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### A NEW CHAPTER...

Foreword by Coen Bults

For more than two decades, The Fellowship of Acoustics has been a place where craftsmanship, music and fellow guitar lovers meet. A home for those who believe that guitars are more than instruments; they hold the spirit of the people who built and played them.

Over the years, we've seen thousands of guitars pass through our hands. Some were humble workhorses, others were museum pieces with a history that could fill books. But every now and then a question arises that even the most experienced among us can't answer easily:

What is a truly unique guitar worth?

Sometimes a special piece sells within seconds... too soon, perhaps priced too low? Other times it lingers, waiting for the one person who understands it. In both cases, it is the market and not the seller that ultimately decides.

That simple truth inspired The Fellowship Auctions: a platform that lets the guitar community itself determine value, transparently and globally.

This first auction marks the beginning of that journey, and it starts with something extraordinary: the Epiphone Archtop Collection of Ruurd Feitsma. It's one of the most complete and historically important line-ups of pre-Gibson Epiphones ever assembled. It is an honour to introduce these instruments to a wider audience and to help them find new caretakers who will play, cherish and preserve them for generations to come.





At The Fellowship Auctions, our mission is not to chase numbers but to connect stories between players, collectors and the instruments that shaped music history. Each guitar we offer has been inspected, documented, and carefully prepared by our team of luthiers and experts. Some are valuable because of their rarity, others because of the hands that played them. But all share the same soul: craftsmanship, heritage and the endless pursuit of tone.

Whether you are a collector, a player, or simply someone who loves guitars: welcome to The Fellowship Auctions.

A new chapter... and only the beginning.

#### — Coen Bults

CEO of The Fellowship of Acoustics & Founder of The Fellowship Auctions











# THE DUTCH ARCHTOP GUITAR MUSEUM

#### of Ruurd Feitsma

In a quiet corner of the Dutch countryside, inside a centuries-old farmhouse, a lifelong dream took shape: the Dutch Archtop Guitar Museum of Ruurd Feitsma.

Over several decades, Ruurd assembled what is now considered one of the most complete and remarkable Epiphone archtop collections in existence, a testament to his passion for jazz guitars and his deep respect for craftsmanship.

Every instrument in this collection tells a story. Built between 1931 and 1957, these Epiphones represent the golden era when the brand rivalled Gibson in innovation, sound, and elegance. From the mighty Emperor — Epiphone's answer to the Gibson L-5 — to the refined Deluxe and the rare Broadway, each guitar reflects the artistry and ambition that defined pre-Gibson Epiphone.

For Ruurd, it all began with a single archtop. One guitar became two, then dozens and eventually a dedicated museum. He searched across continents, negotiated with collectors and often planned his travels around potential finds. His mission: to bring

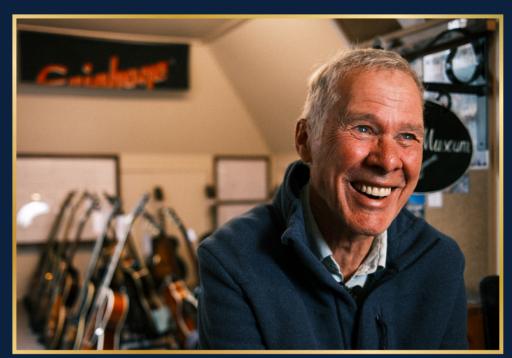
together every model Epiphone produced before its 1957 acquisition. He nearly succeeded; only one, the Tudor, eluded him.

Now, approaching his eighties, Ruurd feels it is time to pass these guitars on. "These guitars will outlive me," he says. "They deserve to be played." True to that belief, he often lent instruments to jazz students, ensuring the music continued beyond the display case.

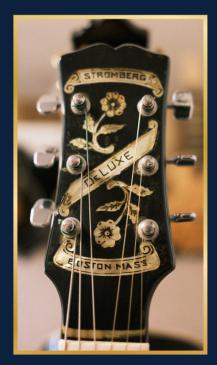
This auction marks not an end, but a new chapter. Each guitar is ready to find a new home, to sing again in the hands of musicians and collectors who share the same love for tone, heritage, and beauty.

Alongside the Epiphones, this collection also includes a few extraordinary outliers like a Stromberg and a Joseph Bohmann. Instruments that stand as monuments to a bygone era of hand-built excellence.

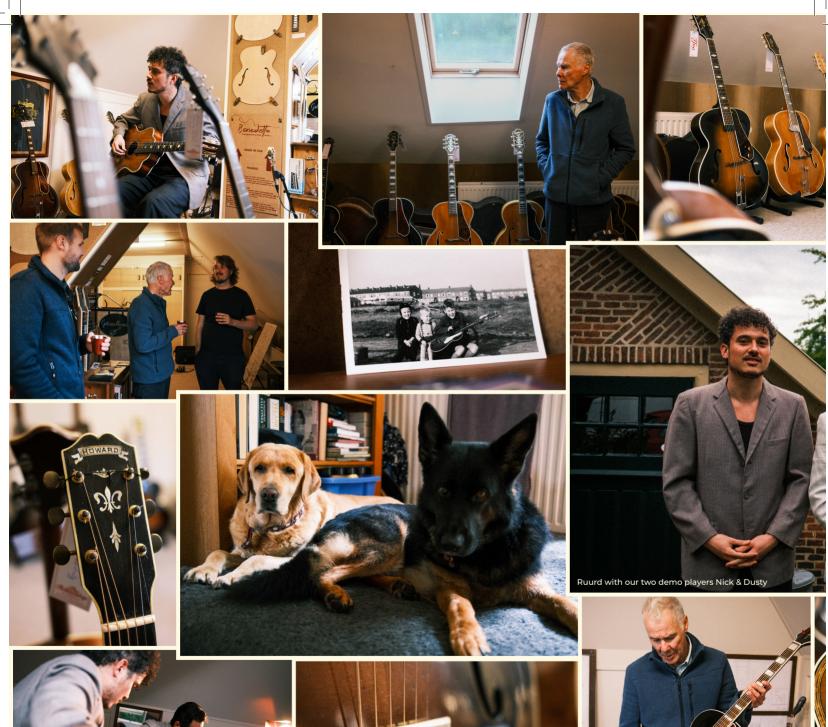
For The Fellowship Auctions, it is an honour to present the collection of Ruurd Feitsma: a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to acquire a piece of archtop history.



























