

photo credit: Larry Shirkey



This month's Denver Folklore Center newsletter is sure to educate and entertain. First, it's the 50th anniversary of Carole King's landmark album *Tapestry*. Then we begin our series of music teacher spotlights with multi-instrumentalist Mark Caldwell. See what he has to say about music lessons, then read our blog post "The Advantages of Taking Music Lessons". All this, plus Rosanne Cash, Martin Guitar's online journal and our latest website addition - Folk Outside the Box - which showcases our selection of alternative instruments.



Carole King - *Tapestry*

In February, Carole King's album *Tapestry* celebrated its 50th Anniversary. The legacy of King's masterpiece has stood the test of time and it's considered one of the most critically-acclaimed popular music recordings. She was awarded four Grammys in 1972 for the release of *Tapestry*, including Album of the Year. And she was the first solo woman to win the Grammy for Record of the Year and the first woman to win Song of the Year.

Rolling Stone Magazine and *Village Voice*, among others, gave the album accolades upon its release. *Rolling Stone* still lists the album at number twenty-five of the 500 All-Time Greatest Recordings. Commercially, the record was equally impressive. It held the number one spot on the Billboard Top 200 for fifteen weeks straight. She remains the record holder for the most consecutive weeks at number one by a female solo artist. Carole King helped to pave the way for the singer/songwriter revolution of the '70's and for female artists in general. Fifty years later, she continues to inspire and influence musicians and songwriters.

Listen to *Tapestry* [here](#).



Music Teacher Spotlight - Mark Caldwell

Mark Caldwell is an accomplished multi-instrumentalist and one of our highly recommended music teachers. He grew up loving music and started playing the violin and drums early on, adding guitar and mandolin in high school. About seven years ago (DFC founder) Harry Tuft, who owned the store at the time, “needed a banjo teacher and asked would I want to teach. I said sure and that’s how I got into banjo. I teach three-finger style (Scruggs style) and clawhammer/frailing.”

He began teaching guitar in 1995 at [Swallow Hill](#), where he taught for about ten years. A few years later he began teaching at the Denver Folklore Center (where he worked). That lasted until about five years ago when the store no longer had available space. He then rented a space at Cameron United Methodist

I really enjoy watching people grow and achieve their goals. I think people get a lot of enjoyment out of music - it feeds the soul. I feel like I’m a facilitator for that by teaching.”

Mark believes there are those “who can learn from books and YouTube, but the predominance of people benefit greatly from taking lessons with someone that can answer questions. They have someone guiding them through the things they need to do to advance. I think with in-person lessons, you’re not practicing something incorrectly and having to break those habits. If you’re seeing someone once a week they can keep you in line with what you need to do and give you a shortcut to learning.”

Mark also performs (when there’s not a pandemic). He plays in a few groups – one that performs reggae,

Church (where he currently teaches).

Mark teaches guitar (acoustic and electric), banjo, ukulele and mandolin both in-person and online. "I'll teach just about any style - bluegrass, reggae, blues, jazz, folk, pop, rock, whatever people are into. And I listen to everything from African music to European classical. I like it all." There are many aspects of teaching Mark enjoys. "I like the communication, the intimate setting where you're talking about music and explaining musical ideas and how music works.

