



This month we've got a little something for everyone. First, we spoke with Friend of the Denver Folklore Center and Leftover Salmon founding member, Vince Herman, about his music and touring. Then we have HUGE discounts on our Mandolindos and Octolindos - see what's in stock! Next, another tale of The One that Got Away (this time it's a happy story). Get to know store staff member Katie Belknap. And Jamie Deering of Deering Banjos is featured in our "Meet the Builders" segment. All this and more in this month's newsletter.



Friend of the Denver Folklore Center:

Vince Herman from Leftover Salmon

Vince Herman is a singer, songwriter and co-founder of the legendary band, Leftover Salmon. He spoke with us about his childhood, time living in Colorado and "getting lost together" in music.

From Polka to Bluegrass

Growing up in Pittsburgh, PA, Vince was part of a big family and surrounded by music. "I saw a lot of polka bands as a kid. I was the youngest of seven kids, so I was influenced by all my older siblings' musical interests. I just devoured them on the family record player, from Motown to the British Invasion and more *rock 'n' roll* like Traffic and Humble Pie."

It was a music festival that really got the ball rolling musically for Vince. "In eighth grade I went to the Smokey City Folk Festival and saw this group of about thirty people playing underneath a tree. I assumed they had just met each other, and there they were making this music ... it was mind boggling that these folks could come together and play this stuff and that opened the door to the social aspect of music for me. It never occurred to me that by playing and learning these tunes I could travel anywhere and meet people and have this instant bond and musical camaraderie. That was a real revelation to me about what

Although the country and rock genres were popular at the time, Vince began branching out musically. "I was listening to Charlie Daniels and Marshall Tucker, southern rock. But more and more folks like David Bromberg and Doc Watson got into my ears and opened the door to bluegrass. When I moved to West Virginia and got into the old-timey music scene and got to play with heroes like Melvin Wine and Mose Coffman, that really connected me deep into the American roots scene. I guess I've been chasing that ever since."

A Hippie with a Guitar

Vince took guitar lessons from third to seventh grade, then began teaching in eighth grade until he went away to college. "I took piano lessons but the guitar caught my eye. When I was two years old, my brother made me a little plywood guitar with rubber band strings. I used to entertain my mother's card club. We were a strict Irish German Catholic family and the cultural revolution was going on, so my brothers and sisters dressed me up like a hippie, because they weren't allowed to be. I have a photo of myself at age two dressed like one of The Beatles. Not much has changed in my life – I'm still a hippie with a guitar."

music can do. From that point on I really dug into bluegrass."

[Read More](#)



**MANDOLINDO
ARTIST**

**HUGE
SALE**

~~\$2,100~~
\$1,895





**OCTOLINDO
DELUXE**

**BIG
SAVINGS**

~~\$3,650~~
\$2,995



SAVE BIG on our Mandolindo and Octolindo!

The Mandolindo is an exciting instrument built by master luthier Kilin Reece - a four-string, all solid wood mandolin with a round soundhole. These neat little instruments are perfect for mandolinists who want to try fingerpicking, have arthritis in their left hand or simply want to hear what this delightful and new instrument sounds like. After introducing the Mandolindo, Reece made his return to the octave mandolin with the Octolindo in 2021. We have these marked down and in stock now!

The Mandolindo Artist model features solid rosewood on the back and sides with a natural Engelmann spruce top. These instruments are constructed with careful attention and impeccable quality control. [BUY IT HERE.](#)

The Octolindo Deluxe is spectacular with a sunburst top and striking Indian rosewood on the back and sides. The premium tonewoods give the Deluxe a huge, rich, guitar-like sound while retaining the unique character of a mandolin-style instrument. [BUY IT HERE.](#)



Anna Halaburda (friend of the store) and The One that Got Away

In 1969 I purchased my first "good" guitar, a 1962 second-hand Gibson SJ through a friend of mine. It was love at first play. I learned Mississippi John Hurt tunes, Dave Van Ronk fingerstyle songs as well as ragtime, blues and odd ditties. I played that guitar at marches, sit-ins, in the rain at festivals ... but mostly in my living room with friends. At one point I sold that SJ to my best friend, Deborah, with the provision that if she ever sold it, I would have the right of first refusal to buy it back at the same price that I sold it to her - \$250.

She played at my wedding, she moved, I moved and we lost touch. 45 years later I received a call asking me if I was the "me", and I was. We reconnected, I traveled to Massachusetts to reconnect and she gave me back the guitar and said that \$250 was just rent that she paid for the time she had the guitar. The guitar is not hers, not mine but ours. I get it for a while, then she gets it back when she wants it. We were always best friends and after 45 years of separation, we still are.