#### **Epiphone Emperor**

**Year**: 1935

**Serial Number**: 9676 **Condition**: Very Good

The Epiphone Emperor was introduced in 1936 as the brand's absolute flagship, but this exceptional 1935 example is among the very first prototypes or pre-production models that preceded its introduction. With its imposing 18.35-inch body, the Emperor was the largest and most luxurious archtop Epiphone had ever built, a direct challenge to Gibson's Super 400. The Emperor was distinguished by its rich ornamentation, featuring nine-ply black and white binding, bound F-holes and pickguard, and the innovative Frequensator tailpiece. The model represented the pinnacle of Epiphone's ambition and craftsmanship during the brand's heyday in New York, making this early 1935 Emperor a particularly rare piece of guitar history.

This 1935 Emperor features a two-piece arched maple back and a two-piece arched spruce top, resulting in a powerful, deep tone with excellent projection. The five-piece maple and mahogany neck has a comfortable C-profile with an ebony fingerboard featuring beautiful segmented split V-block mother-of-pearl inlays, one of the most characteristic features of early Emperor models. The white binding with black and white purfling on the neck, combined with the nine-ply binding on the body and the bound cello-style F-holes, gives the guitar an unparalleled elegance. The original Epiphone tuners with marbeloid buttons and the Frequensator tailpiece complete the authentic appearance.

This Epiphone Emperor has had a turbulent history. Around 1978, one of its previous owners purchased it from a local guitar repairman, Charlie Wells, who claimed to have converted it for left-handed playing and later converted it back. However, the top collapsed within weeks, after which the guitar remained in storage for almost fifteen years. In the early 1990s, the guitar was restored by luthier Bill Moll, who removed the top and re-braced it with X-bracing to prevent further collapse. Moll also reinforced the top at the end block and replaced the binding due to deterioration.

During the refinishing, Moll decided to remove the black paint from the back of the headstock, exposing the beautiful wood grain. The bridge was hand-built by Moll, as the original didn't come with the guitar, and a hole where an input jack once was was expertly repaired. The guitar was acquired by the Dutch Archtop Museum in May 2015 from Dutch archtop player Peter van Weerdenburg, who had recently had a vintage-correct tortoiseshell pickguard installed by Dutch archtop player Frank Wallboomers, but this pickguard has since shrunk. The guitar comes in a vintage hardshell case.









#### **Epiphone Broadway**

**Year**: 1932

Serial Number: 5319 Condition: Very Good

The Epiphone Broadway was introduced in 1931 as one of the mid-range models in Epiphone's archtop series and was named after the legendary New York street where the company had its roots. With its 16.81-inch body, the Broadway positioned itself between the smaller Zenith and larger top models like the Deluxe. It was characterized by its walnut back and sides and segmented F-holes, characteristic design features of the early 1930s. The Broadway was a popular choice among jazz musicians seeking an archtop with volume and projection at an affordable price.

This 1932 Broadway is a special example with an unusual story. The spruce top is strikingly flat and supported by very unusual and large braces, resulting in a unique tone and playing experience. As a previous owner noted, "There's definitely a story behind this guitar. It was made that way for a reason, but anyone who can tell us that reason is dead." The five-piece maple and mahogany neck has a comfortable C-profile with a compound radius of 7.25" to 12" on the rosewood fingerboard, which features beautiful mother-of-pearl star inlays. The white binding on the neck, combined with the triple black and white purfling and black pickguard, gives the guitar its classic 1930s look.

This Epiphone Broadway has had several hands over the years and undergone necessary repairs. In 2018, the instrument was taken to the workshop of Dutch luthier Hans de Louter for inspection and repair. The top was removed to repair several braces, and the back and sides of the body were refinished. Despite these interventions, the guitar is in very good condition and retains its unique character. The guitar was purchased by the Dutch Archtop Museum in May 2012 from Robert S. Lee of Lafayette, New York, after having previously been offered for sale on eBay by Kirk Sales of Portland, Oregon. The guitar comes in a vintage hardshell case.









#### **Epiphone Byron**

Year: 1950

**Serial Number**: 60649 **Condition**: Very Good

The Epiphone Byron was introduced in 1949 as part of Epiphone's archtop series and was named after the English poet Lord Byron. Positioned as an affordable alternative within the Epiphone lineup, it nevertheless boasted solid craftsmanship and a beautiful tone. With its arched spruce top and mahogany back and sides, the Byron delivered a warm, resonant tone perfectly suited to the jazz and blues music of the time. The model was produced for only a few years, making the Byron a relatively rare sight in the vintage guitar world.

This 1951 Byron features a two-piece, glued-in arched spruce top combined with mahogany back and sides, delivering a rich, full tone. The three-piece mahogany and maple neck has a comfortable V-profile with a compound radius of 7.25" to 10" on the rosewood fingerboard, enhancing its playability. The guitar features an adjustable rosewood bridge and a trapeze tailpiece, while the cello-style F-holes and white binding complete the classic archtop aesthetic. The dark cherry sunburst finish gives the guitar a timeless look.

This Epiphone Byron has seen its fair share of wear and tear over the years, including an overspray and repaired cracks on the top. The guitar has also undergone a refret and neck reset, making it play excellently again. Despite these repairs, the guitar retains its authentic vintage character and delivers a beautiful, resonant tone. The guitar was purchased by the Dutch Archtop Museum in June 2010 from Alex Gray of Southampton, Massachusetts, and comes in a vintage hardshell case.









#### **Epiphone Deluxe**

**Year**: 1932

Serial Number: 6104 Condition: Excellent

The Epiphone Deluxe was introduced in the 1920s as one of the top models in the lineup of the then New York-based Epiphone. In the early 1930s, it was built with a 16-inch body, giving the Deluxe a compact yet powerful tone that was very popular with jazz musicians of the time. A distinctive feature of this 16-inch Deluxe is the neck volute, a reinforced section of the neck designed to prevent breakage at the nut, although it also served a decorative purpose. This volute was discontinued in 1935 when Epiphone switched to a larger body size, making the 16-inch models with volutes a rare sight.

This 1932 Deluxe is a beautiful example of Epiphone's craftsmanship from that period. The back and sides are made of two-piece arched maple with a two-piece arched spruce top, resulting in a bright and resonant tone. The five-piece maple and mahogany neck has a comfortable soft V-profile with a rosewood fingerboard, featuring beautiful mother-of-pearl triangle, diamond, and block inlays. The headstock is also decorated with mother-of-pearl inlays. The guitar also features quadruple black and white binding, rope purfling, and cello-style F-holes, which together create a refined vintage look.

This Epiphone Deluxe has undergone several modifications over the years. It has been refinished in a dark Cordovan sunburst finish by Lemuel Guitars in Seattle. The neck has also been reset, and the tuners, bridge, and nut have been replaced. Despite these modifications, the guitar is in excellent condition and retains its authentic character. The guitar was purchased by the Dutch Archtop Museum from Blue G Corporation in Tokyo, Japan, in March 2010, after previously being offered for sale through archtop.com in Seattle. The guitar comes in a hardshell case.









