

Making Musical Instruments

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2010 Fund for Teachers Fellow

Troy, Vermont



What Do These People Have In Common?



TEACHERS



They All
Play Guitars
Made
In George
Riszanyi's
Workshop!



My Project:

Spend 2 weeks at the Canadian School of Lutherie and learn how to make my own guitar.



My Project:

My first day...

[My Blog...](#)



TEACHING AS

My Project:



TEACHERS

Why?

- Arts & Communications Academy at my school.
- Students in core academic classes will be engaged with activities in visual and performing arts, including art, music, theater, and dance.
- We have no science teacher on board yet.



We Believe...

- Students will learn better if they are engaged in activities that they are passionate about.
- A possible pathway for students will be to enter a program in the North Country Career Center.
- There is a need for a class that connects everything together.



Making Musical Instruments Class

- Designed to provide hands-on experiences
- Science experiments: explore waves and other phenomena
- The physics of sound: Acoustics



What Will We Make?

- Hands-on science experiments
- PVC Flutes
- Mountain Dulcimer



In The Classroom...



FOR
TEACHERS

In The Classroom...



FOR
TEACHERS

In The Classroom...



FOR
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In The Classroom...



TEACHERS

In The Classroom...



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Other Components...

- Use Web 2.0 tools including Skype and Indabamusic.com.
- Make predictions using Audacity
- Performance



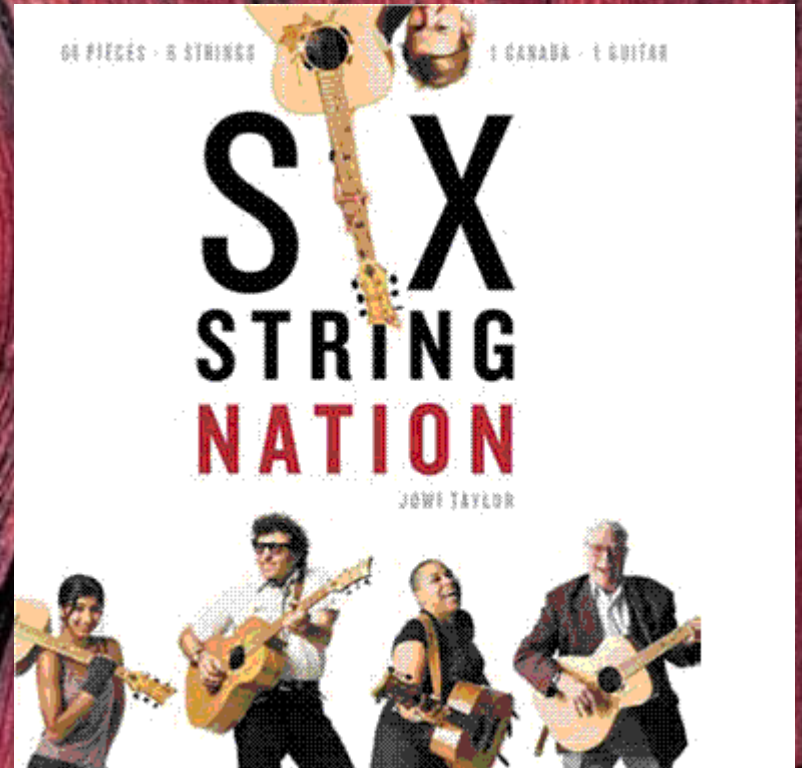
About My Experience

- Two week course at Canadian School of Lutherie in Nova Scotia
- Who takes this course?
- Questions to bring back to my students:
 - The nature of materials
 - The mathematical relationships
 - Forming techniques
 - Organization of the lab space



George Riszanyi

- Commissioned to build the Six String Nation guitar in 2005.
- Made from 64 pieces of Canadian history and heritage representing many different cultures, communities and characters from all across the country.



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George Riszanyi

- Bluenose II, a Wayne Gretzky hockey stick, Pierre Trudeau's canoe paddle and wood that belonged to Sir John A. MacDonald
- Rocket Richard's Stanley Cup ring, Louis Riel's first coffin, Halifax pier, Doukhobour grain silo, mammoth ivory, pipestone, carved caribou antler, whale baleen and wood of The Golden Spruce.
- *It took 10 years to collect the 64 pieces of wood, bone and stone that make up the guitar.*



George Riszanyi

- Emigrated to Toronto with his family in 1956.
- His family hosted other Hungarian immigrants to help them get settled in Canada.



A Defining Moment

One of the immigrants gave young George a guitar in appreciation for everything that his family did to help.

George kept looking into the guitar trying to figure out what caused all of that sound to come out. This question led to his life's work.



What Was Your Defining Moment?

- Did you recognize your moment?
- Did you act on your moment?



What Will Be My Students' Defining Moment?

...and how can I help
them find it?



Links...

<http://www.sixstringnation.com>

<http://www.bobdunndesign.com/likemusic>

