



Photo by Ron Hill - Orillia

Four beautiful guitars now embody a playable history of Canadian folk music, thanks to Larrivee Guitars, the Mariposa Folk Festival and Orillia's Streets Alive. Each guitar has been signed by all of the performers at the 50th Anniversary of the Mariposa Folk Festival in 2010, woven in with the signatures of those who founded the Mariposa Folk Festival.



Taking Folk Music History Home: Keepsake Guitars Go on Ebay and Raffle

Four beautiful guitars now embody a playable history of Canadian folk music, thanks to Larrivee Guitars, the Mariposa Folk Festival and Orillia's Streets Alive. Three of these 'time machines' will be offered to the public through auction and raffle, keeping folk music in the peoples' hands. The fourth guitar will be included in the permanent collection of Mariposa Folk Foundation memorabilia at the Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collection at York University.

Each guitar has been signed by all of the performers at the 50th Anniversary of the Mariposa Folk Festival in 2010. The autographs of Gordon Lightfoot, Sylvia Tyson, Jim Cuddy, Greg Keilor, Murray McLauchlan, Ian Tyson, Mose Scarlett and the Whiteley Brothers and others, are woven in with the signatures of those who founded the Mariposa Folk Festival. Cradled among these legends are the folk icons of tomorrow, such as David Francey, Suzie Vinnick, Matt Anderson, Deep Dark Woods, David Gunning, Lynn Miles, Ashley MacIsaac, Catherine MacLellan, Serena Rider, Zeus. Each guitar is signed in its own unique random pattern on the face, sides and back.

Donated by the Jean Larrivee Guitar Company -- whose modest beginnings in Toronto parallel that of Mariposa, Canada's longest running folk festival -- all four guitars have the beautifully engineered, carefully crafted qualities that makes Larrivee such a trusted best friend of performers on stage and in living rooms across the continent. (see larrivee.com for more details) Each guitar is a different model, with its own unique look and sound.

“These keepsakes are a wonderful way to play, remember and celebrate folk music. They are so richly Canadian – the guitars, the signatures and the festival,” said Tom Johnstone of the guitar project, “Buying a ticket or placing a bid for one of these guitars is another way to be part of this great folk story.”

Starting mid November, Ebay will be the spot for those interested in bidding on two of the guitars (models LV and L). The third guitar (model M) will be raffled, with the draw to be held on Saturday, July 9th, 2011 at the Mariposa Folk Festival. All proceeds go to the Mariposa Folk Foundation and Streets Alive.

Those interested in bidding on Ebay or buying a raffle ticket (for themselves or as a Christmas gift) can find details on the Mariposa website at www.mariposafolk.com. If you'd like to learn more about the Guitars on Parade project, check it all out at www.orilliastreetalive.ca.