#### **Epiphone Blackstone**

**Year**: 1939

Serial Number: 14816 Condition: Very Good

This 1939 Epiphone Blackstone is a rare archtop with a fascinating provenance: it spent years in the Dutch Archtop Museum, where it was recognized as one of the finest examples from the model's early production years. What you have before you is a guitar that has already proven its worth by years of museum display.

The Blackstone model was introduced in 1931, but this guitar reflects the refined specifications that became standard from 1937 onward. The combination of a large body with beautifully fretted maple back and sides and a two-piece carved spruce top testifies to Epiphone's ambition to build guitars that rivaled their European predecessors. The script logo and the characteristic diamond inlay on the headstock give this Blackstone its unmistakable identity from this period.

What makes this guitar special is the balance between authenticity and expert maintenance. The guitar has a repaired neck crack and has undergone a neck reset, a common procedure for instruments of this age that restores playability without affecting the original. The non-original pickguard is a logical consequence of decades of playing; such a part doesn't contribute to the sound but protects the top. The lacquer show weather checking and playwear, and the binding has some small cracks.

The Blackstone is known for its warm, balanced tone with ample projection for an instrument of this size. With its sturdy Soft V-neck and rosewood fingerboard, this guitar offers the playability modern players expect, while the vintage character visible in playwear and patina preserves exactly what makes these guitars so beloved by enthusiasts. All this makes the guitar a true player with a vintage soul, suitable for both the collector and the musician seeking authenticity without compromising playing comfort! The museum purchased the Blackstone in May 2010 online from Guitar Shack Inc. Streetsboro, Ohio.









#### **Epiphone Olympic**

**Year: 1941** 

Serial Number: 16301 Condition: Very Good

The Epiphone Olympic was introduced in 1931 as one of the more affordable models in Epiphone's archtop series, yet it offered solid build quality and a pleasant playing experience. With its compact 15.55-inch body, the Olympic was smaller than most other Epiphone archtops of the time, making it particularly suitable for guitarists seeking a handy yet sonically rich archtop. The model featured all-mahogany construction and cello-style F-holes, and was named after the Olympic Games. The Olympic was produced until the early 1950s and represents Epiphone's traditional construction methods from the pre-Gibson era.

This 1941 Olympic features mahogany back and sides and a two-piece arched spruce top, resulting in a warm and balanced tone with a pleasant resonance. The mahogany neck has a comfortable soft V-profile with a rosewood fingerboard featuring mother-of-pearl dot inlays. The white binding on the body, combined with the black pickguard and cello-style F-holes, gives the guitar its classic archtop look. The adjustable rosewood bridge and trapeze tailpiece complete the traditional look, while the three-on-a-plate tuners provide an authentic vintage look.

This Epiphone Olympic underwent a thorough restoration at Gitaarwerk in 2016. The top received a new nitrocellulose sunburst finish, while the back and sides of the neck were given a new clear nitrocellulose lacquer. The guitar also had a refret and a neck reset, resulting in an excellent playing experience. Despite this restoration, the guitar is in very good condition and retains its vintage character. The guitar was purchased by the Dutch Archtop Museum in October 2010 from Thomas Diggings of Hootenanny Vintage Guitars in Youngstown and comes in a gig bag.









#### **Epiphone Emperor**

**Year**: 1939

Serial Number: 14597 Condition: Very Good

The Epiphone Emperor was introduced in 1935 as the brand's absolute flagship and, with its imposing 18.35-inch body, was the largest and most luxurious archtop Epiphone had ever built. A direct challenge to Gibson's Super 400, the model was built with the same ambition: to create the finest archtop in the world.

The Emperor was distinguished by its rich ornamentation, featuring nine-ply black and white binding, bound F-holes and pickguard, and the innovative Frequensator tailpiece, which was designed to better distribute string tension. With its enormous body, the Emperor delivered a powerful, deep tone with excellent projection, making it particularly popular among big band guitarists who had to compete with full horn sections without amplification.

This 1939 Emperor is a special example with an interesting quirk. The later applied natural finish reveals that the instrument features a four-piece back instead of the standard two-piece back. The pieces were likely not wide enough at the lower bout or too unstable on the outer edges. Apparently, Epiphone didn't waste any of its good tonewood! The guitar features a two-piece arched spruce top and a five-piece maple and mahogany neck with a comfortable C-profile. The rosewood fingerboard features beautiful mother-of-pearl and abalone block and triangle inlays, while the bound cello-style F-holes and nine-ply binding give the guitar unparalleled elegance.

This Epiphone Emperor has been refinished to its current natural finish over the years, with several cracks in the top repaired. The nut has also been replaced, as has the binding on the end of the fretboard. Despite these modifications, the guitar is in excellent condition and retains its impressive character. The guitar was purchased by the Dutch Archtop Museum in December 2010 from Folkway Music in Guelph, Ontario, Canada, and comes in a hardshell case. This is a rare piece of Epiphone history from the brand's heyday in New York.









#### **Epiphone Triumph**

**Year**: 1933

**Serial Number**: 6778 **Condition**: Very Good

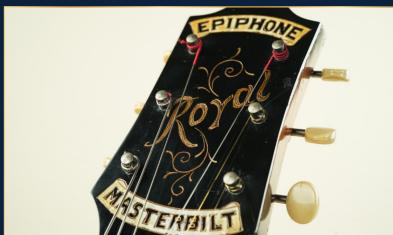
The Epiphone Triumph was introduced in 1931 as a mid-range model in Epiphone's archtop series and represented the brand's ambition to build high-quality instruments for a wide audience. With its 16.44" body, the Triumph was larger than entry-level models like the Zenith, but more compact than the top models. It was characterized by its walnut back and sides and segmented F-holes, a design choice typical of Epiphone's more affordable models of the early 1930s. The Triumph offered guitarists a solid archtop with good projection and a warm tone, ideal for the jazz and blues music of the time.

This 1933 Triumph features a walnut back and sides, which provides a warm and resonant tone. The five-piece maple and mahogany neck has a comfortable V-profile with a rosewood fingerboard featuring mother-of-pearl dot inlays. The white binding on both the body and neck, combined with the characteristic segmented F-holes and the sunburst finish, give the guitar its authentic 1930s look. The trapeze tailpiece completes the traditional look, while the relatively thin neck at the first fret (20.1 mm) ensures comfortable playability.

