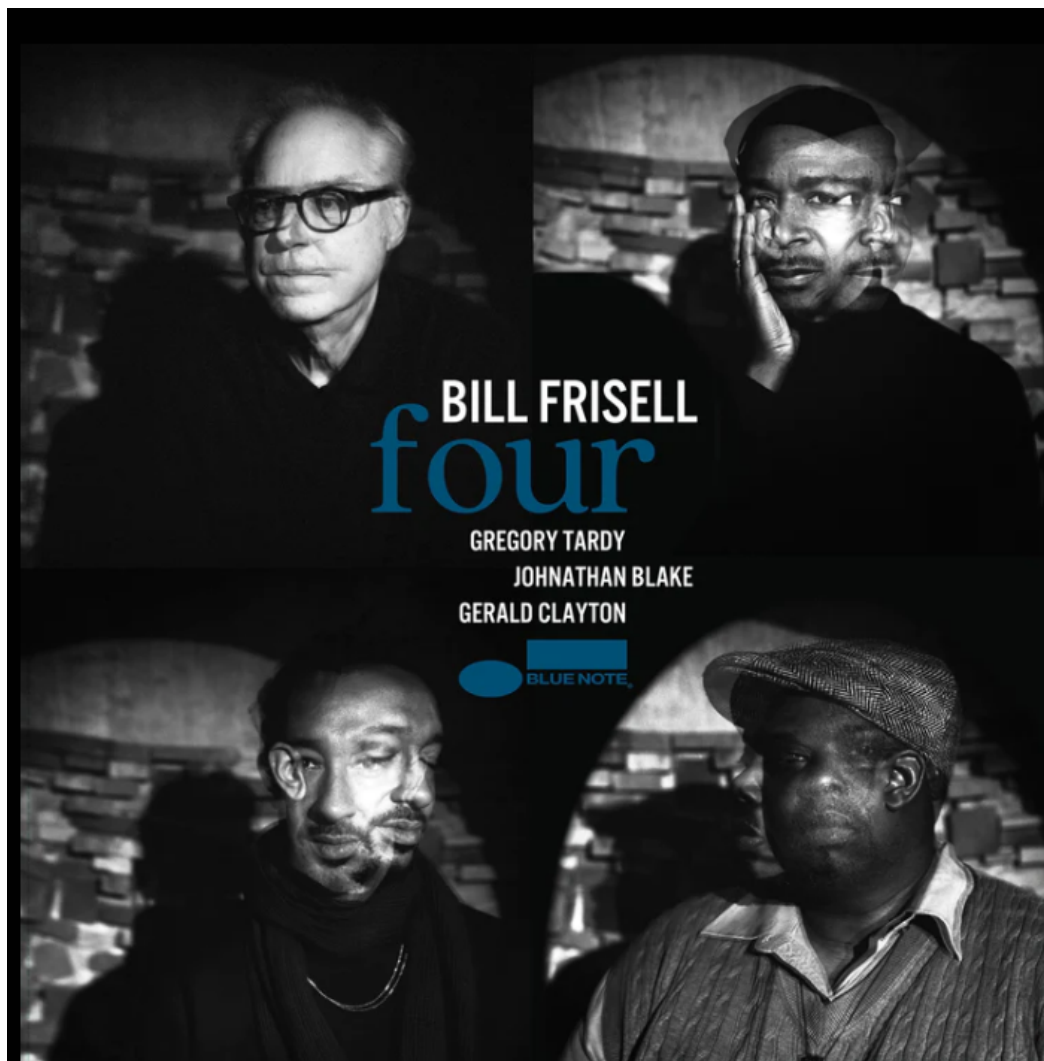
Our store hours are

Sundays: CLOSED

Monday-Friday: 10am-6pm

Saturday: 10am-5pm

We hope to see you soon!



Friend of the DFC - Bill Frisell

Guitarist and composer Bill Frisell has been making music for forty-plus years. He's collaborated with artists like Elvis Costello, David Sanborn, movie director Gus Van Sant and Bono (on the soundtrack for the film *Million Dollar Hotel*). Bill's been called "the most brilliant and unique voice to come along in jazz guitar since Wes Montgomery" by *Stereophile*. (You can read more about Bill's musical career and his awards and accolades on his website [HERE](#).) He spoke to us about growing up in Denver, hanging out at the Denver Folklore Center, how his guitar saved him during the pandemic and his latest album *Four*.

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Eastman's MDO-305 Octave Mandolin!

