



Notes From...



When Autumn Leaves Begin to Fall...

There's a chill in the evening air and the green leaves of summer are turning gold. That means Fall is almost here! So grab a pumpkin spice latte, kick back and enjoy our October newsletter. There's lots to read and we promise it's a treat, not a trick!

This month read an insightful article about international blues musician, Otis Taylor, written by Denver Folklore Center founder, Harry Tuft. We also introduce you to one of our Instrument Specialists, Mark Cawthray, and reveal the latest line of guitars from Taylor called The Grand Theatre. And help us celebrate the

groundbreaking album “Sweetheart of the Rodeo” by The Byrds, plus lots more!



Staff Focus - Mark Cawthray

Instrument Specialist, Mark Cawthray, was born in Allentown, Pennsylvania (near Martin Guitars in Nazareth), raised in Toledo, Ohio and moved to Colorado in 2000. He attended the University of Colorado

He would frequent the Folklore Center for strings and accessories and had several instruments repaired by John Rumley (who was a customer and acquaintance at the coffee shop - read more about John

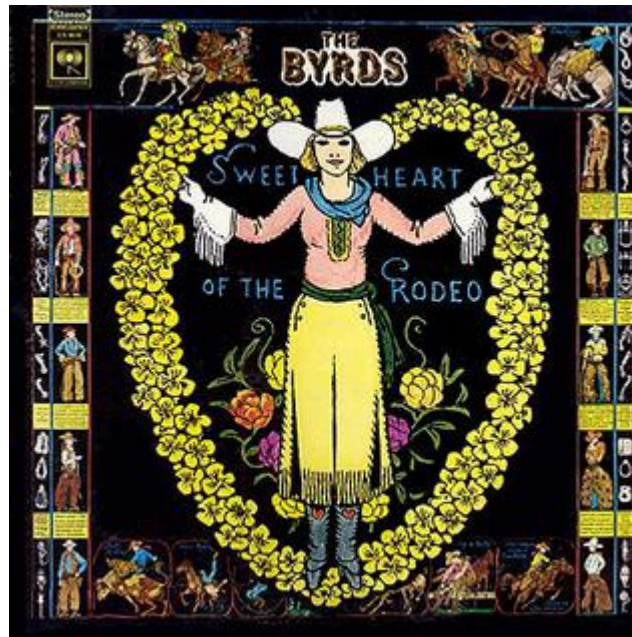
Denver and studied audio engineering, and during that time fell in love with the guitar. He began passively playing guitar at around 12 years old, but it wasn't until college that he started learning how to play it in earnest.

During college Mark gigged in groups around Denver, moonlit as a freelance live sound technician and worked just a few blocks away from the Denver Folklore Center at Stella's Coffee Haus.

[here](#)).

Mark moved to New York City and was hired on at Ludlow Guitars in Manhattan, a boutique guitar shop specializing in electric guitars. This is where he fell in love with the music instrument business. After moving back west in 2012, it just so happened that the Denver Folklore Center was hiring, and the rest is history.

Have a question about an instrument? Call or drop by the store and ask Mark!



We Recommend...

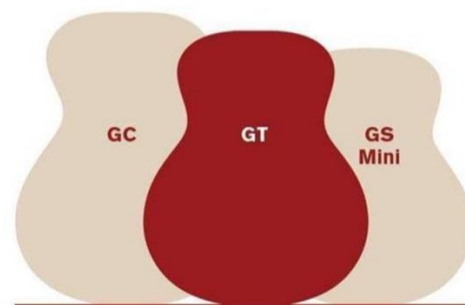
Sweetheart of the Rodeo by The Byrds

"Sweetheart of the Rodeo" by The Byrds is a groundbreaking album released in 1968. It's widely recognized as THE FIRST major "country rock" album. It was an attempt to bring country music to a younger audience and was not financially successful when first released. Not only did it anger the folks in Nashville ("bunch of damn hippies tryin' to steal our music"), it also enraged

many of The Byrds' fans who preferred their previous psychedelic sound. Ultimately, this album proved to be the shining light towards what country music would become and it began breaking down many of the rigid barriers firmly in place at the time between different genres and styles of popular music. Go [here](#) to give it a listen.