This Epiphone Triumph has undergone several modifications over the years. We suspect that the guitar received a new fretboard that was once installed on a different guitar, given the once wider-spaced dots at the 7th and 12th frets. Furthermore, the guitar was refretted to jumbo frets, and the binding was replaced given the size of the fret nibs on the side. The bridge was also replaced, and the guitar has had an overspray, permanently preserving the playwear on the body. Despite these modifications, the guitar is in very good condition and retains its vintage character. The guitar was purchased by the Dutch Archtop Museum in March 2011 from Paul Piercy of Aguanga, California, and is a fascinating example of Epiphone's craftsmanship from the early 1930s.









#### **Epiphone Royal**

Year: 1931

Serial Number: 5721 Condition: Excellent

The Epiphone Royal is among the rarest archtops Epiphone ever made. Introduced in 1931, the model appeared only once in the official catalog, in 1932, before being discontinued in 1934. Positioned between the popular Triumph and Blackstone, the Royal occupied a unique position.

This guitar, with a serial number in the 5000s, comes from one of the first production runs of Epiphone archtops and, as such, represents a piece of guitar history that rarely appears on the market. The mahogany back and sides give this Royal a warmer, more intimate character than many of its more expensive siblings. Combined with the Sitka spruce top, this results in a tone that is direct and responsive, without being overpowering.

The three-piece mahogany/maple neck with a Soft V profile and rosewood fingerboard offer playing comfort with a modern feel, while the Waverly three-on-a-plate tuners and adjustable rosewood bridge underscore the instrument's authenticity. The segmented F-holes are a refined detail that reflects Epiphone's ambitions for this period.

This Royal has been refretted and oversprayed, common upgrades for a guitar that is now almost 95 years old. Best of all, the original tuners, bridge, pickguard, and tailpiece are still present, parts that have long since been replaced on many vintage guitars. The Dutch Archtop Museum acquired the instrument in October 2011 through LA Guitar Sales in West Hollywood. For collectors of early Epiphones, this is one of those guitars you really have to look forward to!









#### **Epiphone Deluxe**

**Year**: 1946

Serial Number: 54119 Condition: Very Good

The Epiphone Deluxe was introduced in 1931 as the brand's top model and expanded to a 17-inch size by late 1935. Directly competing with Gibson's L-5, the Deluxe sold for the same price, but distinguished itself with its richer ornamentation and generally louder, slightly brighter tone. With its enormous projection, the Deluxe was a favorite among big band guitarists who had to compete with a full horn section without amplification. Although listed in the catalog until 1955, few examples were produced after 1953, when Epiphone's New York factory closed. This made postwar Deluxe guitars highly sought-after instruments among collectors and players.

This 1946 Deluxe is a particularly great example, carved from tightly flamed fiddleback maple and featuring an exceptionally fine-grained, quarter-sawn spruce top in a bookmatched configuration. The guitar delivers the brilliant projection and clarity for which Epiphone has always been known. The five-piece maple and walnut neck has a comfortable soft V-profile with beautiful pearloid cloud inlays on the rosewood fingerboard. The guitar is equipped with original gold-plated Epsilon logo tuners with marbeloid buttons and an unstamped Frequensator tailpiece, which is only found in this model year. The multi-piece binding, bound tortoiseshell pickguard, and bound F-holes give the guitar a refined vintage look.

This Epiphone Deluxe has undergone a neck reset and refret over the years, during which the nut has also been replaced and raised. The fingerboard has also been filled in several places. The tuners and Frequensator tailpiece are original, and the pickguard is vintage-correct. The binding in the bass-side F-hole has shrunk at the corners, and some lacquer repairs have been made to the body and neck. Despite these adjustments, the guitar is in excellent condition and retains its authentic character. The Dutch Archtop Museum acquired the guitar in September 2009 from Joe Vinikow of Seattle, who received it from a collection in the Boston area. The guitar comes in a hardshell case.









#### Epiphone Spartan

**Year: 1946** 

Serial Number: 54130 Condition: Excellent

The Epiphone Spartan was introduced in 1934 as a refined addition to Epiphone's archtop series and was distinguished by its elegant natural finish and luxurious details. With its 16.44-inch body, the Spartan positioned itself in the mid-range segment of the product line, yet still boasted high-quality features such as cello-style F-holes and white notched block inlays. Named after the ancient city of Sparta, the model exuded the same strength and elegance. The Spartan was produced until the mid-1950s and is now a sought-after model among collectors, particularly the postwar models built just before Epiphone's acquisition by Gibson.

This 1946 Spartan is a beautiful example of Epiphone's postwar production. The guitar features Primavera back and sides and a two-piece arched spruce top with a clear nitrocellulose finish that beautifully showcases the natural wood grain. The mahogany neck has a solid V-profile with a compound radius of 7.25" to 9.5" on the rosewood fingerboard, which features elegant white notched block inlays. The triple black and white binding on the body, combined with the cello-style F-holes and the white binding on the neck, give the guitar its refined appearance. The adjustable compensated ebony bridge and trapeze tailpiece complete the look.

This Epiphone Spartan has undergone considerable work over the years. It has had a neck reset and a refret, with the fingerboard leveled and filled at some places. The body was sanded and refinished, and both the bridge and nut were replaced. Despite these modifications, the guitar is in very good condition and retains a wonderful playing experience. The guitar was purchased by the Dutch Archtop Museum in May 2010 from Randy Barnett, guitarist in the Second Chance Blues Band from Wilmington, Delaware, and comes in a hardshell case.









#### **Epiphone Zenith**

**Year**: 1933

Serial Number: 7738 Condition: Very Good

The Epiphone Zenith was introduced in the early 1930s as one of the entry-level models in Epiphone's archtop series and was named after the highest point in the sky. Despite its modest position in the lineup, the Zenith was not a budget instrument, but a solidly built archtop with distinctive features. The model was characterized by its compact 14.84-inch body and the unique segmented F-holes, a design choice that distinguished the Zenith from more expensive models with the classic cello-style F-holes. In the 1930s, the Zenith was a popular choice among guitarists seeking an affordable yet high-quality archtop for jazz and blues.

This 1933 Zenith features a two-piece arched spruce top and walnut back and sides, resulting in a warm and resonant tone with pleasant projection. The mahogany neck has a comfortable C-profile with a compound radius of 7.25" to 12" on the rosewood fingerboard, which features pearloid dot inlays. The white body binding, combined with the black pickguard and the characteristic segmented F-holes, gives the guitar its authentic 1930s look. The adjustable rosewood bridge and trapeze tailpiece complete the traditional look.

This Epiphone Zenith has undergone the necessary maintenance over the years. The guitar has a repaired crack on the top under the tailpiece, and has undergone a neck reset and refret, making it play excellently again. Despite these repairs, the guitar is in very good condition and retains its authentic vintage character. The guitar is also displaying the expected playwear and weather checking, along with some small cracks in the binding and a replaced nut. This Epiphone was purchased by the Dutch Archtop Museum in September 2010 via eBay from Marty Stonely of Key West, Florida, and comes in a vintage hardshell case.









