



This month's newsletter is packed! First, read about The Allman Brothers Band and their musical legacy. Then find out why we recommend *The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan*. And Taylor GS Minis are back in stock! Discover why they are so in demand. Learn about capos - what they do and why you should use one. Then talented banjo player and friend of the Folklore Center Sam Armstrong-Zickefoose stopped by and played for us and we share it with you. Let's get started!

---



## **The Allman Brothers Band: Innovation and Freedom**

The Allman Brothers Band was an influential musical group that recorded their first album in 1969. Through several iterations and personnel changes over the years, the band created many albums and toured on and off until 2014. The importance of their legacy was undeniable as a genre-smashing group of musicians. They combined influences ranging from folk, rock, country, blues, soul and jazz. They also employed some nonconventional instrumentation, such as using two lead guitarists and two drummers. It would be difficult to measure the lasting effect they had on musical styles and the artists who would follow.

Over the years the band was subject to trials and tribulations, both internal and external. They gained and lost members and separated only to be reinvented and reunited. They had commercial successes and failures. They suffered from infighting and the inevitable drama of a group of individuals stuck together for years at a time. Addiction, egos, tragedy and ultimately evolution can all be used to describe the Allman Brothers Band.

Learn more about these southern innovators in our latest blog post [here](#).

---



## We Recommend...*The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan*

*The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan*, released in 1963, is the second studio album by American singer-songwriter Bob Dylan. *Freewheelin'* represented the beginning of Dylan writing contemporary words to traditional melodies. Eleven of the thirteen songs on the album are his original compositions.

The album opens with "Blowin' in the Wind", which became an anthem of the 1960s, and an international hit for folk trio Peter, Paul & Mary soon after the release of *Freewheelin'*. The album featured several other songs which came to be regarded as among Dylan's best compositions and classics of the 1960s folk scene: "Girl from the North Country", "Masters of War", "A Hard Rain's a-Gonna Fall" and "Don't Think Twice, It's All Right". Dylan's lyrics embraced news stories drawn from headlines about the Civil Rights Movement and he articulated anxieties about the fear of nuclear warfare. Balancing this political material were love songs, sometimes bitter and accusatory, and material that features surreal humor.

Listen to the album [here](#).

---





A marvel of scaled-down design, the GS Mini is a fun little acoustic cannon that has taken the world by storm. Sporting a rich, full voice that belies its compact size, the Mini is ultra-portable, yet just as comfortable to cradle in the comfort of your home, making it the ultimate modern-day parlor guitar.

This instrument offers an inviting, intimate playing experience for guitarists of all styles and levels of ability. Thanks to the GS Mini's bold tone and projection, you'll have everything you need for practice, jam sessions and even live performances - and it comes with a gig bag.

We have four versions in stock - the Mahogany, Rosewood, Koa and Koa Plus. See our Taylor GS Minis [here](#).

---



## What People Are Saying About Us

*"I recently got a new guitar that was buzzing quite a bit. I took it to another place earlier in the day and they said they needed a few weeks to do a setup on it. Stopped into the Denver Folklore Center and they found the issue and fixed it for me within minutes. Very helpful attentive staff. Will go nowhere else for all my future acoustic needs. Highly recommend." - BW*

---

## Pono Octave Mandolins

---



## Capo Basics: What Are They & Why You Should Use One

If you are like many acoustic guitarists you probably prefer to play in certain keys – with C, G, D, E and A being the most popular. That's why you see lots of acoustic, folk and roots music written out in those keys.

What if you find a song you really like that's written in another, less familiar key – say F#? Or you need to raise the key in order to sing along more comfortably? Maybe you show up to a jam session and somebody wants to

lead a bluegrass classic in Bb? Fortunately, there is a handy device called a capo just for situations like these.

A capo is a device used on stringed musical instruments to temporarily hold down all the strings at once anywhere on the fretboard. This makes it easy to change keys while continuing to play your favorite chord shapes. For example, standard tuning on a guitar is E-A-D-G-B-E. If you put a capo on the third fret then each string is now three half steps higher. So, if you play a G chord with the capo on the third fret it's now a Bb chord. In short, a capo opens up the number of keys you play in without requiring you to play a lot of barre cords or learn new chord progressions.

Learn more about capos in our latest blog post [here](#), then watch our video "A Beginner's Guide To Capos" [here](#).



## Friend of the Folklore Center: Sam Armstrong-Zickefoose

Friend of the Folklore Center, Sam Armstrong-Zickefoose, has been coming to the store ever since he was a kid. Since then, he has become an exceptional banjo player and songwriter and is garnering some well-earned recognition! He was kind enough to sit down with our [Deering John Hartford Signature banjo](#) and play a few tunes. This [banjo](#) has a 'Pop-on' resonator that makes it easily convertible from bluegrass style to open-back.

Sam performs an original instrumental tune in the open-back position and a

snippet from "Won't You Come Sing For Me" by Hazel Dickens & Alice Gerrard in the resonator position. See the video [here](#).

And you can catch him picking banjo with the band [Meadow Mountain](#) on their upcoming album, as well as on his forthcoming solo album (stay tuned on his Instagram [page](#) and his [website](#) for more details).

---



## **Big Family: The Story of Bluegrass Music**

The history of bluegrass music, from its origins to its eventual worldwide popularity, is examined in the PBS documentary Big Family: The Story of Bluegrass Music.

Narrated by actor and bluegrass enthusiast Ed Helms, the film provides a comprehensive look at bluegrass music — what it is, key musicians who have shaped its sound, and its worldwide appeal. It explores the evolution of the bluegrass sound through generations of musicians, from early pioneers to young contemporary performers.

At the heart of the two-hour film is the music itself, as recordings and performance footage showcase and celebrate its unique sound. More than 50 musicians appear in the film, including Alison Brown, Dale Ann Bradley, Sam Bush, JD Crowe, Bela Fleck, Laurie Lewis, Del McCoury, Bobby Osborne, Ricky Skaggs, Chris Thile and many more.

Want to watch? It's available for streaming [here](#).

---

## Contact Us

Denver Folklore Center  
1893 S Pearl Street  
Denver, CO 80210

Phone: 303-777-4786

Email: [info@denverfolklore.com](mailto:info@denverfolklore.com)

Website: [denverfolklore.com](http://denverfolklore.com)

---

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