Join Swallow Hill Live, where every evening they present a different artist on Facebook Live. All shows begin at 6pm MT. Go [here](#) to view a list of upcoming concerts, including performances from Roanoke, Early James, Suzanne Vega and more.



Body size comparison:
GC > GT > GS Mini



New From Taylor Guitars - Grand Theater

When Andy Powers first started working at Taylor Guitars, he always felt there was a body shape missing from their offerings. People have been looking for a parlor-sized solid wood guitar from Taylor for a long time and/or a nicer version of the GS Mini. And here it is - the Grand Theater or GT!

This new body shape will be the foundation for more things to come and will offer a small compact guitar with a full tone, tons of bass response, but still have the fun aspect that comes with a GS Mini. This can be a true performer's first guitar.

The GT is made in the USA at El Cajon, sized right between a GS Mini and Grand Concert with a solid wood urban ash back and sides, spruce top and boasts eucalyptus fingerboards, bridges and headstock overlays.

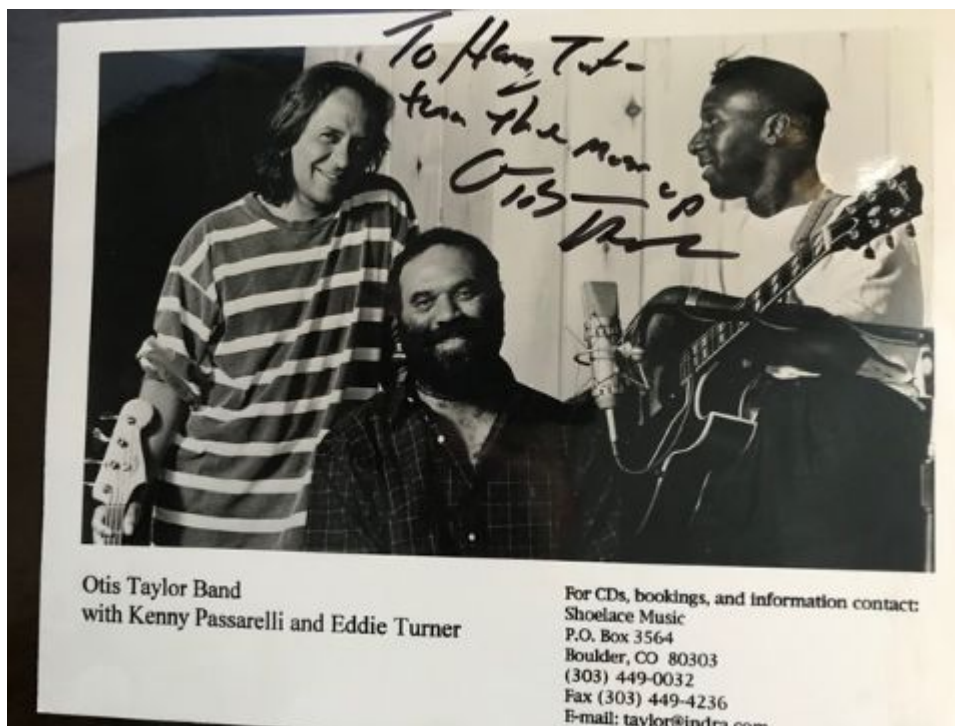
You have to see and play it to believe it! [Contact](#) the Denver Folklore Center and pre-order now!