#### Sorrentino Avon

**Year**: 1934

Serial Number: 8010 Condition: Excellent

In the long history of Epiphone Guitars, only two other brand names were produced by the company in the 1930s: Howard and Sorrentino. These Sorrentino archtops were comparable in quality and price to their Epiphone counterparts, but had one key difference: the absence of a truss rod in the neck. A total of six different Sorrentino models were made, and a rare Sorrentino brochure suggests that Epiphone also produced mandolins under this brand, although no known examples exist. Sorrentino guitars are now exceptionally rare and are considered fascinating pieces of Epiphone history.

This Sorrentino Avon features walnut back and sides and a two-piece arched spruce top, resulting in a warm and resonant tone. The three-piece mahogany and maple neck has a comfortable C-profile with a compound radius of 10" to 16" on the rosewood fingerboard, which features elegant pearloid notched diamond inlays. The white binding on both the body and neck, combined with the cello-style F-holes and sunburst finish, gives the guitar a classic archtop look. The adjustable rosewood bridge and trapeze tailpiece complete the traditional look.

This Sorrentino Avon is in excellent condition and has retained its authentic character. The guitar is equipped with Waverly open-gear tuners and comes in a vintage hardshell case. The guitar was acquired by the Dutch Archtop Museum in July 2012 from Gordysmusic in Ferndale, Michigan, and is a wonderful example of Epiphone's alternative branding strategy from the 1930s.









## **Epiphone Devon 1953**

Year: 1953

**Serial Number**: 64529 **Condition**: Very Good

The Epiphone Devon was introduced in 1950 as one of the more affordable models in Epiphone's archtop series, yet it still boasted solid build quality and beautiful tone. It featured a 17.5-inch body and the signature Frequensator tailpiece, an Epiphone innovation intended to better distribute string tension and improve intonation. The Devon was produced until the mid-1950s, when Epiphone's New York factory closed and the brand was acquired by Gibson. This makes the early-1950s Devon an interesting piece of Epiphone history, just before the brand's major changes.

This 1953 Devon features a two-piece arched spruce top and maple back and sides, resulting in a bright and balanced tone. The three-piece mahogany and walnut neck has a comfortable soft-V profile with a rosewood fingerboard featuring pearloid oval inlays. The white binding with black and white purfling, the bound tortoiseshell pickguard, and the cello-style F-holes give the guitar a classic archtop look. The guitar features a modern Frequensator tailpiece and an adjustable rosewood bridge, while Grover open-gear tuners ensure stable tuning.

This Epiphone Devon has undergone extensive maintenance over the years, as it has been fully restored. The guitar has had a neck reset, as well as a refret that adjusted the fingerboard radius. It has also been given a new nitrocellulose finish. The pickguard has been replaced, and two cracks in the top under the tailpiece have been professionally repaired. The binding shrunk in some areas and has been repaired there. Despite these repairs, the guitar is in very good condition. The guitar was purchased by the Dutch Archtop Museum in November 2010 from Antonio Fahme of San Diego, California, and comes in a hardshell case.









## **Epiphone Triumph Regent**

**Year**: 1953

**Serial Number**: 66248 **Condition**: Excellent

The Epiphone Triumph was introduced in 1931 and became one of the flagships of Epiphone's archtop line. In 1941, Epiphone added a cutaway version to the series, the Regent, making the instrument suitable for soloists who required greater neck mobility. This 1953 Triumph Regent represents a moment when the model was fully developed: an instrument of great ambition, with uncompromising details.

The birdseye maple back and sides are remarkably refined, with a grain that is subtle yet unmistakable. Epiphone deliberately used this rarer tonewood for its top models, and here's why: the combination with the Sitka spruce top produces a tone that is brighter and faster to the touch than many contemporary competitors. The Frequensator tailpiece was Epiphone's innovative answer to intonation problems and works in conjunction with the adjustable ebony bridge for optimal tonal balance. The Soft V-neck and rosewood fingerboard with Mother of Pearl slotted diamonds offer both playing comfort and elegance.

This Regent from 1953 has had an overspray, but retains its authenticity where it matters most: the original Epiphone tuners with marbeloid buttons and the Frequensator tailpiece are still present. The bridge has been replaced, a logical change for a guitar of this age. The museum purchased the instrument November 2010 online from James Brown, Guitar Emporium, Bardstown Road, Louisville, USA. For collectors and musicians seeking an Epiphone from the heyday of the 1950s, this Triumph Regent offers both prestige and playing pleasure.















#### Fender 1965 Jaguar 50th Anniversary

**Year**: 2012

Serial Number: US12052959

**Condition**: Near Mint

The 2012 Fender 50th Anniversary Jaguar honors the legendary offset model that debuted in 1962. With its Candy Apple Red finish, mint green pickguard, and signature extended control panel, this reissue captures the distinctive spirit of the original Jaguar, complete with the shorter scale and bright, powerful single-coil pickups that make it so special.

The Jaguar was Fender's fourth and final addition to its original electric guitar line, and immediately distinguished itself with its unique combination of the Jazzmaster body shape with a shorter 24" scale and smaller, fiercer pickups. What began as a chrome-adorned surf-rock guitar in the '60s took on a whole new life in the '70s as the weapon of choice for punk, post-punk, grunge, and alt-indie guitarists seeking a head-turning alternative. The complex control panel, with a separate rhythm circuit, strangle switch, and floating tremolo, gives players a wide range of tonal possibilities.

The Special Design Hot Jaguar pickups offer more output than the originals while retaining the bright, biting tone the Jaguar is known for. The bound rosewood fingerboard with block inlays and 9.5" radius also make this Anniversary edition a pleasure to play. In near mint condition, this is a beautiful example of this iconic and often underrated Fender model.

The guitar only has minor playwear, and comes in a hardshell case.









#### Fender Stratocaster

**Year**: 1954

Serial Number: 1097 Condition: Excellent

Not many guitars are as significant to music history as the Fender Stratocaster, the model that forever changed the electric guitar. With the Stratocaster, Fender introduced an instrument that was not only technically advanced but also shaped the sound of modern music. The contoured body, the revolutionary tremolo system, and the three single-coil pickups made the Strat something players had never felt or heard before.

The first series was produced in small numbers and today symbolizes the beginning of a new era. Every 1954 Strat tells a part of that story, with the craftsmanship, wood, and tone that became the blueprint for everything that came after. An early Stratocaster with a serial number in the low thousands, such as this one with number 1097, belongs to that rare first generation of instruments that began the history of the electric guitar.

