



Spring has sprung! And as the days grow longer and brighter, it's time for some musical fun with our latest newsletter. We spoke with Friend of the DFC, Jeff Hanna from the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band - hear about their new album *Dirt Does Dylan*. Then we have another tale of the instrument that got away. Next see our very popular Kremona Classical Guitars - there's something for everyone. And we have a Q&A with the award-winning bluegrass band Sister Sadie. Then watch our latest Staff Picks video with Austin. And did you know that during the pandemic an incredible number of people started playing the guitar? There's a lot to learn this month, so let's dig in!

(photo above: C.F. Martin - Martin Guitars - at the Denver Folklore Center)

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## Friend of the Denver Folklore Center: Jeff Hanna - Nitty Gritty Dirt Band

[The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band](#) (NGDB) has been around since the 1960s. The band lineup has changed over the years, but their amazing music and unique sound remains the same.

Today the NGDB is Jeff Hanna (guitars/vocals), Jimmie Fadden (drums/harmonica/vocals), Bob Carpenter (keyboardist/songwriter/vocalist, who joined in 1980), and three new members: fiddle specialist Ross Holmes, singer-songwriter and bass player Jim Photoglo (who wrote one of the Dirt Band's biggest hits, "Fishin' in the Dark"), and Jeff's son, Jaime Hanna (guitars/vocals).

They've just put out a new album called ***Dirt Does Dylan*** - "a romp through some of the gems in Dylan's catalog" and Jeff Hanna sat down with us to talk about it, recording songs with music legends, touring with his son and a lot more.

Growing up, Jeff's "house was filled with music. My folks both sang - they were gifted, neither were professionals, no one played an instrument, but there was always music around. As a kid when I lived in Denver I visited the Denver Folklore Center. I lived in the metro Denver area twice when I was in middle school, we lived in Littleton, and we moved back in the early '70s for fifteen years to the foothills in Evergreen."

He became interested in playing music when he was fourteen. "My friend had an acoustic guitar and I thought that was cool. So we went to some pawn shop to find one. Soon after, we moved to California. My first day of high school I met a guy named Bruce Kunkel and we hit it off right away and became best friends. He was into folk music and acoustic guitar playing as well."

Read more of our interview with Jeff, including the band's Colorado tour dates below.

[Read More](#)



## Kremona Classical Guitars

We have expanded our selection of nylon string guitars with the addition of Kremona classical guitars. These hand-crafted European instruments are ideal for classical players, fingerstyle artists, or any guitarist who is looking for an expanded tonal palette. Here are a few from our inventory. Take a look and you'll see why they are so popular.

[See More](#)



## Q&A with Sister Sadie

The award-winning group [Sister Sadie](#) is made up of world-renowned musicians and singers: Gena Britt on banjo, Deanie Richardson on fiddle, Hasee Ciaccio on acoustic bass, Jaelee Roberts on guitar and Mary Meyer on mandolin. They were kind enough to sit down with us and talk about their music, touring, songwriting and more.

**Who are your musical influences and what music do you enjoy**

Deanie: I don't listen to a lot of bluegrass. I tend to just get pumped up and want to play when I listen. I have a five-year-old granddaughter and I listen to whatever she's listening to. I love old school country, Patty Loveless, Vince Gill. Maybe a little Whitney Houston every now and then. Jaelee and I rock out. When we're going down the road we got it all going on. We have a disco in the car.



**listening to?**

Jaelee: I listen to everything. I could shuffle my playlist and you'd hear George Jones to Bill Monroe to classical music to Tupac. But I really love listening to old country music. I love Lee Ann Womack, Merle Haggard, George Jones, everybody. And all bluegrass.

Mary: Anything from Bob Wills, Roy Rogers, Sons of the Pioneers, western swing stuff. I grew up on classical music. I listen to bluegrass most when I'm playing it. I have more fun playing it more than just listening to it for fun.

Gena: I listen to a lot of bluegrass. If I'm in the car traveling I listen to a lot of singer-songwriters. I like listening to sad music, the sadder the better. I love James Taylor and John Mayer, pretty much everything but rap.

Hasee: I listen to some bluegrass, but I listen to a lot of old-time classic country. But I also love the Grateful Dead and some funk music, Lizzo and anything fun. Probably too much Grateful Dead.

**KEEP READING****What People Are Saying About Us**

*I purchased a new mandolin at Denver Folklore Center back in January. Saul sent a couple of emails afterwards and today, four months later, I received a call from him asking me how everything is with the mando and reminding me that I get complimentary stringing and cleaning. I was quite surprised by that and very appreciative. AND I am enjoying that mandolin. - C.B.*



### Staff Picks: Larrivée 00-05 (1996)

As we're not Larrivée dealers here at the Denver Folklore Center, we don't get to see as many of them as we might like, which makes it all the more special when one comes through our store on consignment.

Watch (and listen) as Austin gives the rundown on this wonderful little 00-05 from 1996. Then learn more about it on our website.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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## The One that Got Away - Gena Britt (Sister Sadie)

It seems like everyone has a tale of the instrument that got away. Gena Britt from Sister Sadie told us about hers.

"I had one that got away. It was stolen, but I got it back. It's one that my dad had bought me. It was stolen out of my house and was gone for about nine months. It's my 1966 Gibson RB250 Bowtie banjo that I still play today. That was pretty heart-wrenching because I got it when I was 12 years old. I live in North Carolina and I had a cousin that was an FBI agent and he helped me do some tracking down. They finally found it - it went through the pawn shops in Fort Bragg. That was a happy day when I got it back."

(photo source: [genabritt.com](https://www.genabritt.com))

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Denver Folklore Center Co-Owner Saul Rosenthal has some thoughts on the massive number of people who took up the guitar during the pandemic.

"During 2020 and 2021 there was plenty of anecdotal evidence that lots and lots of people were learning to play the guitar (and other instruments) as a pandemic activity. Our experience at the Denver Folklore Center was consistent with that pattern as our showroom was often more empty than at any other time in recent memory.

Now there are data to tell us exactly how many people took up guitar during those years. Fender Musical Instruments Corporation, together with YouGov, conducted a study in 2021 that showed 7% of the U.S. population ages 13-64 started to learn guitar during 2020 and 2021 with 62% citing COVID and lockdowns as the reason they took it up. That's 16 million new guitar players!"



For more highlights of the study, read more below.

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