



With all that's going on in the world right now, we could use a little music to bring us together. And that's what this month's newsletter is all about. First, we have some beautiful consignment guitars at the store you just have to see! Then read our interview with dobro master, Sally Van Meter. And Taylor Days are back - we've got the details. Have you heard of the hip-hop bluegrass band Gangstagrass? If not, we think you're going to like them. Then Jeff Hanna from the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band has a story of an instrument that got away. All this and more!

(photo above: Joan Baez - at the Denver Folklore Center)

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## New to the Store!

These lightly-used, top-notch American-made guitars have found their way into the Denver Folklore Center - and we want to pass on our good fortune to our customers!

New to our shop are a [2017 Martin 00-28](#) and a [2016 Martin 000-17E](#). Both guitars are in terrific condition and come from the collection of a single guitarist who took great care of these superb instruments. Best of all, each one is deeply discounted from new and has had a couple of years to play in.

If you've been waiting for a great deal before buying your next guitar, now's your chance! These wonderful guitars won't be here long.

**Shop Now - Martin Guitars**

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## **Friend of the Denver Folklore Center: Sally Van Meter**

Sally Van Meter has been a professional musician since 1976, recording, performing and garnering recognition from fans and peers, including a 1994 Grammy Award.

The main instrument most people know Sally for is dobro, “but I play whatever I can play for whomever needs it.” That includes a lot of rhythm guitar, five-string banjo (clawhammer and Scruggs style) and lap steel, and she “tinkers around on a few other things. I really wanted to be a fiddle player but dobro just seemed to pick me. The slide guitar made sense to me. I’m so glad it found me because I never would have chosen it.”

She discovered the Denver Folklore Center when she moved to Colorado. “I found out there was this great music store that had a small concert hall. Everybody knew each other, there was no competition, there was no climbing the ladder for the highest position, it was all really collaborative and supportive. I was kind of burned out when I moved here and ready to quit playing music for a while. The life you have to have to be a touring musician, it’s not the easiest life and when you don’t make a lot of money, it’s even harder.

“But I met a lot of musicians who helped me figure out the lay of the land in Colorado and a lot of them were involved with the DFC. Mary

In 1996, Sally “hit a place where it was just so hard to live in a giant metropolitan area.” One of her friends suggested visiting Colorado to see what it was like. She did and has been here ever since. “I’ve been super busy producing and playing and getting to have a spiritually great (certainly not monetarily) career as a player.”

Flower, Molly O’Brien, they really showed me what a strong community was, especially the bluegrass community, that really supports each other. That’s one of the things that impressed me about the DFC.”

### Keep Reading

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## The Taylor Days Sales Event is Back!

Now through July 31st you can add a travel-size Baby Taylor acoustic guitar for just \$99, or the ultra-popular GS Mini Mahogany for just \$199, when you purchase a new Taylor guitar from the 200 Deluxe Series and up, while supplies last.



Visit us online or in the store to see our selection of Taylor guitars!

[See More](#)



Gangstagrass members left to right: Dan Whitener aka Danjo - banjo/vocals, R-Son the Voice of Reason - MC/vocals, Dolio the Sleuth - MC/vocals, Rench - vocals/guitar/beats, B.E. Farrow - fiddle/vocals

## Q&A with Gangstagrass

Gangstagrass is a multi-racial group of string pickers and MCs creating a shared cultural space for dialogue and connection between folks that usually never intersect. They combine the great American traditions of Bluegrass, Hip-Hop, and beyond to create a new musical genre that fleshes out the

**In addition to Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys, who are your musical influences?**

Rench: I grew up listening to a lot of RUN DMC, Public Enemy, Outkast, Dr. Octagon. A lot of hip-hop influences. And a lot of honkytonk – George Jones, Loretta Lynn.

quintessential elements of each with added flair.

*No Time for Enemies*, the group's fifth studio album, is their most collaborative to date, breaking loose and running across genre lines with abandon. And it climbed to #1 on the Billboard Bluegrass chart. You may have seen the band on *America's Got Talent* or heard them sing the hit theme song "Long Hard Times to Come" from the television show *Justified*.

We recently caught up with the band during a tour break and talked about their unique style of music, musical influences, songwriting and a whole lot more.

B.E. Farrow: We all bring in our own interests that have a particular Venn diagram that centers around this band.

R-SON the Voice of Reason: I've got to throw a little bit of INXS in there because that's how I work it.

DW: There's a lot of things that influenced us that wouldn't necessarily fit into the bluegrass/hip-hop box. But it's good music and I think we try to let that influence us too and not just stick to root music or a particular recipe.

## KEEP READING

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## What People Are Saying About Us

*The great people at the Denver Folklore Center are experts in their field. They know a lot about the instruments they sell and the setups are next level. Not only are they knowledgeable, they're also very friendly and kind. Go here for your musical instrument needs! – N.L.*



### **Staff Picks: Doc's Banjos "Mia" (2015)**

And just when you thought you'd seen everything! With some truly striking aesthetics and idiosyncratic touches that can only be had in a hand-built instrument, this 2015 open-back from Doc's Banjos - nicknamed "Mia" - is a standout in every sense. Listen as Ian from the Denver Folklore Center demonstrates what this great banjo can do.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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## **The One that Got Away**

### **Jeff Hanna (Nitty Gritty Dirt Band)**

It seems like every musician has a story of a long-lost instrument. Here's the one that got away from Jeff Hanna.

"When I was a kid living in Long Beach, there was a store called McCabe's Guitar Shop, kind of like the Denver Folklore Center. It was essentially a guitar shop that had a picking room. You could pull something off the wall and play it. I was on the search for my first Martin dreadnought guitar. I really wanted a big-bodied Martin. That was like the holy grail, the dream. I found this guitar that was probably a war-time or pre-war D-18 and I paid \$180. I brought it to a guitar repairman in a different music store, not at McCabe's, and he said 'this guitar is ruined, it's not worth the money to fix it'. That's the one that got away. I still don't have a pre-war D-18 and I wish I did ... me and hundreds of other guitar pickers."

**READ MORE**

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Claude Brachfeld, Co-Owner of the Denver Folklore Center, has some thoughts on the international aspects of the music business.

"In the nearly six years since my partner Saul Rosenthal and I entered the music business, I've continued to be impressed by the global nature of the business. Buying, selling, innovation: the international activity becomes more crucial every day.

The Denver Folklore Center has for many years sold acoustic instruments that are manufactured in the U.S., as well as in a number of foreign centers. Popular makers such as C.F. Martin, Taylor, Eastman and Blueridge all produce quality instruments in Mexico and China, and we represent these with confidence in their quality, workmanship and value.

We recently came upon opportunities to give our customers access to instruments from two new international sources. Kremona produces guitars and

ukuleles in Bulgaria, using classic tonewood selections including cedar, rosewood and mahogany. Godin guitars is a respected Canadian company whose product lines include Norman and Simon & Patrick guitars. These lines provide players with a broad variety of body formats and tonewood combinations, some quite different from those made by our US-based makers."

## KEEP READING

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