This Stratocaster was built in August 1954 and has plenty of written codes and stamps to prove its authenticity. First of all, the serial number 1097 on the neck plate, which is fascinating enough on its own. In the cavity on the top of the one-piece ash body, we can find the Gloria tape with the written date 8-20-54 on it, corresponding with the TG 8-54 code written on the neck by the famous neck shaper Tadeo Gomez. The 100K Stackpole potentiometer that serves as the second tone control shows the code 304430, dating it to the 30th week of 1954, which was the last week of July.

Some soldering touch-ups have been made to the connections, and the tape holding the wires together has been replaced. In 1954, the back plate had round holes, but the one on this guitar has oblong holes, making it very likely that the holes have been enlarged. When the back plate is removed, a chip in the wood is visible. Also the small rubbers under the pickups are replaced, but the guitar is otherwise fully original. The guitar was sold by Emerald Guitar in March 2023, eventually finding its way to us earlier this year.

With its original finish, original hardware, and historic significance, this Stratocaster is a guitar that exudes pure magic when you simply look at it, and the feeling you get when you play it is indescribable. A true piece of guitar history that will be the crown of any collection!









#### Fender George Harrison Telecaster

Year: 2017

Serial Number: V1700383

**Condition**: Near Mint

Dan Smith was chosen to revise and improve the Fender Stratocaster in the early 1980s. The CBS era had not done Fender much good, and by bringing in Smith, among others, the Stratocaster had to be brought back to the top.

In June 1983, the Standard Stratocaster was significantly revised with the aim of reducing costs. The jack-socket was moved to the new single-ply pickguard with twelve screws and only one tone control instead of two; hence the nickname '2 Knob Stratocaster'.

Furthermore, this Stratocaster features an alder body with a Blonde finish, a maple neck with a 12-inch radius and a Freeflyte tremolo system. The lacquer has been severely discoloured, and the original Blonde colour is still visible underneath the pickguard; a very cool effect!

The guitar has a replaced nut that was later raised, but is otherwise completely original. A beautiful piece from a very interesting period in Fender history!









#### Fender Stratocaster Dan Smith Era

**Year**: 1983

Serial Number: E340717 Condition: Excellent

Dan Smith was chosen to revise and improve the Fender Stratocaster in the early 1980s. The CBS era had not done Fender much good, and by bringing in Smith, among others, the Stratocaster had to be brought back to the top.

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The guitar has a replaced en later raised nut, but is otherwise in original condition. A beautiful piece from a very interesting period in Fender history!









#### Fender Masterbuilt Stratocaster

Year: 2004

Serial Number: 004 Condition: Near Mint

This 2004 Custom Shop Stratocaster is no ordinary guitar. John English built it in the Fender Custom Shop with a unique artistic vision. With Native American artwork and detailed fingerboard inlays, an instrument was created that is as much a collector's item as it is a playable guitar.

John English is known for his precision work in the Fender Custom Shop, and this Stratocaster demonstrates exactly why. The pine body, adorned with Native American artwork, is a deliberate choice, one that gives the guitar character and a story. The fingerboard inlays in the same theme complete the picture perfectly with the same artistic attention. This is the work of someone who doesn't compromise!

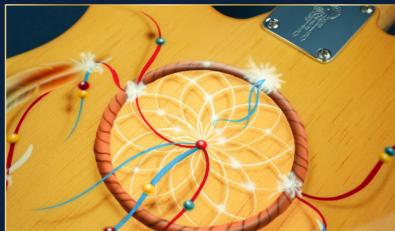
In 2006, this guitar found its way to the Netherlands as part of a set of two, where it has been cherished ever since by a dedicated collector. The Near Mint condition is a testament to this. This isn't a guitar that has been heavily played, but rather an instrument that has been treated with respect and admired. That speaks volumes about the value the owner placed on it.

Where other Strats are standard, this one delivers versatility with personality. The three single-coil pickups with five-way switches open up a world of tonal possibilities, from the bright bridge tone to the full, warm neck pickup. The pine body delivers an open, luminous tone that perfectly complements the Strat philosophy. The C-profile neck with a rosewood fingerboard feels comfortable and offers plenty of room for expression. The tremolo is smooth and stable, as you would expect from craftsmanship at this level.

This is more than an instrument. It represents a moment in time when Fender's Custom Shop still created individual works of art, built by masters like John English, with stories that go beyond technical specifications. For the collector who digs a little deeper, this is a piece of guitar history with a weight you can feel.









#### Fender Masterbuilt Telecaster

**Year: 2004** 

Serial Number: 005 Condition: Near Mint

This 2004 Custom Shop Telecaster is no ordinary guitar. John English built it in the Fender Custom Shop with a unique artistic vision. With Native American artwork and detailed fingerboard inlays, an instrument was created that is as much a collector's item as it is a playable guitar.

John English is known for his precision work in the Fender Custom Shop, and this Telecaster demonstrates exactly why. The pine body, adorned with Native American artwork, is a deliberate choice, one that gives the guitar character and a story. The fingerboard inlays in the same theme complete the picture perfectly with the same artistic attention. This is the work of someone who refuses to compromise!

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Anyone who picks up this guitar immediately feels English's craftsmanship. The pine body produces a warm, open tone with that classic Telecaster directness, while the playing profile clearly shows that this is no compromise. The single-coil pickups deliver that authentic, cutting Tele tone that guitarists dream of. This is a guitar that feels as good in your hand as it does on the wall.

This is more than an instrument. It represents a moment in time when Fender's Custom Shop still created individual works of art, built by masters like John English, with stories that go beyond technical specifications. For the collector who digs a little deeper, this is a piece of guitar history with a weight you can feel.









## Fender 1962 AVRI Precision Bass

Year: 2007

Serial Number: V150792 Condition: Near Mint

The Fender American Vintage Reissue '62 Precision Bass from 2007 brings back the classic P-Bass sound and feel in all its glory. With its three-tone sunburst nitrocellulose finish, tortoiseshell pickguard, and original '62 split single-coil pickup, this bass delivers the iconic warm, full tone that has made the Precision Bass the foundation of countless recordings and performances.

The Precision Bass revolutionized music in 1951 as the world's first mass-produced electric bass guitar, and the 1962 model represents a pinnacle in the evolution of this legendary instrument. This AVRI perfectly captures that essence, with its signature split-coil pickup delivering a powerful, balanced tone with excellent definition. The 7.25" radius rosewood fingerboard and comfortable C-profile give the bass an authentic vintage feel, while the alder body delivers the warm, resonant tone the P-Bass is known for. The simple volume and tone controls let the pure sound of the pickup shine without unnecessary complexity.

