



The Carter Family

Photo source: www.countrymusichalloffame.org

Is this summer hot enough for ya? Well, it's about to get even hotter with this month's Denver Folklore Center newsletter!

We've got a video featuring former store manager, Jeff Jaros (howdy, stranger!) playing our 101-year-old Gibson F-4 mandolin. Then we spoke to Mary Huckins of Dakota Blonde and we're sharing our interview with you. And express your unique sound with one of our acoustic amps. Have you ever wondered how we appraise instruments? Co-owner of the store, Saul Rosenthal, breaks down what makes an instrument vintage, rare, unique, special or just plain old. Then musician Sally Van Meter shares her story of the instrument that got away. All this and more!

Let's get reading.



Joni Jam at the 2022 Newport Folk Festival

The legendary Joni Mitchell, who turns 79 in November, appeared at the Newport Folk Festival this week singing with an all-star group of musicians. This was her first time performing in public in nine years. Here she is singing "Both Sides Now" with Brandi Carlile.





Get Loud with an Acoustic Amp!

The DFC offers a variety of acoustic amps from **Fishman Loudbox**, **AER** and **Godin**. [Fishman Loudbox amps](#) are world renowned for their warm tone and accuracy and are a favorite among acoustic musicians. [AER amplifiers](#) are in a class all their own. These extraordinary amps are crafted in Germany and designed to fill the needs of the most discriminating acoustic player. And for the acoustic musician who needs an amplifier that's rich, responsive, portable, and reasonably priced, the [Acoustic Solutions ASG-8 120](#) from Godin Guitars fits the bill better than almost any speaker you'll find.

Want to learn more about what kind of amp you should choose? Stop by the store or [contact](#) our expert staff to match you with the perfect amp today.

Shop Now



What Does a 101-Year-Old Mandolin Sound Like?

Everyone knows Gibson has been making extraordinary instruments for a long time, but the incredible story of the company rarely feels real until you see something like this 1921 F-4 mandolin, at the time the top of the company's production line.

Watch and listen as our former store manager, Jeff Jaros, gives the rundown on this beautiful piece of living history, which looks like it's barely even been played.

Then check out this mandolin [on our website](#).

LEARN MORE



Friend of the DFC

Mary Huckins (of Dakota Blonde)

[Dakota Blonde](#) is one of the most unique acoustic sounds around! Their combination of original tunes and carefully selected covers, along with their endearing stage presence and humor is out of this world. Best put they are a mix of acoustic folk, part bluegrass, part acoustic rock, part singer/songwriter and sometimes even Celtic. They are a blend of heart, authenticity and contagious spirit, with such tightly-blended harmonies that you would swear they were born to sing together!

We spoke with Mary Huckins, a founding member of the band, about music, performing, her connection to the Denver Folklore Center and more.

Who influences you musically?

There are a host of others including Joni Mitchell, Emmylou Harris, Linda Ronstadt and Iris DeMent and I really like '70s and '80s music!

What instruments do you play?

I sing and consider my voice my main instrument. I play the piano, guitar and flute. With my education and work in music therapy, I have learned a little bit about a lot of different instruments, so I can also play some accordion, harmonica, mandolin, washboard, ukulele, autoharp and percussion. And I write music.

What is your connection to the Denver Folklore Center?

It goes back to when we first started a relationship with Swallow Hill Music. Our first show with Swallow

There are so many! My family was a huge musical influence on me. We grew up listening to and playing a variety of music in our home. Because of my mom and dad and six older siblings (I am the youngest of seven), I had endless musical influences from Johnny Cash and Roger Miller, Fleetwood Mac and The Jackson 5, to old church hymns and Chopin and everything in between.

If I had to name a few that really stirred my heart and style I would say James Taylor, Nanci Griffith, Dolly Parton and Dougie MacLean.

Hill was one of their folk-a-thons. We met Harry Tuft (founder of the DFC) at that time and learned more about the Denver Folklore Center. We remember feeling so completely honored that Harry enjoyed our music, considering his amazing history in the folk music scene. We really loved hearing his stories and still do! We enjoy our friendship with Harry and the DFC to this day.

Harry Tuft and the Denver Folklore Center hold a special place in our hearts and we have always appreciated their support.

KEEP READING



What People Are Saying About Us

Thanks so much for taking this beginner through the process of buying my first guitar! I appreciate your extra time answering all my questions and giving me pointers on what I need to get started. I love it! – M.K.



photo source: picuki.com

The One that Got Away

Sally Van Meter

The sad stories just keep on comin'. Friend of the DFC, Sally Van Meter told us her story of the instrument that got away.

"There's one instrument that got away and I sold it. And it's the thing that caused me to vow to never sell anything again because it broke my heart to do

it. I play another kind of slide guitar called a Weissenborn. They were built around 1918 until around 1934. They're really beautiful, poorly-made, paper thin, all hollow-bodied - the precursor to dobros. They used to have orchestras of these guitars. They're very expressive.

"Way back when, probably 30-some-odd years ago, I owned a specific model that I sold - a Hilo Hawaiian guitar. The person I sold it to, about 10 months later, offered it back to me for about three times the price. It insulted me and it broke my heart because I knew he didn't care about the instrument. That was a tough one. I spent years being mad about that."

READ MORE STORIES



Saul Rosenthal, co-owner of the store, has this to say about appraising older instruments:

"Vintage, rare, unique, special ... these are some of the words our customers use to describe their older treasured instruments – guitars, mandolins, ukuleles, banjos and some rarer forms. They share with us stories about how their parents or grandparents acquired the instrument at interesting milestones in their lives and how they have been passed from generation to generation. If they are thinking of selling, the stories may be tinged with fondness, sadness or even regret.

"At the Denver Folklore Center, we have been privileged for 60 years to see, touch, play, evaluate and help sell some extraordinary acoustic instruments. But from time to time we have to let people know that what they think is a valuable treasure is simply something that is old and perhaps worth holding onto just for sentimental reasons.

"So, what makes an instrument vintage and valuable or just old? Like other things that can age well – cars, furniture, clothing, wine, coins, stamps – there are a variety of factors that determine whether an acoustic instrument qualifies as vintage and valuable. Simply being old is not enough."

Keep reading to learn about the factors that can come into play when appraising an instrument.

KEEP READING

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