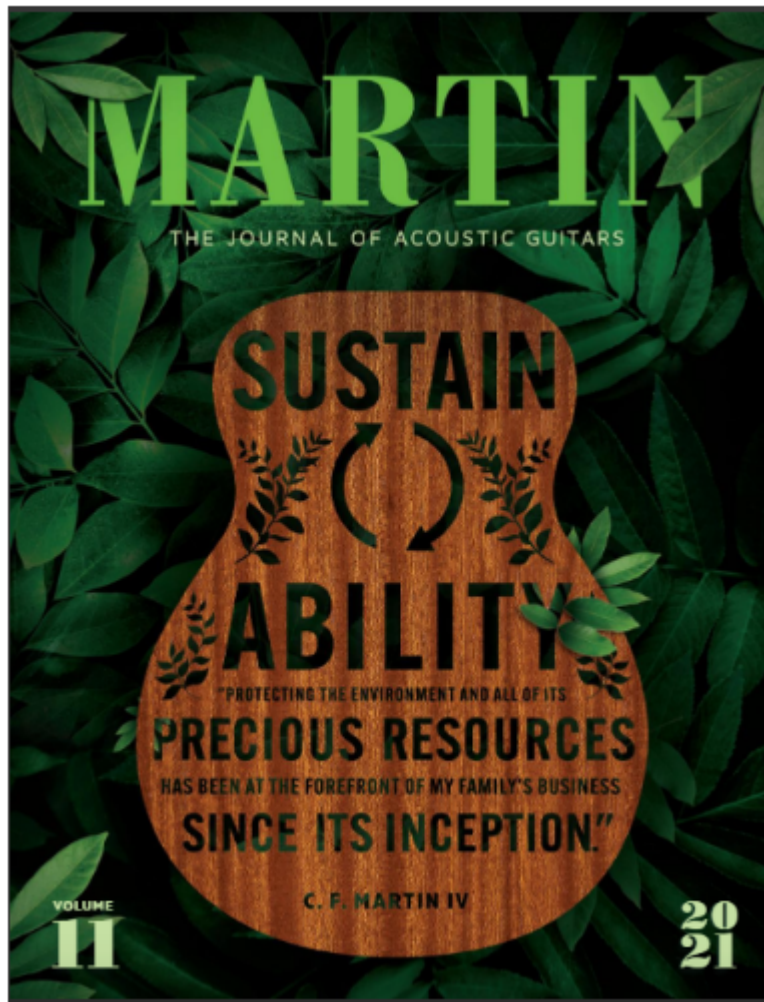
African and Caribbean music called The Healing Force. Another group does jazz and pop-type music called Body and Soul. And he freelances, playing with other folks. "There are a lot of years (of experience) playing and teaching that go into my teaching. Also, I recommend everyone go to the Denver Folklore Center for all their needs, because it's a great store."

To learn more contact Mark at markcaldwell54@hotmail.com or 720-934-3864.