In near mint condition with virtually no playwear, this is an exceptionally well-preserved example that looks and sounds like it just came from the factory, complete with original pickup covers for that authentic '60s look.









#### Fender Stratocaster

**Year: 1965** 

**Serial Number**: L57569 **Condition**: Excellent

For Fender, the 1960s were defined by the CBS takeover. During the transition period, roughly between 1963 and 1966, most guitars were characterized by a serial number starting with the letter L. This 1965 Stratocaster is one of those L-series instruments.

At the time, Fender finished the Stratocaster in the standard Sunburst, but of course that didn't mean it had to stay that way forever. This particular guitar was refinished long ago in black, with the original sunburst and yellow undercoat still preserved beneath the new finish. The heavy playwear clearly shows that the guitar has seen plenty of use since, and a later overspray with transparent nitrocellulose lacquer has beautifully sealed those marks for eternity.

Like every vintage Fender, this Stratocaster is rich with stamps and codes that help confirm the originality of its parts. On the neck plate, we find the serial number L57569, indicating production in 1965. Other stamps and codes confirm the year the guitar left the Fender factory: the neck is marked 2MAR65B, which designates a Stratocaster neck from March 1965 with a standard 1 5/8" nut width.

In the electronics department, the Grey Bottom single-coil pickups show the handwritten code 4-22-65, accompanied by three Stackpole potentiometers with one fully legible code and two partially readable ones: the volume pot shows 304-65xx, the first tone pot 304-xxxx, and the second tone pot the complete code 304-6532, indicating the 32nd week of 1965.

The neck was also included in the overspray, which can be seen along the edge of the rosewood veneer fingerboard. The headstock was not oversprayed and proudly displays the more bold Transition logo, which replaced the thinner stylized Spaghetti logo. The guitar has been refretted with fairly wide frets, and the nut has been replaced as well. The Kluson Double Line tuners are original and show their patent numbers on the back, just like the tremolo saddles.

This Stratocaster found its way to us through Emerald City Guitars, and is truly one with a story to tell; a genuine player in every sense, as you can both see and hear!









## **Fender Sting Precision Bass**

Year: 2002/2004

Serial Number: Q088043 Condition: Near Mint

The Fender Sting Precision Bass is a tribute to one of the most influential bassists of all time. With its distinctive 2-Color Sunburst finish, ash body and vintage-style hardware, this signature model brings the sound and style of The Police legend straight to your fingertips.

Sting's preference for the Precision Bass dates back to his time with The Police in the late '70s and early '80s, when he created the legendary bass lines with his iconic 1957 P-Bass that continue to inspire bands worldwide. Fender introduced this signature model to capture the specifications of his beloved instrument. The combination of a lightweight ash body with maple neck and fingerboard delivers that bright, punchy tone so characteristic of Sting's playing style. The '51-style single coil pickup at the neck gives the instrument a warm, vintage character with plenty of definition.

This Sting P-Bass was crafted in Japan. The serial number dates it to the period between 2002 and 2004. It is in near mint condition with only one ding near the input jack and comes with a Fender gigbag.









## Fender 1962 AVRI Stratocaster

**Year: 2001** 

Serial Number: V136061

**Condition**: Excellent

The 2001 Fender American Vintage Reissue '62 Stratocaster brings the classic Kennedy-era Strat back to life. With authentic features like the capped rosewood fingerboard, three-ply mint green pickguard, and special '57/'62 pickups, you get the essence of a vintage Stratocaster without the vintage price tag.

The American Vintage Reissue series was developed by Fender to accurately reproduce its most beloved classic models for players seeking that authentic vintage vibe. 1962 is known as a pivotal year in the evolution of the Stratocaster, where, after five years of refinement, Fender created an instrument that perfectly balanced playability and sound.

This 2001 AVRI captures that spirit with carefully chosen details like the 7.25" radius fingerboard that mimics vintage playability, and the nitrocellulose lacquer that undergoes the same aging process as the originals. The three-tone sunburst finish and comfortable C-profile make this a Strat that feels instantly familiar both visually and tactilely. With light playwear and a few minor dings, this guitar has already built up some character but is otherwise in excellent condition.

The guitar only has light playwear, and some dings on the top on the lower bout. Comes in a hardshell case.













# Gibson BB King Lucille

Year: 2003

Serial Number: 00993724

**Condition**: Near Mint

The Gibson BB King Lucille from 2003 carries the name of The King of the Blues' legendary guitar. This semi-hollow signature guitar combines the warm, resonant tone of an ES-355 with practical features like a fully closed body without f-holes and a TP-6 tailpiece with finetuners, designed to minimize feedback and maximize tuning stability during intense performances.

BB King named all his guitars Lucille after a famous incident in 1949, when he ran into a burning building to rescue his guitar. Gibson developed the Lucille signature model as a tribute to King's decades-long loyalty to the brand, with specific modifications at his request. The fully closed body without f-holes was essential for King, who played at high volumes and wanted to avoid feedback. The iconic Varitone switch offers six different tonal options through various capacitor combinations, a feature King often used to sculpt his sound.

The three-ply maple/poplar/maple construction delivers the warm, balanced sound of a semi-hollow, while the Gibson 490R and 490T humbuckers provide classic PAF-like tone with enough output for expressive bends and that signature sustain. The Slim Taper neck profile and ebony fingerboard with block inlays make this Lucille not only a tribute to a blues legend, but also a wonderfully playable instrument. In near mint condition, this is a beautiful example of this iconic signature guitar.









#### Gretsch 6120 Nashville

**Year** 1991

Serial Number: 917120-12

**Condition**: Excellent

The Gretsch 6120 Nashville from 1991 delivers the iconic rockabilly sound and vintage aesthetics that have made this model legendary since the 1950s. With its vibrant orange finish, gold plexi pickguard, and dual Filter'Tron pickups, this hollow body offers the bright, twangy tone and classic Gretsch charm that has captivated players from Chet Atkins to modern rockabilly revivalists.

The 6120 was introduced in 1954 as Gretsch's flagship model and quickly became synonymous with country and rockabilly music. This 1991 example stays true to the classic specifications that made the model famous, featuring the laminated maple hollow body construction that delivers that distinctive Gretsch resonance and growl. The Filter'Tron pickups provide the clear, articulate tone with plenty of treble sparkle that cuts through any mix, while the Bigsby vibrato allows for subtle pitch variations that add expression to your playing.

The two-piece maple neck with ebony fingerboard and pearl block inlays offers excellent playability, while the roller bridge works seamlessly with the Bigsby to maintain tuning stability. The matching finish flame maple headstock overlay and aged white binding with black purfling add visual elegance to this already eye-catching instrument.

