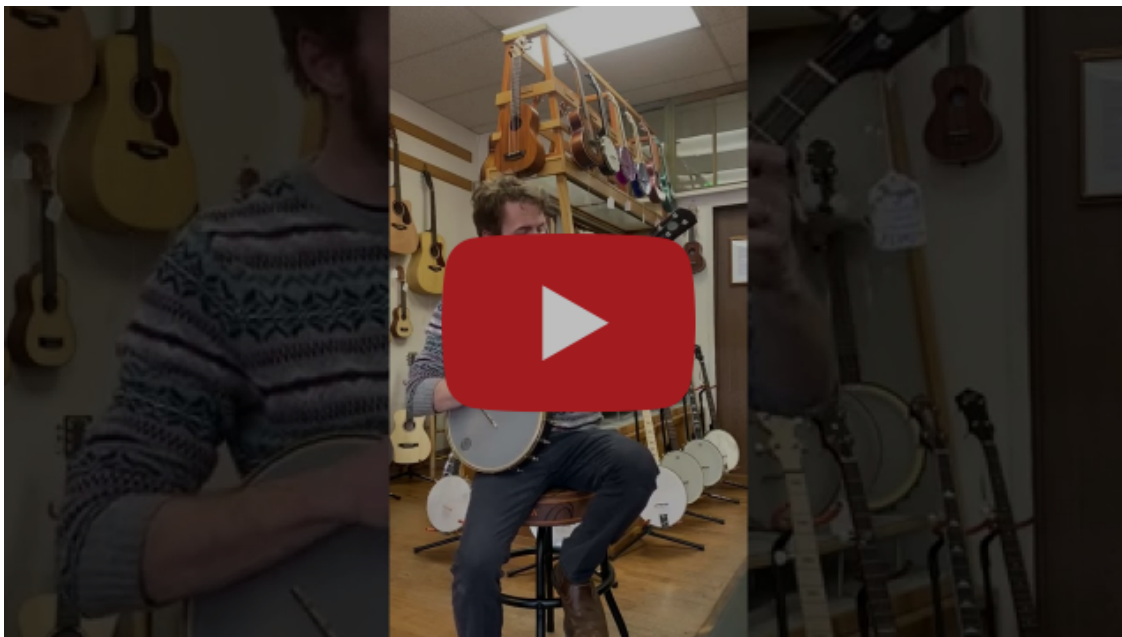


Let's start 2023 off right with Friend of the DFC, musician Rich Moore. Watch Ian from the store play our Pisgah Woodchuck banjo. Then discover which Eastman mandolin is perfect for your playing style. And find out what Michelle Phillips from the Mamas and the Papas is up to these days. Store co-owner Saul discusses the steps instrument builders are taking to lessen their environmental impact. And Ragged Union's Elio Schiavo shares his story of the guitar that slipped through his fingers. Happy New Year!

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## Staff Pick: Pisgah 12" Woodchuck Banjo

Watch Ian play this Woodchuck model from Pisgah Banjos. The instrument delivers great sounding old-time tone and comfortable playability. This banjo is the first step in the Pisgah line and features a frailing scoop, folk-heel, 12" pot, traditional dowel stick construction, a channeled brass tension hoop with stainless steel brackets, traditional tailpiece and USA-made Balsam Banjo Works hardware. Includes a nicely padded Pisgah gig bag.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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Photo Credit: Barb Solow

## Friend of the DFC - Rich Moore

If you're from Colorado you already know the name Rich Moore, but for those who aren't familiar, you're in for a real treat. Musician Rich Moore is an accomplished multi-instrumentalist, finger-style guitarist, songwriter, and he and his wife, Grammy Award winning singer Mollie O'Brien, have been performing together around here and the country for decades.

Growing up in Philly, there was a coffeehouse/music venue called The Main Point. Rich frequented it in the

Rich was in high school when he first heard about the Denver Folklore Center on a radio show called "Folklore" hosted by the late Gene Shay. Folk musician Michael Cooney was on the show and said "you have to go to the Denver Folklore Center and meet Harry Tuft." When Rich ended up in Denver, he made it a point to meet Harry and ended up working at the store. "But before working for Harry, I worked for a friendly competitor – Ferretta's Music. David Ferretta was a former DFC employee who had opened his

late '60s and saw legendary performers like James Taylor, Joni Mitchell, Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee.

"I saw Doc Watson probably thirty times, Laura Nyro, Odetta. I saw Chris Smither play there a lot - he's a great writer and fingerstyle player and he's still out there - he was a big influence on me. I saw Bonnie Raitt, Randy Newman, The Beatles. It was just a little club that sat about 125 people. I showed up so much they offered me a job tearing tickets, which I thought was all I needed to do in life. It was great!"

own store. He was an unbelievable character and knew instruments really well."

In 1981, Rich quit Ferretta's Music, joined a country western band and went to Hawaii for three months. He had met Mollie right before he left, so when he came back to Denver he began working at the DFC (when it was on Broadway). "The DFC was a huge influence – if I remembered it when I was fifteen when someone casually mentioned it on a radio show, you know it was a big influence. All kinds of great people and guitars came into the store. I always felt welcomed there. You walk in the door and you feel welcomed."