We are now old and our bones don't move as well as they used to, but our love for each other, music and that old SJ makes me realize that music and the instruments that deliver bring us all closer together. Music and friendship make my life rich!

Read more stories of The One that Got Away [HERE](#).

photo source: reverb.com



Staff Spotlight: Katie Belknap

Katie Belknap is one of our amazing staff members at the Denver Folklore Center. Originally from Hermosa Beach, CA, her “parents got me into oldies and classic rock at a young age. One of my earliest memories is my dad dancing us around the family room listening to “Blue Moon Nights” by John Fogerty. He got me into Bob

She received her bachelor's degree in geography at Cal State Long Beach in 2019, and in 2021 began a master's program at CU Denver, studying city planning and historical preservation. Katie quickly learned it was not for her.

“I decided I wanted to work a job that

Dylan, Neil Young, Bruce Springsteen, and my mom got me into Tom Petty, Led Zeppelin, Paul Simon, Cat Stevens ... just to name a few."

Katie began learning guitar about four years ago when a childhood friend started teaching her. "I began to practice and teach myself and I've been playing fairly regularly. I play acoustic guitar mainly, sometimes electric. I play a little piano and bongos, and I'm currently learning banjo and mandolin. I also love to play harmonica and guitar at the same time, I find it to be a fun challenge and I love the sound of acoustic guitar and harmonica together. I'm a Bob Dylan wannabe, what can I say?"

aligned with my passions, and the Denver Folklore Center has so far brought me a lot of joy. Saul, Claude, Austin, Ian, Angus and John are all amazing and talented people who I enjoy spending the days with and learning from. I also feel lucky to have been trained by Jeff Jaros before he retired, he is chock-full of knowledge and humor and I'm glad I got to learn from him as well.

Katie says she learns "something new every day working at the shop, and I feel lucky to be working a job I love and feel passionate about. I'm looking forward to learning more about music, as there is endless knowledge to be had."

Next time you're in the store, be sure to say "hi" to Katie.



What People Are Saying About Us

Attentive and very knowledgeable staff! Found the guitar I was looking for within the price range I had hoped - the owner really listened to find out what I was looking for and match that to the right guitar, rather than just trying to 'sell' what was on hand. A great experience. – T.B.



Meet the Builders: Jamie Deering - Deering Banjos

Jamie Deering, daughter of Janet and Greg Deering, the founders of Deering Banjos, grew up around the factory and held positions in production over the years, and in 2019, she became the company's CEO. She spoke with us about her role at Deering, the challenges they faced during the pandemic and the future of the company.

Jamie has been a part of [Deering Banjos](#) since she was five years old. "I went to festivals and hung out around the booth and learned to answer questions early. I worked events with my mom when I was about fourteen years old. I always knew I would be part of the future of the company, I just didn't know how."

She says she never felt pressure to be in the family business. "I was in theater growing up and could have done anything. I studied communication and organization and traveled. I was always an ear for my mom in my twenties. I grew up hearing all the challenges and how they were resolved, so I always had a deep understanding of what it all means, what our business is and the values."

When Jamie became CEO of Deering she "definitely got trial by fire. What timing – a pandemic! Every week my mom has said 'I'm so glad I handed it over to you!' But it was good because I handle stress and dealing with a group very well – that's one of my strengths." Even when they had to shut down and

temporarily furlough their crew - “one of the worst days of our lives” - she knew they were going to carry on. “Exactly how or when – no one had that answer. “

KEEP READING



Denver Folklore Center Co-Owner Claude Brachfeld shares his thoughts on how women are establishing themselves as a fundamental part of bluegrass music:

During the decades of the formation and maturation of bluegrass as a distinct musical style, it was almost exclusively a male domain. On stage, on vinyl and in the picking circles at festivals, the hot players and bandleaders were men, with an occasional female vocalist or supporting player representing a rare exception.

A seismic shift took place in 1987, when Alison Krauss released her first album and toured the summer music festivals. The impact of seeing this 16-year-old National Fiddle Champion (also a supremely talented vocalist) tearing it up as the front person of her own band, resonated powerfully with audiences. After winning many Grammys, playing for multiple presidents and delighting audiences from Portland to Prague, Ms. Krauss remains a dominant figure both in bluegrass and crossover genres.

Among her memorable performances is the night in 2007 when she invited 10-year-old mandolin prodigy Sierra Hull to join her onstage at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville. Sierra later became the first Presidential Scholar at the Berklee College of Music in Boston and a go-to for countless collaborations with older, established players who appeared to delight in mentoring the demure young woman with the powerhouse chops and angelic voice.

[READ MORE](#)

Contact Us

Denver Folklore Center
1893 S Pearl Street
Denver, CO 80210

Phone: 303-777-4786
Email: info@denverfolklore.com
Website: denverfolklore.com

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

