



Welcome to our November newsletter. Do you have a vintage musical instrument you're looking to sell - we can help! And we spoke to music legend Judy Collins about her career, current concert tour and podcast. And meet one of our recommended music teachers, fiddle player Deb Carstensen. Are you in the market for a banjo? If so, we've got you covered with our selection from top makers. All this plus Harry Tuft tells us the story behind some vintage photos from the store. Keep scrolling to read all about it.



Friend of the Denver Folklore Center: Judy Collins

Judy Collins is an award-winning singer-songwriter and a music legend. She also happens to be a Friend of the DFC. Ms. Collins moved from Seattle to Denver, CO in 1949 (when she was 10 years old). She and the DFC go way back to the early Harry Tuft days - she's visited the store and Swallow Hill "for various things over the years".

That's why we were pleased when she took time during her current tour to speak with us about her latest album and popular podcast.

Judy Collins - Live at The Town Hall, NYC revisits her 1964 concert there and boasts nearly the same setlist.

The idea came from the folks at the town hall who called her and asked if she "would please do a refresher for people". She was excited because the first concert she performed was at the venue.

"I had to go back and relearn a number of the songs I didn't know anymore. It was great! I did a Dylan and some others, and it was quite exciting. Of course, it's wonderful to have an audience and I've played that hall so many times. It's so beautiful and I had a great band, and everyone laughed at my jokes, so it was a lot of fun."

Read more of our interview with Judy Collins [HERE](#).



We've all heard about (and experienced) various shortages and delivery delays over the last 18-24 months. Remember the great toilet paper and Lysol wipes crisis? Well today it's computer chips, new cars, bicycles – and quality guitars – that are in high demand and short supply.

The Denver Folklore Center has been the go-to source for the best vintage and rare acoustic instruments for decades. In recent weeks we've represented and sold through consignment vintage instruments from Martin, Guild, Gibson, Ome, Bishline, Slingerland and other top line builders.

So, if you have a quality guitar, banjo or mandolin in good condition that you just haven't been playing, or perhaps you want to make room in your collection for something new, we can use our marketing outreach to help you find a buyer and obtain the best price.

Give us a call or stop by the store and we'll see if we can help you make that sale. And learn more about how to consign your instruments with us [HERE](#).



Banjos

If you are keen on the banjo, known for its unmistakable sound and musical style adaptability, the Denver Folklore Center is your go-to destination. We offer a broad selection of new, used and vintage banjos from popular companies like Deering, Recording King, Gold Tone, Pisgah and Ome (hand-crafted in Boulder, CO) – both open-back and resonator style, in a wide range of prices. See our [online selection](#) or visit the store and speak to one of our banjo experts and start strumming today!



What People Are Saying About Us

"So great to have such a wonderful music shop in our Platt Park neighborhood. Selection is broad and everyone is so knowledgeable and friendly!" – S.R.



Music Teacher Spotlight - Deb Carstensen

Deb Carstensen has been teaching fiddle around the Denver area since 2000. She has taught privately and at Swallow Hill Music school.

The Student

Deb first began taking violin lessons in fifth grade and continued to play throughout high school. She says, "I had a great teacher, Buddy

"It was then that I found Ron Jones at Swallow Hill. He said he could help me learn and he taught classical students who wanted to learn how to play in fiddle styles."

Like any good music teacher, Jones gently nudged her forward musically. "He would say 'Okay, now you want to learn how to do blah

Huthmaker. He was a tremendous conductor as well and took our orchestra to different places in Georgia and Alabama. I really appreciated him.” But when she couldn’t find anyone to play classical music with during college, she put the violin away for about 15 years without touching it.

Then one day, while living in Denver, she decided to learn to play by ear and improvise. “My goal was to be able to sit in my living room and play. I tried to find a teacher who taught by ear, but it was hard to find in the Yellow Pages.”

blah blah, because when you play with other people and perform...’ and I thought, I never play with other people and I’m not going to perform. But he kept pushing me along.”

Cut to eight years later and he and Deb were in a band together with other musicians. “He’s a great fiddler and he knows so many different styles. I owe him a lot and I try to make sure he understands that.”

Read more about Deb [HERE](#). If you're ready to learn fiddle with Deb text or call her at 303.408.3010, and you can connect with her on Facebook [HERE](#).





Vintage Photos from the Denver Folklore Center

We asked Denver Folklore Center founder Harry Tuft to give us his take on some vintage photos from the store. Here's what he had to say.

Harry on a bench: "Larry Shirkey took the photo. Rick Kirby must have purchased this sign telling people where to find the Denver Folklore Center – I had left and gave him the name and inventory. Rick moved the store to South Broadway. Once I had vacated the property they tore it down because they made a deal with 7/11 to lease the property and after 25 years the land and the building would revert to the owners. So I got myself down on the bench and Larry took the photo."

Elizabeth Cotten: "Larry Shirkey took this photo in the original Denver Folklore Center on a bench, a replica of which exists in the new store. The original store was a concert hall and we had a number of the benches - one of them was bought by Charles Sawtelle (an American bluegrass musician and a member of the band Hot Rize who passed away in 1999) when the original store was dismantled and donated by his family when the store reopened."

Taj Mahal: "This photo was taken in the original Denver Folklore Center. Taj Mahal played in the Folklore Center hall in the '70s - I have a recording of him playing. The shelves are Folklore Center shelves - the original Folklore Center had old wood – I sought out barn wood from a place that sold new and used wood, it was the cheapest to find because the Folklore Center in New York had

old barn wood. So what you see is the original barn wood with the different heights at the top.”

See more photos and stories [HERE](#).

Contact Us

Denver Folklore Center
1893 S Pearl Street
Denver, CO 80210

Phone: 303-777-4786

Email: info@denverfolklore.com

Website: denverfolklore.com

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