## KEEP READING

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EASTMAN  
MD-305



EASTMAN  
MD-415-BK



EASTMAN  
MD-805





Eastman Mandolins are some of the best value instruments in the mandolin market. And we offer everything from fantastic valued all solid MD-305 all the way up to their professional quality mandos.

Our inventory includes:

[MD-305](#) - Our most popular mandolin, Eastman's entry-level model represents a playable, sweet-sounding instrument at a bargain price.

[MD-415-BK](#) - F-style body with f-holes for round liquid tones and excellent projection.

[MD-805](#) - This A-style mandolin is handcrafted from the finest woods including an Adirondack spruce top hand-carved to match the richly flamed solid maple back and sides.

[MD-515](#) - An F-style mandolin with a solid Spruce top and solid Maple back, sides and neck. Has to be played to be believed!

[MD-315](#) - Our best-selling F-Style mando represents an excellent choice for the learning player or anyone who wants to step up to the crisp, percussive chord strokes favored by bluegrass players.

[MD-605](#) - Produces ringing, strongly projected tones. This instrument is equipped with a fine acoustic pickup from K&K, so the performer will be ready to plug in for natural, open acoustic amplified sound. (not pictured - [see on website](#))

## SHOP NOW

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### What People Are Saying About Us

*Wow! A superior customer experience in every aspect. I was searching for my first acoustic guitar. The internet and the big box music stores were just not hitting the mark. I needed more and found it at Denver Folklore Center. What I found were exceptional experts in all things string. The low key, individualized approach, guiding me through the broad selection of instruments and price points left me with several wonderful choices. Not being a guitar player, it was critical that they gave me the space to explore the instruments myself and allow me to hear the sound quality in the hands of an expert player. Once my decision was made, they made sure the instrument was adjusted and maximized for my beginner playing ability. They suggested items to keep my guitar healthy and sounding great and just the right picks to enhance my playing success. I'm just starting my string journey and I'm confident that other guitars I purchase will be coming from Denver Folklore Center. – B.A.*

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## Where Are They Now – Michelle Phillips

Michelle Phillips has been around the music scene since the 1960s. Back then she, "Mama" Cass Elliot, husband John Phillips and Denny Doherty made up the hit group the Mamas and the Papas.

The popular band had plenty of top ten hits and sold-out concerts. They became synonymous with hippies and the music of the '60s. Michelle's voice was described by "Time" magazine as the "purest soprano in pop music".

When she was 24 years old, the band (as well as Michelle and John) broke up. At the urging of actor Jack Nicholson, Michelle decided to study acting and pursue it as a career. She was successful and had a long run as a TV actor on shows like "Knots Landing" and "Star Trek: The Next Generation".

Michelle Phillips had plenty of good and bad times - which you can read about [HERE](#) - and today, she is the last surviving member of the group. She currently

lives a more subdued life in California with her dogs Chloe and Lulu but does have plans to produce a movie about the Mamas and the Papas based on her life and memories of the group.

Photo Credit - RollingStone.com



Saul Rosenthal, Co-Owner of the Denver Folklore Center, has some thoughts on the environmental effects of building guitars.

Each day we become more acutely aware of the negative impact we human beings are having on our environment. Since many kinds of musical instruments are built from natural materials it behooves us to ask how musicians and instrument builders can help by incorporating sustainability into their choices. Dwindling supplies of certain tonewoods have encouraged new choices using sources that can be more easily renewed. The first major step in this direction took place in the late 1990s when Brazilian Rosewood was placed

on an endangered list and its use in new instrument construction restricted.

Shopping for an eco-friendly guitar doesn't have to be a stressful or lengthy process given the steps some of the largest guitar manufacturers have taken in recent years. Guided by recommendations from the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Program for the Endorsement of Forestry Certification Martin, Taylor, Fender, Breedlove and many others have shifted their wood choices.

### KEEP READING



## The One that Got Away - Elio Schiavo - Ragged Union

I had a really cool 1972 Stratocaster with a hard tail, no whammy bar set up. I got it when I was living in Santa Cruz. I had a little studio there in a corrugated tin building with workshops on either side of us. This guy had a bike shop next door and his two teenagers came over with this guitar case.

I think I was selling weed at the time to make extra money and these two kids said their dad wanted them to trade this guitar for some weed. I asked, "How much weed are you trying to trade this guitar for" and they wanted two ounces. I knew right away they had stolen the guitar from their dad or a friend - I knew their dad hadn't sent them over.

It was a super sick guitar and the kids had no idea what they were doing. I told them I'd give them a quarter ounce for the guitar and they took it. This guitar ended up being all original 1972 with a big headstock. I sold the Strat to a guy for \$3,500 because I needed money when I moved to New York in 2002. I made money on the deal, but that's the one that got away for sure - I wish I'd never sold it.

And be sure to catch Elio and Ragged Union this month at [Oskar Blues HMLS in Longmont, CO](#) on Jan 13th.

## READ MORE STORIES

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