Celtic players and singer-songwriters love this A-style beauty from Eastman. This instrument is tuned like a mandolin one octave down making it an easy transition for mando players or guitarists. Construction includes a hand-carved solid spruce top and hand-crafted solid maple back and sides. The typical fine Eastman craftsmanship together with adjustable bridge and truss rod ensure excellent playability in this larger instrument which boasts very solid bass and midrange notes as well as finely articulated trebles.

SHOP NOW



Colorado Dulcimer Festival May 4-6

[The Colorado Dulcimer Festival](#) is back and in-person May 4-6 at Saint James Presbyterian Church, 3601 West Belleview Avenue, Littleton, CO 80123.

Festival highlights include:

- Hammered dulcimer workshops for all levels of players
- Mountain dulcimer workshops for all levels of players
- Jam sessions
- Pre-festival workshops on Thursday, May 4th (additional fee)
- Open stage where anyone can sign up to perform
- Saturday afternoon dance
- Evening concerts
- Social time during lunch and dinner
- And much more!

This festival brings you great musicians and teachers that play a wide variety of music. This year two of the featured teachers and performers are **Bob Elieson (Mountain Dulcimer)** and **Tina Gugeler (Teaching Hammered Dulcimer, Bodhran)**. We spoke with Bob and Tina about their involvement with the Colorado Dulcimer Festival and what you can expect if you attend.

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What People Are Saying About Us

Super friendly and helpful staff - they saved the life of my ukulele! I'm new to playing and I told them another place put metal strings on my uke. They said it could break my uke's neck! I immediately went home and loosened the strings and had them replaced with nylon. I'm about an hour from the DFC but will definitely stop in again. - Lisa R.



Meet Big Richard!

Big Richard is a “neo-acoustic supergroup” who sing “bluegrass with a side of lady rage”. The band is made up of Colorado musicians Bonnie Sims (mandolin), Joy Adams (cello), Emma Rose (bass, guitar) and Eve Panning (fiddle). We asked them to participate in a little Q&A about the band and here’s what they had to say.

Who are your musical influences?

We all grew up steeped in different varieties of traditional music: folk, bluegrass, classical, old-time. We have a variety of personal influences ranging from New Grass Revival, I’m With Her, Gillian Welch and Joni Mitchell to Kendrick Lamar, Adrienne Lanker, Crooked Still and Hillary Hahn.

How did the band get together?

Eve got a call from a private bluegrass festival in Colorado that realized they had booked an all-male lineup that year and wanted Eve to put together a

female group to help rectify that. Eve gave each of us a call and we jumped at the chance to collab as a group. It ended up being so fun that even though we were supposed to have just one gig we couldn't quit this band, so we booked more, most notably WinterWonderGrass and RockyGrass, and then we couldn't stop.

You can catch [Big Richard](#) at the [Boulder Theater on April 8th](#) with AJ Lee & Blue Summit. They've also just spent a week in the studio making their first Big Richard album. The band released *Live at Telluride* from a recent set at Telluride Bluegrass. We're excited to see what happens next with the band.

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Where Are They Now - Janis Ian

Janis Ian is an American singer-songwriter who had commercial success in the 1960s/1970s. Her best known songs are the hits "Society's Child" and "At Seventeen", from her album *Between the Lines*. That record was number 1 on the Billboard album chart in September 1975.

Ian has won two Grammy Awards, including the 2013 Best Spoken Word Album for her autobiography, *Society's Child*, and she had a total of ten nominations. She is also a columnist and science fiction author. Ian started Rude Girl Records, Inc. and Rude Girl Publishing in 1992.

Ian recorded and performed until 2022, when she announced her farewell tour. Unfortunately, while on that tour, Ian had to cancel her remaining dates due to vocal cord scarring from a bout of laryngitis. Today, she lives in Nashville with her wife, Patricia Snyder, whom she married in 2003. She's also a stepmother and a grandmother.

Photo source: www.janisian.com - Gerard Viveiros



Photo: www.reverb.com

The One that Got Away - David Parkes

A friend of the store tells a bittersweet story of the guitar that got away.

"My guitar story comes from a ranching community in northwest Nebraska, where the brother of a good friend lived. He was a paraplegic rancher who had cattle, drove his own pickup truck and flew airplanes, among many other skills - a remarkable man in every way. I spent a lot of time with him in Denver when he was in Craig Hospital undergoing cancer treatments and physical therapy late in his life.

"After his death, I played at his funeral ("That's How Strong My Love Is") and

the family subsequently contacted me about a guitar he owned and wanted me to have it and make sure it got played. A poignant gesture and gift indeed. I insisted that it be a loan and returned it to the family about three years later when his nephew wanted to learn to play. It was a 1962 Martin D28 (the DFC put a new set of strings on it) and I wrote a song about the man, the guitar and the experience and I still sing that song today."

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