

50 Mark West Springs Road Santa Rosa California 95403
Box Office: 707-546-3600

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Media Contact: Kristi Buffo, Public Relations Manager
707-527-7006

Hundreds of Guitar Makers, Sellers, Buyers, and Players Gather for the Renowned Healdsburg Guitar Festival August 14 - 16

Santa Rosa, CA (July 24, 2009) – Coming August 14-16 to Wells Fargo Center for the Arts is the world-renowned Healdsburg Guitar Festival—the premier exposition of custom-made acoustic guitars. Featured are more than 100 of the world's finest luthiers (hand-crafted guitar makers) showing, selling, and talking about their magnificent instruments. The presence of these guitar builders showing their finest work and sharing their techniques attracts the best performers, who in turn share their skill and talent by teaching workshops for other guitar players.

Festival attendees enjoy acoustic guitar music at performances available day and night, and have the opportunity to improve their playing and composing at the festival's 24 hands-on workshops. The exposition also features ample opportunity for attendees to learn about the advantages in affordability, playability, and collectability of owning a custom built guitar. Attendees may play and purchase guitars at the festival as well as commission instruments to be built to their personal specifications.

The Healdsburg Guitar Festival has served a major role in validating the art of lutherie worldwide. It has helped promote high standards for quality guitars as well as helped to create a stable market for non-factory guitars. "If there is a heaven, it looks just like the Healdsburg Guitar Festival," writes guitar buyer Henry Lowenstein in the 9th edition of Blue Book of Acoustic Guitars. "The nation's best luthiers get together to talk, play, and show the best of what they have to offer to the public. Every year they have the grand masters as well as fresh faces at the show. This is not only a great chance to meet the luthiers themselves and learn some really serious academic guitar-building theory, but also to make use of the numerous "quiet rooms," which allow you to actually play and compare these extraordinary instruments. . . . (and) have a chance to meet people who own many of these luthiers' guitars and pick their brains."

The Healdsburg Guitar festival is sponsored by Luthiers Mercantile International, Inc., Acoustic Guitar Magazine, and Wells Fargo Center for the Arts. All festival activities and concerts are held at Wells Fargo Center for the Arts located at 50 Mark West Springs Road in Santa Rosa.

Tickets

Visit festivalofguitars.com or call 800-477-4437 for full festival schedule and to purchase tickets. Festival Tickets are also available at the door. Advance purchase is recommended for classes and workshops.

Schedule of Events

Main Exhibit
August 14-16, 11 am-6 pm daily: \$12 a day/\$22 three day pass

Player Workshops
Daily at varied times including two dozen 90 minute classes, \$35 each.
See festivalofguitars.com or 800-477-4437
for workshop descriptions and times.

Saturday Night Concert,
August 15 at 8 pm:
Schenk Guitars presents Franco Morone & Tim Thompson, \$15

Demonstration Concerts
Daily from 11:30 am-5:30 pm, admission included with ticket
Top guitarists present twenty-minute demonstration performances on
instruments built by exhibiting luthiers.

Luthier Seminars
Friday, August 14 and Saturday, August 15 from 9-10:30 am, \$15.
Featured are advanced topics in lutherie.

Calendar Listing

Healdsburg Guitar Festival open daily August 14-16 from 11 am-6 pm

Admission: \$12/day; \$22 three-day pass

Tickets and information: www.festivalofguitars.com or 800-447-4437

Exhibit and sale of custom built guitars made by 100 of the world's finest luthiers.

Festival also features 24 workshops for guitar players, seminars for guitar builders, and concerts day and night.

Additional Resources

Photos for print available at: www.lmii.com/press2007.htm

Luthiers available for interview:

- Michael Bashkin michael@bashkinguitars.com 970-495-1011
- Rick Davis rick@vtguitars.com (802) 238-2653
- Judy Threet jthreet@threetguitars.com (403) 232-8332
- Kathy Wingert kathy@wingertguitars.com (310) 522-9596
- Rick Micheletti rick@michelettiguitars.com (707) 459-0820

Also available:

- Festival Director: Chris Herrod, chris@lmii.com 800-477-4437 ext. 204

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