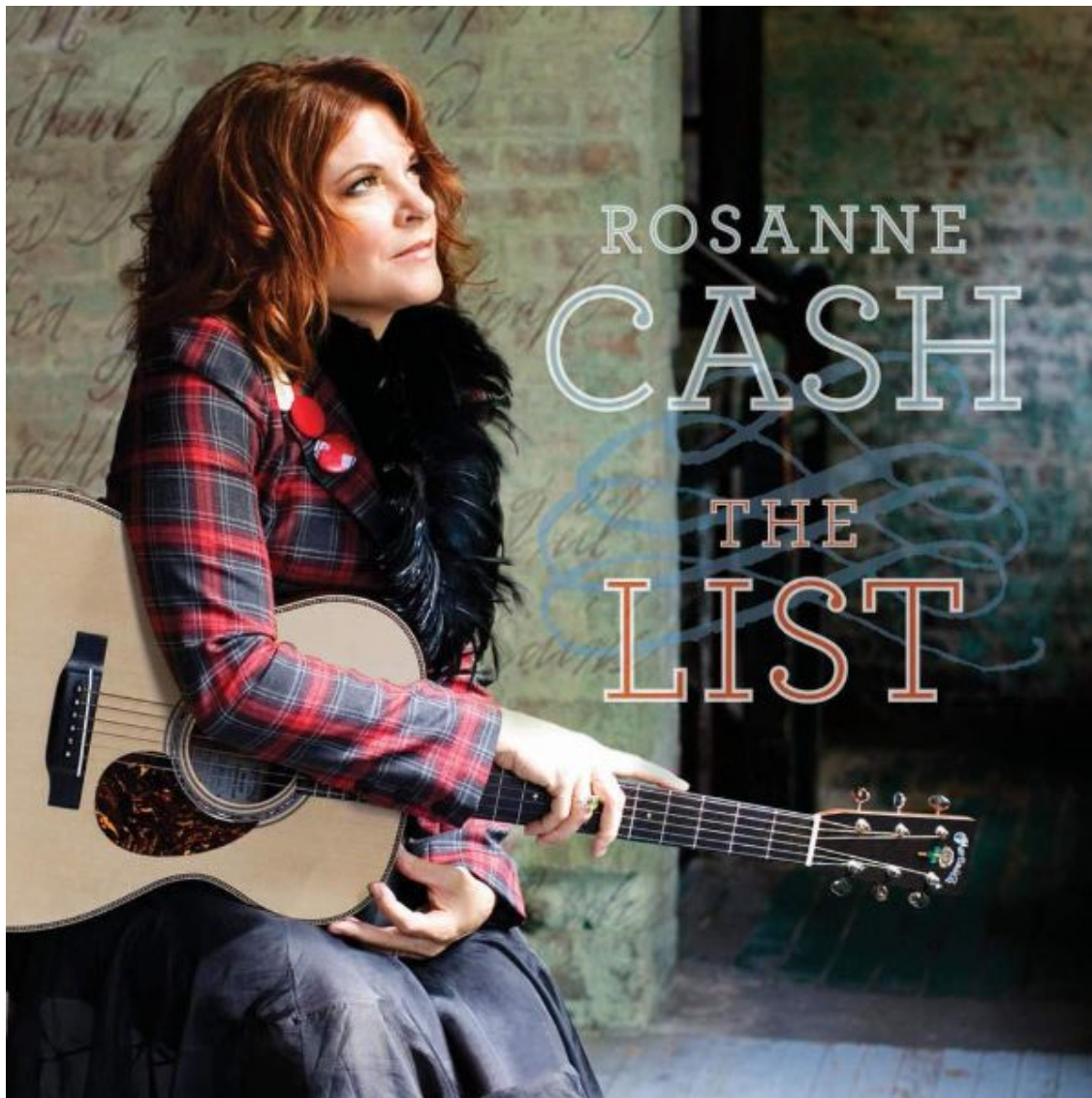
What People Are Saying About Us

"I have been a customer of the Denver Folklore Center for many years. They are always helpful and personable no matter what I need, be it strings or a new fiddle. Everyone that works there knows a LOT about all aspects of acoustic instruments from setup to repairs. I know if I have any questions or need help, I can call or stop by and they will take care of it. This is the only acoustic music store I will do business with in the metro area." – G.D.



Martin Guitar - Online Journal

Martin's Online Journal of Acoustic Guitars is a deep dive into the world of Martin. Each issue chronicles their history, players, artisans and beliefs. See the latest issue and an archive of all issues online [here](#).



We Recommend...*The List*

When she was eighteen years old, Johnny Cash gave his daughter Rosanne a list of 100 essential country songs in an effort to expand her knowledge of country music. On her thirteenth album, *The List* (released in 2009), Rosanne Cash reinterprets twelve of the songs from the list through her own perspective on country music, her father and her life in New York City instead of Nashville. It also includes guest performances by Bruce Springsteen, Elvis Costello, Jeff Tweedy and Rufus Wainwright.

The album contains country songs made famous by Jimmie Rodgers, the Carter Family, Don Gibson, Ray Price, Lefty Frizzell, Patsy Cline, and other country stars, as well as the traditional folk song "Motherless Children" and folk numbers by Bob Dylan and Peter, Paul and Mary. Three songs had previously been recorded by her father: "Sea of Heartbreak", "The Long Black Veil", which he had recorded and performed numerous times, and "Girl from the North

Country", a Bob Dylan song that was re-recorded as a duet between Dylan and Cash in 1969.

Listen to *The List* [here](#).



The Advantages of Taking Music Lessons

During the past year, music has become an even more important part of our lives. We haven't been able to attend concerts or play music with friends due to the pandemic. Perhaps it's the lack of musical connection with others (and boredom) that's inspired so many people to purchase a new musical instrument. So much so that instrument manufacturers can't keep up with demand.

So, what do you do when you have that new guitar or banjo in your hands? How do you even begin to learn? Sure, there are YouTube videos and music books. But for the beginner or someone who wants to take their playing to the next level, the best choice is finding a music teacher. Find out why in our latest blog post [here](#).



Folk Outside the Box

Folk instruments come in all shapes and sizes. We try to keep a selection of 'alternative' instruments in our inventory that may serve to inspire you to create new sounds.

We now have a web page devoted to some of our favorite hybrid, obscure-design and otherwise unique instruments we have to offer at the shop, including a Gold Tone 6-String Lap Steel, Kala U-Bass, Eastman El Rey and a Gold Tone Electric Mandolin. See them all on our [Alternative Instruments page](#).

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