

Wood & Steel



Special Feature

GUITAR REVIEW

**Bob Taylor on
Shapes, Sounds
and Finding the
Right Guitar**

Inside:

Single Coil SolidBody

**Builder's Reserve:
The Liberty Tree T5**

Joe Ely's Texas

QUALITY
Taylor
GUITARS

Soundings



Still No Moss Here

Geezer rock is alive and still kicking, as the Rolling Stones and film director Martin Scorsese collaboratively attest through the lens of Scorsese's new concert flick, *Shine a Light*. Released in early April, the film captures the self-proclaimed World's Greatest Rock & Roll Band in all their gritty, craggy-skinned glory during two nights at New York City's Beacon Theater in the fall of 2006, on the band's "A Bigger Bang" tour. Mick Jagger maintains classic form as he struts his über-metabolism around the stage, but tends to anchor himself down when he strums his 414e on such tunes as "Dead Flowers" and "Loving Cup," in which Sir Mick is joined by modern-primal bluesman Jack White.

Lending Creedence to the Strummy Sound

Acoustic guitar has always been a major component of **John Fogerty's** sound — providing a rhythmic bed (from Creedence Clearwater Revival's 1969 smash "Green River" to "Don't You Wish It Was True" from his latest CD, *Revival*) and occasionally taking center stage, as on the classic "Who'll Stop the Rain" and 2004's "Déjà Vu (All Over Again)." In fact, some fans and critics referred to the *Déjà Vu All Over Again* CD as "an acoustic album" — "I think because the acoustic stuff seems to be so definitive," the guitarist speculates.

Fogerty's music is about as

rock & roll as it gets, although he unabashedly declares that, along with Elvis and the Ventures, folk music was an early influence. He got his first guitar lesson from Barry Olivier, founder of the Berkeley Folk Festival, which an adolescent Fogerty attended — getting to see and meet artists like Pete Seeger, Lightnin' Hopkins, Sam Hinton, and Ramblin' Jack Elliott.

Because of early acoustic experiences with a cheap Stella and a Gibson Western with a Tune-O-Matic bridge (which "sounded like a cardboard box"), Fogerty admits to having an aversion to acoustic guitar early on. Though he eventually developed an appreciation for Martins, he says, they were "not in my loop" growing up. Today, his impressive collection sports every-

thing from a low-rent '30s Kalamazoo (the brand referenced in "Down on the Corner") to a D'Angelico New Yorker archtop, with various vintage Martins and Gibsons also in the mix.

But his Taylors (all eight of them, including an 810ce, 855, LKSM, 912ce and 510) occupy a special place. "I love Taylors," he enthuses. "The guitar on 'Déjà Vu' is a Taylor. That's the strummy-strummy thing for a pop kind of record. I went through a few of them, and I've got one that's golden! And it was my campfire guitar — the one that would lie under the bed and get brought out, literally, to a campfire or to the school variety show. I guess treating it like that, it got played a lot or something.

"I'm not doing that to it anymore," he laughs. "But being very honest, without being partial to brands or any of that kind of stuff — I love everybody, and everybody makes some good stuff — a Taylor does the nice pop-sheen thing. A very nice, good, strummy sound."

A perfect example of what Fogerty is talking about is contained in his concert DVD, *The Long Road Home*. Without doubt, the most dramatic moment of the live retrospective comes when Fogerty's band leaves the stage and he performs the pointed "Déjà Vu" alone — just him and his Taylor.

— Dan Forte

Stars & Strings

The Armed Forces Entertainment organization raffled a one-off, custom-airbrushed T5 at this year's South by Southwest conference, held in Austin, Texas in March. Taylor had donated a pair of T5s to AFE, a Department of Defense agency which coordinates entertainment for U.S. military personnel at more than 350 military installations all around the world. AFE in turn arranged to have both T5s custom-painted by artist **Justin Barnes** (jbgrafix.com), whose airbrush work has been prominently featured on the Discovery Channel's *American Chopper* program.

Barnes was given free reign

with the visual concepts, and went with a metal flake gun-metal gray M-60 design on one, and a red, white and blue Stars and Stripes motif on the other. Both paint jobs wrap around all sides of the guitar and run up the back of the neck.

Barnes' smooth hand rendered a cool 3D perspective; he says each guitar took him about a week to paint, and that he had a blast working on them.

The M-60 guitar was showcased at AFE's booth in the SXSW exhibition hall, where AFE staffers were promoting touring opportunities to artists and bands in attendance. While the older and better known USO program (with which AFE is affiliated) has historically presented high-profile entertainers, the AFE brings a variety of up-and-coming acts to the troops. For the slew of young bands eager to gain exposure, see the world from a unique perspective, have their costs covered while on tour, and



L-R: Artist Justin Barnes and Carol Grey, with her M-60 T5, at SXSW in Austin



land, California. Grey, Director of Artist Relations for Cut Merch, a provider of branded tour merchandise, said she doesn't play guitar but joked that the universe was trying to tell her to learn.

"I can't believe that I received such an incredible gift," she said afterward. "I've got tons of musician friends and clients who are all suitably jealous. Everyone agrees that you guys make some of the best sounding and most superbly crafted guitars available today!"

The Stars and Stripes T5 will be awarded to a U.S. military serviceman or woman stationed overseas later this year. AFE spokesperson Melissa Welch said the plan was to have a contest to name the guitar. The promotion was scheduled to kick off on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 17.

connect directly with the troops, it can be an enticing proposition.

One such band is Atlanta-based **Five Star Iris**, whose lead singer/guitarist, Alan Schaefer, plays a Taylor 414ce. The band toured Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, UAE, Bahrain and Djibouti; flew to Washington, D.C. to perform at the Pentagon for the U.S. Air Force's 60th Anniversary celebration; and performed at the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The band also played AFE's performance stage on Saturday of the SXSW show, after which Taylor Regional Sales Manager Andy Lund was joined by Justin Barnes as he drew the winning name for the painted T5: Carol Grey, of Oak-