



See *Dragons and Vines*

MIM's newest special exhibition opens November 5

View the power of imagination, craftsmanship, and artistry in [Dragons and Vines: Inlaid Guitar Masterpieces](#), MIM's spectacular new exhibition opening November 5. This never-before-seen collection showcases more than thirty instruments of the utmost quality featuring stunning inlay design created by master inlay artists and luthiers. The exhibition—produced by MIM in partnership with Maryland-based inlay company [Pearl Works](#)—opens Saturday, November 5 and will be on display at MIM's Target Gallery through Monday, September 4, 2017.

"*Dragons and Vines* tells the story of the cutting edge in an interesting and very traditional art form that has taken leaps forward in the last few decades," says Colin Pearson, cocurator of the exhibition. Manufacturers and luthiers such as C. F. Martin & Co., PRS Guitars, and Kevin Ryan Guitars create magnificent instruments as extraordinary canvases to be adorned by inlay artists. The majority of the pieces come from the private collection of Larry Sifel (1948–2006), the founder of Pearl Works. Aside from a handful of historic examples, the remainder comes from a small group of the greatest contemporary inlay artists in North America.

The exhibition shines a spotlight on this interconnected community of artists that has driven the art form forward with friendly competition. In a meticulous process, these artists manually fit materials onto the instruments, transforming each one into a unique masterpiece while preserving the superb tone, resonance, and playability that distinguish their most special instruments.

In addition to the instruments, the exhibition features videos of the artists talking

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October 25

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[An Intimate Night with Allen Stone: My Favorite Songs, Favorite Stories](#)

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[Arizona Musicfest Young Musicians' Fall Concert](#)

November 1

[Acoustic Alchemy](#)

November 2

[Haas Kowert Tice](#)

SOLD OUT

November 4

[Stories and Songs – An Evening with](#)

about their craft. Guests will see materials that go into creating inlay art, ranging from abalone and mother-of-pearl shells to brand-new synthetic materials. The exhibition also includes design drawings and test inlays in various stages of completion.

Hosted only at MIM, *Dragons and Vines* presents an extraordinary opportunity to examine closely these stunning instruments, some of which are world-famous. "They have their own star power, so the chance to see them in person is wonderful. But beyond that, you see that there are real people who worked extremely hard at a workbench making decisions about where to place a piece of pearl. That's a bit of the humanizing perspective that MIM is adding to the story," says Dr. Richard Walter, cocurator of the exhibition.

In the end, *Dragons and Vines* illustrates what can happen when talented people embrace as collaborators with a desire to create something truly excellent.

Dragons and Vines admission is \$7 with paid museum admission or \$10 for the exhibition only. Be sure to keep an eye on MIM.org for [upcoming concerts](#) and [events](#) tied to the exhibition.

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Dragons and Vines Opening Weekend

Experts and musicians help mark the occasion

Join us at MIM on [Saturday, November 5](#), and [Sunday, November 6](#), as we open the doors to *Dragons and Vines* with a series of themed opening-weekend events. With the purchase of exhibition admission or general museum admission, guests will have an opportunity to see a film and attend engaging talks and musical performances.

On Saturday, [Dick Boak](#), C. F. Martin & Co.'s museum director and archivist, will talk about the history of the 180-year-old guitar company and the evolution of Martin acoustic guitars. His presentation will be supplemented by film, photos, and live music from guitar virtuoso Laurence Juber. After the presentation, Boak will sign copies of his books, which may be purchased at the [Museum Store](#).

Also on Saturday, GRAMMY-winning guitarist [Al Petteway](#) will talk about Pearl Works founder Larry Sifel and demonstrate his virtuosity on one of the first handmade Knaggs "Sifel Night Sky" guitars. Besides being a talented acoustic musician, Petteway was a close friend of Sifel's and will talk about their relationship as he plays.

The weekend will also include three screenings of the film, [The Ballad of the Dreadnought](#). Narrated by actor and Martin guitar player Jeff Daniels, the movie traces the rise of the Martin Dreadnought from selling only a few dozen guitars during its first twenty years to becoming the musical companion played in almost every musical genre in every corner of the world.



Guitar to Become Part of MIM's Permanent Collection

"Sifel Night Sky" guitar donated to the museum

One of the extraordinary guitars featured in *Dragons and Vines* will become part of MIM's permanent collection. A brand-new acoustic guitar custom built for the exhibition by luthier Joe Knaggs has been generously donated to the museum. "We are thrilled that people are excited about the exhibition and are contributing some really, really fine instruments," says *Dragons and Vines* cocurator Dr. Richard Walter.

Named the "Sifel Night Sky," the model was created to commemorate Pearl Works founder Larry Sifel, who passed away a decade ago. Knaggs, a longtime friend of Sifel's, incorporated some of the design motifs that Sifel utilized in the 1970s, including the "LS" logo designed by Sifel's wife Jean. The instrument also features a night sky motif inspired by the starry view from the back deck of Larry and Jean's home in rural southern Maryland.

"It has a really nice personal story behind it," says *Dragons and Vines* cocurator Colin Pearson. Knaggs recalls wonderful conversations with Sifel about building acoustic guitars together and credits Sifel with encouraging him to found Knaggs Guitars. "The guitar was created in memory of Knaggs's good friend," Pearson says.

The first editions of the "Sifel Night Sky" were handmade for two of Larry's closest friends, musicians Al Petteway and Greg Artzner, and for members of the Pearl Works team. The "Night

In conjunction with the event, the [Museum Store](#) will feature the new *Dragons and Vines* exhibition catalog as well as exclusive items featuring these beautiful inlaid guitars. From postcards and magnets to purses and T-shirts, there are many ways to take home a reminder of the exhibition.



Sky" guitar completed for MIM is differentiated from the others by the use of a highly figured curly maple for the back and sides.



[Learn about MIM's Collections](#)

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Noteworthy

New Concerts Just Announced

We are pleased to announce that MIM and [Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts](#) are copresenting **Béla Fleck and Abigail Washburn** on March 14, 2017 at Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts. Our [Circle of Friends](#) donors will be able to buy presale tickets next week and will receive an e-mail in the coming days with a special presale code. All ticket sales will go through SCPA's ticketing system.

MIM Named One of Arizona's Most Admired Companies

Recently, MIM was honored as one of Arizona's [Most Admired Companies](#) for 2016. The Most Admired Companies program is put together by *AZ Business* magazine and BestCompaniesAZ. Congratulations to all of the winners; MIM is in great company!

UPCOMING EVENTS

[View All Events](#)



[¡Cubanismo!](#)

Tuesday, October 25
7:00 p.m.

\$38.50–\$48.50

Led by Cuban trumpeter Jesús Alemañy, ¡Cubanismo! fuses the traditions of Cuban *son* with modern arrangements and sizzling dance tunes from around the world.



[Purchase Tickets](#)



[Haas Kowert Tice](#)

Wednesday, November 2
7:00 p.m.

\$28.50–\$35.50

The American roots trio Haas Kowert Tice is a confluence of three of the most exciting young musicians in acoustic music today.



[Purchase Tickets](#)



[Rumer Willis: Over the Love Tour](#)

Sunday, November 6
7:00 p.m.

\$58.50–\$68.50

"Rumer Willis has the voice of God!"—*Us Weekly* Magazine



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MIM is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and relies on donations to assist in the delivery of its mission.

Musical Instrument Museum

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