

The days are getting longer (and warmer) and we're looking forward to gathering once again with friends and loved ones. And there's nothing that brings people together like music! We've got a lot of it in this month's newsletter.

We're featuring some of our unique instruments, like a beautiful 2017 Collings C10-35 guitar and a classic 1966 Martin D-28. Wait till you see them! Then our music teacher spotlight shines on Barry Albright. Have you listened to Dakota Blonde? We'll tell you why you should. Then learn about the National Folk Festival which began all the way back in 1934. All this and more, so start scrolling.



Here Comes the Sun(burst)

We love to see gently used Collings guitars come through the store, like this 2017 Collings C10-35. This beauty is in near mint condition with only some very light pick marking on the pickguard.

It is undeniable that the good folks at [Collings Guitars](#) spray some of the nicest sunburst finishes in the industry. The hand voiced top of this new Collings C10-35 guitar proudly sports a classic sunburst reminiscent of the great shade top guitars of the 1930s.

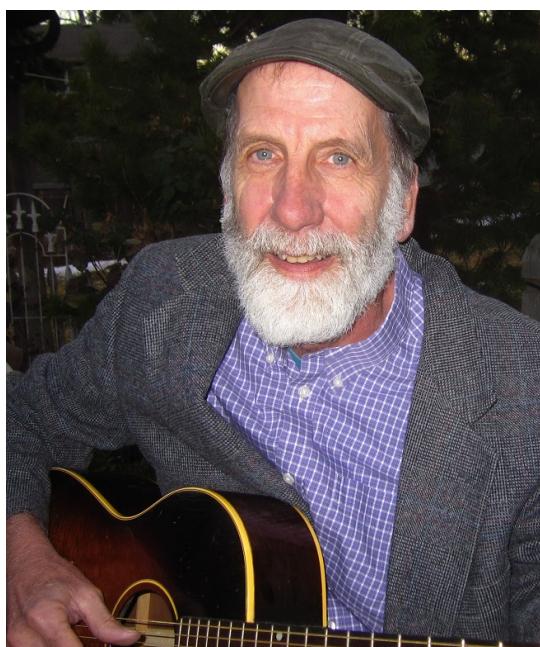
Tonally the instrument is surprisingly rich and sustaining for such a small package. Perhaps this is due to the incredibly light tonewoods used for the construction process. This guitar also includes the original Collings TKL Hardshell Case.

Learn more about this guitar on our website [here](#).



Dakota Blonde

Dakota Blonde is one of the most unique acoustic sounds around. Their combination of original tunes and carefully selected covers, along with their endearing stage presence and humor is out of this world. Their musical sound is hard to classify, but best put, they are acoustic folk, part bluegrass, part acoustic rock, part singer/songwriter and sometimes even Celtic. They are a unique blend of heart, authenticity and contagious spirit. Their acoustic sound is like no other, with such tightly blended harmonies that you would swear they were born to sing together. Learn more about them [here](#).



Music Teacher Spotlight - Barry Albright

Local Denver music teacher Barry Albright started out like most of us, taking music lessons as a kid. First, the piano and later guitar with one of the best teachers in St. Louis, Frank Wahl. Barry was lucky to get instruction in a broad range of styles including flat and finger pick in classical, flamenco, folk, pop and jazz music. These days Barry not only plays and teaches guitar (bass, open/alterd tunings and bottleneck slide), he's added banjo (three-finger and folk style) and ukulele.

After taking lessons for four years, Barry studied a bit of music theory in college and learned a lot by playing with other musicians. Over the years he's taken a few guitar workshops and voice lessons, but "also learned just by listening to lots of music. I'm self-taught on the banjo, bottleneck guitar, ukulele and bass". Barry began playing banjo in the '70s "to have more fun playing bluegrass and took up the slide after hearing the likes of Charlie Patton, Willie Johnson, Ry Cooder and Leo Kottke." He picked up the ukulele to work with kids "and because they are just plain fun to play".

When it comes to what he listens to, Barry likes Duke Ellington's idea that there are really just two types of music: the good kind and the other kind, and he likes almost any of the good kind. "My big sister was into early folk...Kingston Trio, Chad Mitchell Trio, Joan Baez and so on, so I listened to that when I was first starting to play, but also classical and standards." He discovered bluegrass music (as well as players like John Fahey, Norman Blake and Leo Kottke) in his twenties and later country blues and swing. Barry also performs and has "worked in folk duos and trios, bluegrass units, dance bands and blues groups as well as solo performances".

Learn more about Barry [here](#) and contact him at 303-669-2008 and baalbright@prodigy.net



What People Are Saying About Us

"Great shop for those who love acoustic music. Friendly staff, great selection of instruments, peripherals and instructional materials, and excellent shop work - the install on my mandolin pickup was perfect. Highly recommended!" - R.K.



