

photo source: The Mamas & the Papas - by CBS Television - eBay itemphoto  
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Those of us in Colorado are currently experiencing "fake spring" but we know the real thing is just around the corner. We're dreaming of sunshine, being outside and listening to live music. You can enjoy some live music this week in Steamboat Springs at WinterWonderGrass! Banjo player Tray Wellington will be there and you can read about him below.

Also see our Canadian guitars from Norman and Simon & Patrick. Then meet Barry Osborne from Denver indie folk band Distance Walk and learn about his connection with the store. And we have a happy story from John Oates about

his Gibson guitar that got away. Then store co-owner, Saul Rosenthal talks about why shopping online is here to stay.

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## Friend of the DFC - Tray Wellington

Multi-instrumentalist, songwriter and bluegrass banjoist Tray Wellington got into music when he was young, listening to his grandpa play. Then he began playing electric guitar at fourteen years old.

"I was originally interested in learning rock guitar from listening to a lot of classic rock albums but then transitioned to also wanting to play bluegrass flatpicking in the style of Doc Watson. I heard banjo for the first time in middle school and instantly fell in love with the sound. From there I studied traditional bluegrass music and eventually started to branch out to more

Still in his early twenties, Tray has already received a number of awards and accolades, including two awards from the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) - 2019 IBMA Momentum Instrumentalist of the Year and 2019 Momentum Band of the Year (with Cane Mill Road).

Visit Tray's [website](#) where you can listen to his latest album [Black Banjo](#) and see his upcoming tour dates, including March 3<sup>rd</sup> at the WinterWonderGrass Festival in Steamboat Springs.

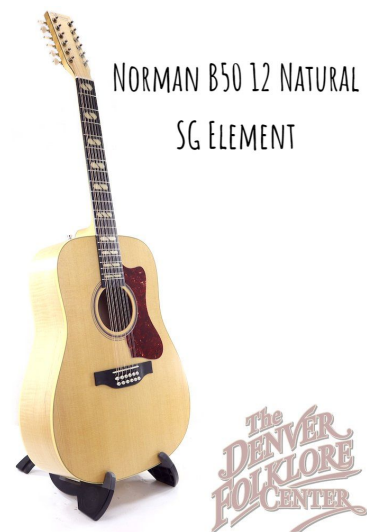
eclectic music forms and exploring new styles.”

## KEEP READING

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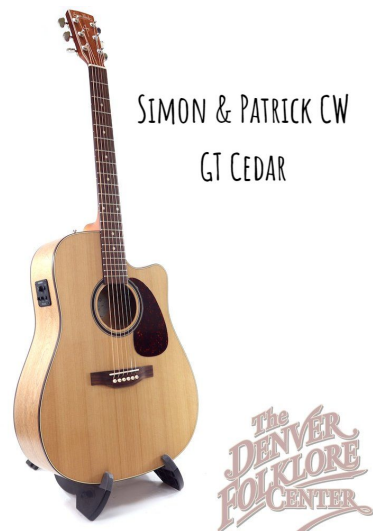
NORMAN B18 PARLOR  
CHERRY BURST GT-Q  
DISCRETE



NORMAN B50 12 NATURAL  
SG ELEMENT



NORMAN B20 NATURAL  
GT PRESYS II



SIMON & PATRICK CW  
GT CEDAR

## Guitars from Norman and Simon & Patrick!

We're thrilled to be carrying [Norman Guitars](#), a line crafted by Godin Guitars! We've had Norman on our wish list for some time now. These guitars are built in Quebec, Canada, and are some of the most affordable North American guitars currently available, with great sound and style to boot.

[Simon & Patrick](#) is also by Godin, and just like the excellent name brand that has won fans all over the world, Simon & Patrick's instruments are built with

immense care by expert luthiers in Quebec.

Visit the store and play them today!

**SHOP NOW**

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## **What People Are Saying About Us**

*What a wonderful store for my purchase of a new mountain dulcimer. They were knowledgeable and had experience with the manufacturer. They even had a capo for it! Fun experience. – D.S.*

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## Meet Barry Osborne from Distance Walk

Denver-based indie folk quartet Distance Walk is Niki Tredinnick (vocals, clarinet and percussion), Olivia Shaw (fiddle), Seth Fine (guitar) and Barry Osborne (banjo and vocals). Barry is the primary songwriter for the group (and Niki and Olivia front their own bands that highlight their original songs). He describes the music of Distance Walk as a mix of “old-time folk, post-punk, Celtic and baroque music. It’s a melodic sound that is ethereal and down to earth.” He shared his thoughts with us about the band, musicians that have impacted him, performing live and more.

In his early 20s, Barry taught himself to play the banjo ... to a point. Then in his mid-30s he knew he wanted "some instruction so I could get further and do more and play with other musicians. I wanted to learn old-time playing, so I started taking group lessons at Swallow Hill Music and it changed my playing and my life. My clawhammer banjo teacher was (former DFC store manager) Jeff Jaros. Jeff is wonderful and he set me off on a great path. Last year I took some lessons from (friend of the DFC) Sam Armstrong-Zickefoose and I highly recommend lessons with him.”



## KEEP READING

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Photo credit: [www.johnnoates.com](http://www.johnnoates.com)

### **The One that Got Away - John Oates**

Friend of the DFC, John Oates, told us his story of the instrument that got away - and there's a happy ending:

"When I was a senior in high school in 1966, I bought a Gibson SG Standard guitar (like the guitar in the photo). It was a red solid body electric guitar. I was living in Philadelphia and had a good friend, Roger, who was a beginner/intermediate guitar player, but he didn't have a guitar. I had a few guitars, so I told him to take the SG Standard on permanent loan and that one of these days I'd get it back from him. Well, I never got it back.

"About three or four years ago I went to Philadelphia to do a concert and when I got to the hotel there was a message for me - it was from Roger's sister. She said Roger had passed away and his final words were 'make sure John gets his guitar back'.

"So, I called her and she said she couldn't deliver it because it was Friday and she was an Orthodox Jewish person, but her Rabbi would drop off the guitar. Sure enough, the Rabbi dropped off the guitar at the hotel and I got that guitar back. It was exactly like it was when I gave it to Roger. He was a world traveler, he used to hitchhike around, and in the guitar case were brochures from Spain, Greece and other places. It was pretty amazing. Good karma."

### READ MORE STORIES

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Denver Folklore Center Co-Owner, Saul Rosenthal, gives his thoughts on why online shopping isn't going anywhere soon.

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted American businesses including retail

musical instrument stores like the Denver Folklore Center. However, the roots of some of these changes can be traced back a decade or more.

It was 2010 when the automobile industry first introduced online buying. Seven years later Zillow began using e-commerce to buy and sell houses sight unseen. If you can buy houses and cars through e-commerce there really are no limits to what consumers can acquire without ever leaving home.

The COVID-19 pandemic, by restricting people's in-person options and messing up supply chains, probably did more to increase the number of people buying online than anything GOOGLE, Meta or Amazon could ever do. To this day I have no idea why people were hoarding toilet paper but not water and food.

Among the lasting changes are that more people now work from home, Zoom and Google Meet are routinely used in place of meetings in offices, conference rooms and hotels, doctors examine their patients remotely, restaurant food is now routinely delivered and many people found the time for improving relationships, fixing up their homes and taking up new hobbies. Which brings me to the impact COVID-19 had on the musical instrument world.

## KEEP READING

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