The guitar has very light playmarks on the body and neck, an some slight discoloration on the binding. The gold hardware shows some patina, but the guitar is very clean in general. In excellent condition, this 6120 Nashville is a superb example of Gretsch's commitment to preserving the vintage specifications that have made this model a timeless classic.









## PRS Silver Sky

Year: 2018

**Serial number: 18 248 936** 

**Condition**: Near Mint

The PRS Silver Sky Horizon First Edition from 2018 represents John Mayer and Paul Reed Smith's vision of the ultimate vintage-inspired S-style guitar. As one of the first 500 Silver Sky guitars ever made, this First Edition features the striking Horizon finish and embodies years of collaboration between Mayer and PRS to create an instrument that captures the essence of vintage single-coil tone while offering modern reliability and playability.

The Silver Sky was born from John Mayer's desire for a guitar that felt like his favorite vintage instruments but could withstand the demands of touring. PRS and Mayer spent years refining every detail, from the 635JM neck profile that perfectly fits Mayer's hand to the 7.25" radius fingerboard that facilitates effortless bending. The three PRS 635JM single-coil pickups deliver the classic chime and sparkle associated with the best vintage S-style guitars, with exceptional clarity across all five positions and a notably quiet performance thanks to careful shielding.

The alder body provides the familiar resonance and tonal balance, while PRS's attention to detail shines through in features like the vintage-style locking tuners that combine classic aesthetics with modern tuning stability. The carefully voiced tremolo system offers smooth, responsive action while returning perfectly to pitch. In near mint condition and delivered in its original hardshell case, this First Edition Silver Sky is not only a highly playable professional instrument but also a collectible piece from the very beginning of this now-iconic model's production run.









# Burns Legend Deluxe

**Year: 1999** 

Serial number: 499 Condition: Excellent

The Burns Hank Marvin Legend Deluxe from 1999 pays tribute to one of Britain's most influential guitarists and his iconic partnership with Burns guitars. Finished in classic white with gold hardware and featuring the distinctive Rez-o-Tube vibrato system, this signature model recreates the instruments that helped define the sound of The Shadows and inspired generations of British guitar players.

Hank Marvin's choice of Burns guitars in the early 1960s created an indelible link between the brand and his legendary tone. Burns founder Jim Burns designed instruments specifically for Marvin, and this Legend Deluxe faithfully reproduces those classic features. The three Rez-o-Matik single-coil pickups deliver the bright, articulate tone that characterized The Shadows' instrumental hits, while the innovative Rez-o-Tube vibrato system offers smooth pitch variations with excellent tuning stability, a significant improvement over vintage designs.

The alder body provides balanced resonance across the frequency spectrum, and the zero fret ensures consistent tone and intonation on open strings, a thoughtful detail that Burns pioneered. The rosewood fingerboard with 10" radius and comfortable C-profile neck makes this guitar feel familiar yet distinctive. The guitar has very little playwear, but the edges of the pickguard are curled up. In excellent condition and complete with certificate of authenticity, this Marvin Legend Deluxe represents a significant piece of British rock and roll history, offering both collectors and players a connection to the sounds that shaped an era.









#### Martin D45 Don McLean

Year: 2016

Serial Number: 2021540 Condition: Near Mint

The D45 is already one of the most decorated guitars Martin produces, but this example from 2016 is a very special one that stands apart from all other D45s. This Custom Shop guitar once belonged to the personal collection of none other than Don McLean, the man behind the worldwide hit American Pie!

It's not just any D45 either, as this Centennial Model celebrates one full century of the Dreadnought, which began with the Ditson 111 in 1916. That original round-shouldered model had 12 frets clear of the body, but in 1934 the Dreadnought evolved into the square-shouldered design in response to players' demand for more frets clear of the body, as seen on this instrument.

Martin built this commemorative model with stunning Cocobolo back and sides, paired with an Adirondack spruce top for impressive volume and plenty of headroom for both strumming and solo work. The tone offers a wide dynamic range thanks to the selected woods, with deep lows, smooth mids, and sparkling highs. Fingerstyle and bluegrass players alike will feel right at home with this guitar.

This beautiful Martin was sold by Matt's Guitar Shop in Paris, France, in September 2023, and made its way to us via Julien's Auctions, where it was part of the Icons & Idols: Rock 'n' Roll sale. The guitar's authenticity was confirmed by them, and it bears a stamp on the top of the headstock reading "D. McLean."

The guitar hasn't been kept as a mere collector's piece, but has seen some honest playing over the years. There's light playwear on the top and pickguard, with a bit more on the back and sides. Some small lacquer touch-ups have been done on the back due to the heavy figuring of the Cocobolo. Overall, the guitar remains very clean and is without a doubt a remarkable addition to any fine guitar collection.

For more information about this instrument please check out our website:

auctions.tfoa.eu

# COMING UP NEXT...

Our next auction is scheduled for late December 2025, featuring Part II of the Dutch Archtop Guitar Museum Collection and a new selection of remarkable vintage and boutique guitars.

The photos on these pages offer a glimpse of what's to come...









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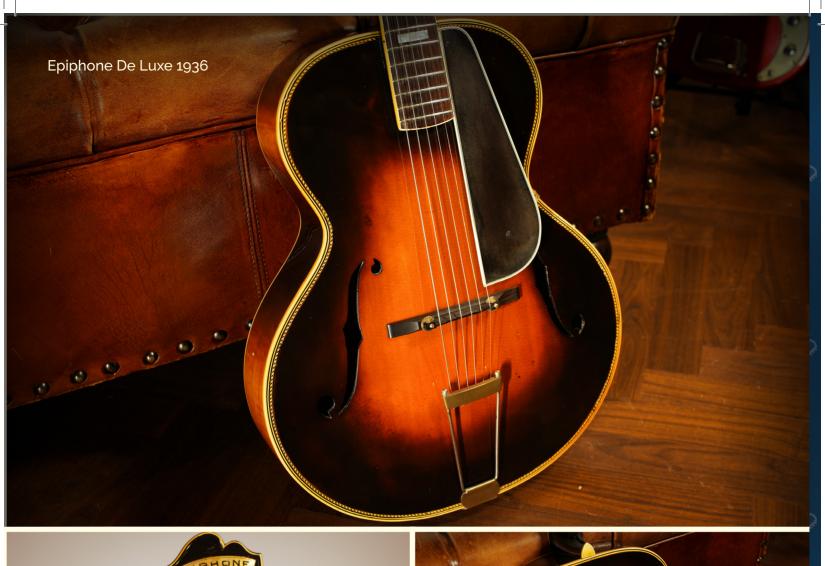








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