Martin D-28 - The American Classic

Classics never go out of style and the Martin D-28 is the American classic guitar, used by countless artists (Johnny Cash, Neil Young, Doc Watson) on countless recordings since its introduction in 1931. This wonderful 1966 D-28 is exemplary of all the things that players have loved about Martin's flagship model. But while this guitar has all the chiming highs, cutting lows, and magnificent presence that you can find on almost any D-28, there are a few things that set it apart from the typical ilk.

The first, and most obvious, is the inclusion of Brazilian rosewood on the back

and sides, which Martin stopped using in 1969, switching to East Indian rosewood on the bulk of their guitars. But while Brazilian rosewood may be hard to come by, the incredible sound that guitars attain only after decades of playing is something less tangible and really what makes this instrument special. This is a single-owner guitar, kept in great shape. And the original price tag is inside the case's neck pocket!

Learn more about this classic guitar [here](#).

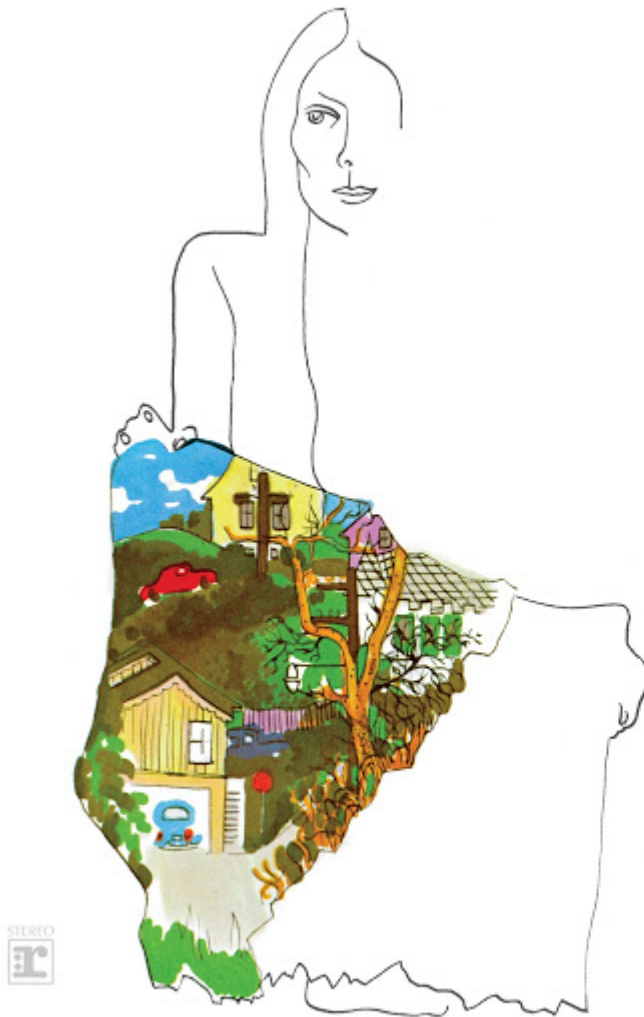


National Folk Festival

First held in 1934, the National Folk Festival is the oldest multicultural celebration of traditional arts in the country and the event that defined this form of presentation. Its most radical and enduring innovation was that of putting the arts of many nations, races and languages into the same event on an equal footing. The term "folk festival" had been used before the National Folk Festival was created, but it was used for monocultural events. With the National, this term acquired a new and inclusive definition.

The festival's founder was Sarah Gertrude Knott, who created the National Folk Festival Association in 1933. Eleanor Roosevelt was involved in the National's move to Washington, D.C. in 1938 when the festival settled in for a five-year stay (1938-42). She served as the National's Honorary Chair in 1938 and attended several festivals.

Learn more about the history of the National Folk Festival [here](#).



We Recommend...
Joni Mitchell's *Ladies of the Canyon*

Ladies of the Canyon, released in 1970, is the third studio album by Canadian singer-songwriter Joni Mitchell. It peaked at No. 27 on the Billboard 200 and has been certified platinum. The title refers to Laurel Canyon, a center of popular music culture in Los Angeles during the 1960s. And the album includes several of Mitchell's most noted songs, such as "Big Yellow Taxi", "Woodstock" and "The Circle Game".

The album is notable for its expansion of Mitchell's artistic vision and its varied song topics (ranging from the pressures of being a celebrity, to observation of

the Woodstock generation, to the complexities of love). *Ladies of the Canyon* is often viewed as a transition between Mitchell's folky earlier work and the more sophisticated, poignant albums that were to follow.

Listen to *Ladies of the Canyon* [here](#).



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Let's Make Some Noise!

No musical experience? We have just the thing – noise-makers and percussion instruments! These great sounding musical instruments can be played by anyone and are a fun addition to any jam session or family gathering. See our selection [here](#). And watch a demo of Amahi's 12" Tongue Drum [here](#).

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