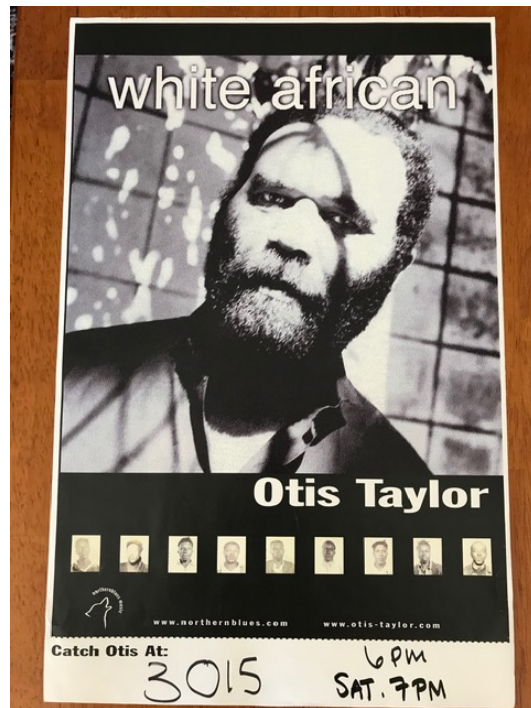
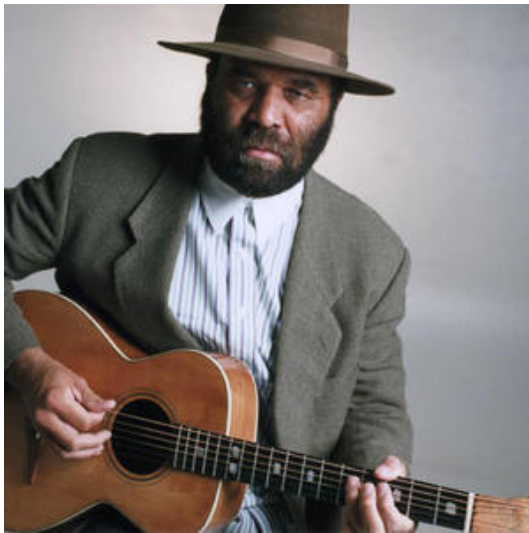


What People Are Saying About Us

"Brian and Mark were 'instrumental' in giving me a confident start on the journey to play the banjo. They are easy-going, fun guys who will give you all the facts and opinions you want and need, but never rush or push you into a purchase decision. The rent-before-you-buy option gave me the opportunity to try two types of instruments at an incredibly reasonable cost. Thanks for the non-intimidating warm welcome to all of us beginners, Denver Folklore. Here's hoping some of the amazing talent-energies within your store soak into me."

– Rosanne F.





Musician Spotlight - Otis Taylor

Otis Taylor has developed a reputation as a premier blues musician and an inventive composer and performer. His physical roots are in Colorado (Boulder), though he traces his musical roots to his birthplace, Chicago. Otis spent quite a bit of time at the Denver Folklore Center while growing up. Harry Tuft, the founder of our store, tells the story this way.

"In the early 1960s, Otis would come to the store riding a unicycle, which was unique, and at the time he probably was the only person of color in the store. He made friends with some of the music teachers when we were on 17th and Pearl. I had established a school and among the teachers were Mike Kropp (who Otis kind of bugged to teach him banjo). He also learned to play the

I lost touch with him while he was in London, but our friendship was rekindled once he came back to Denver. He spoke to me about re-starting his musical career, even though he was in his early 50s. I feel good about encouraging him to take the plunge. There is a Jewish saying - "if not now when" - that was my advice to Otis. I think all his friends were encouraging him to play again and now he is an accomplished multi-instrumentalist and blues singer. I feel really good about whatever small part the Denver Folklore Center played in Otis' musical career and I'm proud to call him my friend."

Otis is still a regular at the Folklore Center, coming by to visit and have us restring his guitars, banjos and other instruments. He continues to

harmonica, traded the banjo in for the guitar and played blues at the hootenannies we held on Friday nights.

Later, Otis took his musical skills to London, and almost had a career there, but returned to Denver where he developed an interest in high-end antiques.

perform and annually hosts the Trance Blues Festival in Boulder where he has lived since 1967. Taylor was inducted into the Colorado Music Hall of Fame in 2019.





From Our Learning Center

Harmonica Differences: Wood vs Plastic vs Metal

There's an ongoing debate regarding whether harmonicas produce different sounds depending on the materials used to make them. While some players are adamant there is a distinct contrast in the tonal qualities between wood, plastic and metal, others say the only sound differences are due to factors including: a player's lipping (how they apply their mouth to the instrument), the shape of the holes, the amount of air pressure applied, use of tongue, length of the reed, type of [harmonica](#) being played, etc. So, who's right? Find out in our latest blog post [here](#).

Contact Us

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