



Summer is finally here and things are hotter than ever at the Denver Folklore Center! Our July newsletter features our latest blog post about the return to live music. We spoke to musicians, music fans and industry folks to get their take on what this means to the industry and community. Read all about it! Meet "Friend of the Folklore" Center Summers Baker from Colorado bluegrass band Meadow Mountain. And are you in the market for a banjo? We've got some beauties from OME banjos for you to check out. Then learn about Joshua Fenner in our Music Teacher Spotlight - this guy can do it all. All this and more, so let's dive right in!



Friends of the Folklore Center

Meadow Mountain's Summers Baker

If you're not already a fan of Colorado bluegrass band Meadow Mountain, you soon will be. They are front and center on the national bluegrass music scene with the release of their second album coming this summer. And the band is no stranger to the Denver Folklore Center. Members stop by occasionally, trying out new instruments and performing (see our [YouTube channel](#)).

Members of Meadow Mountain include Summers Baker (guitar), Jack Dunlevie (mandolin), Sam Armstrong-Zickefoose (banjo), Ian Parker (fiddle) and Wilson Luallen (bass). Summers remembers the band began "as a bunch of friends getting together to play for tips at the Vail Farmers Market and connected over a love of the genre and a desire to improve as musicians."

When he's not playing music, Summers works at Steam Espresso Bar (down the street from the Folklore Center). "Years ago, I started stopping into the Folklore Center during work breaks to play their guitars. The staff there has always been incredibly welcoming to me, and I have learned a great deal about guitars from them."

As fate would have it, Summers bought his dream guitar from the Folklore Center in 2020 - a Bourgeois D-DB signature (see it in the photos). The guitar made its gigging debut on stage at Red Rocks and "it feels right that the guitar found me by way of the Folklore Center".

Meadow Mountain is releasing their second album this summer and would love for friends of the Folklore Center to tune in for the release. You can follow Meadow Mountain and stay up to date on [Instagram](#) [Facebook](#) and their [Website](#). And read more about Summers Baker on our website [HERE](#).



Ute Banjos

Ute banjos are made in Boulder Colorado by the same folks who make OME banjos. Ute banjos come in both an eleven-inch (comes with a Fiberskyn head) and twelve-inch (comes with a Renaissance head), both giving an old-time tone while still maintaining the clarity and definition you'd want from a quality banjo. Learn more about these fine instruments [HERE](#).



Live Music Is Back!

It seems like a lifetime ago since we could plan a musical evening out with friends and family. We only realized last year how meaningful those times were and that we may have taken them for granted. But we've weathered the Covid

storm and life finally seems to be returning to normal. And that means LIVE MUSIC IS BACK!

For those of us that live and breathe music, this is what we've been waiting for. The thrill of tossing a blanket on the grass, hanging out with our loved ones and listening to musicians play is possible and it's already happening around the country. So, what does this return to live music mean to musicians, concert goers and venues? We asked a few folks and here's what they had to say.

Summers Baker, guitarist from [Meadow Mountain](#) "feels a wide range of emotions as I return to live performance. But simply put, it is good to reconnect with the thing that gets me out of bed in the morning."

Bluegrass band [Nefesh Mountain's](#) Eric Lindberg and Doni Zasloff "can't wait to get back to performing live, but it is a little scary. We haven't played on stage in over a year, but we've played hundreds of Zoom concerts. It's a little nerve-racking considering our first show will be MerleFest in North Carolina - it's one of the big granddaddies of bluegrass festivals and we have to get our stuff together. We were such a well-oiled machine before the pandemic, so now it will be an adjustment."

Read more about the return to live music from music fans, [Carolyn Shulman](#), a Denver-based folk singer-songwriter, Denver City Councilman Paul Kashmann and Paul Lhevine, CEO [Swallow Hill](#) Music, in our latest blog post [HERE](#).



What People Are Saying About Us

"Thank you again for the exceptional customer service. I have already bragged about Denver Folklore to friends this afternoon. You folks are the best!" - G.A.



Music Teacher Spotlight - Joshua Fenner

Avid musician and music educator, Joshua Fenner says music has always been an important part of his life. His interest began in kindergarten and in fifth grade he got his first violin. Then around sixth grade he began to compose music and sing. "I had ensemble training in church, then in high school I took AP music classes and performed in different ensembles and rock bands."

Throughout college (he holds a B.A. focused in music theory, violin and composition from Metropolitan State University of Denver) Joshua studied with Eastman and Juilliard violinists. "I feel lucky to have such a varied musical experience."

Joshua's teaching career began right out of college - he even continues to teach one of his first students. His experience includes a stint at a

He teaches the same instruments but admits to having a few favorites - "I wish there were more mandolin people around. And I'm going to teach more synthesizer. I think people are opening up to the idea."

One of Joshua's side projects includes being the violinist and guitarist with the band Double Sun for the last five years. They are a modern rock group that showcases soundpainting, overtone singing and 20th century classical music. Check out their music [HERE](#).

Joshua believes taking music lessons benefits other areas of life. "When you have the consistency of taking lessons every week you start to develop aspirations to be a better person when you're playing your instrument. When you take it seriously, you're doing the work and

music school (as head of their guitar dept) in Highlands Ranch – “we did some epic recitals” – and then two years ago he transitioned to his current position at Swallow Hill Music. “I run group classes there and still teach at my private studio.”

He plays a wide range of instruments including violin, guitar, mandolin and ukulele, as well as a little piano and synthesizer. “Anything with a fret on it I can pick up.”

being prepared and practicing every week, you will find value in that and apply it to everything else in your life.”

Learn more about Joshua [HERE](#) and contact him about music lessons [HERE](#).



The 49th Annual RockyGrass Festival

The 49th Annual [RockyGrass Festival](#) will take place July 23-25 and is held at the Planet Bluegrass Ranch in Lyons, Colorado - located along the wooded banks of the beautiful St. Vrain River in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Unfortunately the event is sold out, but the lucky ticket holders will hear artists including: Bela Fleck, Sam Bush, The Infamous Stringdusters, a Tony Rice tribute, Della Mae, Tony Trischka and The Lil Smokies. If you're going, who are you most looking forward to seeing?



We Recommend: Bob Dylan's *Nashville Skyline*

Bob Dylan's 1969 masterpiece *Nashville Skyline* was an album the music industry didn't anticipate. While other bands were experimenting with new sounds and pushing the boundaries of popular music, Dylan (once again) surprised the industry and released this traditional country record.

In addition to the new music genre, Dylan's voice had drastically changed - he claims it was due to his decision to stop smoking, while some believe he was trying to create a new vocal image to accompany his venture into country music.

Nashville Skyline also paved the way for a new kind of music - country rock - which opened the doors for bands like the Eagles. Singer-songwriter Kris Kristofferson commented that "the country scene was so conservative until Dylan arrived. He brought in a whole new audience. He changed the way people thought about it — even the Grand Ol' Opry was never the same again."

Fun Fact: *Nashville Skyline* was recorded in only four days! The pace suited the work style of the studio musicians and helped to keep studio recording costs down.

Listen to the album [HERE](#).

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