



National Music Museum
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National Music Museum Acquires Johnny and June Carter Cash Guitars

VERMILLION, S.D. -- The National Music Museum at The University of South Dakota in Vermillion has acquired two guitars and a banjo from the Johnny and June Carter Cash Estate that were recently sold by auction at Sotheby's in New York.

The 1971 Martin D-28 guitar, known as the "Bon Aqua," was kept at Johnny's 100-acre farm near Bon Aqua, Tennessee, 35 miles southwest of Nashville. Returning from extensive tours in the U.S. and abroad, Johnny would go there alone, as he wrote in his autobiography, "to cook my own food, read my own books, tend my own garden, water my own land, and think, write, compose, rest, and reflect in peace." As such, the guitar, which Johnny used while writing songs during the last 30 years of his life, was more intimately connected with him than the hundreds of other guitars that came and went through his hands on the road.

The "Bon Aqua" will be exhibited November 10-17 in Sioux Falls at First Dakota Financial Center, which underwrote the acquisition of the highly sought instrument, and will be played by John McNeill of Springfield, South Dakota, at the Vermillion High School Performing Arts Center on November 20, when he and his colleagues present "Celebration of Johnny Cash" at a United Way of Vermillion fund-raiser.

The National Music Museum also acquired the 1967 Gibson “Hummingbird” guitar that was one of June Carter Cash’s favorite guitars, according to Marshall Grant, bass player with Johnny’s show from 1955 to 1980. She was still playing it, when she posed for the September 18-24, 1999 issue of TV Guide.

The third acquisition is a 1980 Gibson five string banjo that was given to Johnny by Earl Scruggs, the bluegrass legend, who wrote on the head of the banjo, “To my friend Johnny Cash / Earl Scruggs. Johnny and Scruggs collaborated often, including recent albums that came out in 2001 and 2002.

The three instruments will go on permanent exhibit at the National Music Museum next summer, when the NMM opens a new gallery to tell the story of the development of American guitars in the 20th century.

For graphics by email or on disc, contact aplarrison@usd.edu

About the National Music Museum: The National Music Museum and Center for Study of the History of Musical Instruments, located on the campus of the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, is one of the great institutions of its kind in the world. Its renowned collections include more than 10,500 American, European, and non-Western instruments from virtually all cultures and historical periods. Visit www.usd.edu/smm

About The University of South Dakota: Founded in 1862, The University of South Dakota is designated as the only public liberal arts university in the state and is home to a large College of Arts and Sciences, a School of Education and the state’s only Law School, Medical School, accredited Business School, and College of Fine Arts. It has an enrollment of approximately 8,700 students taught by 400 faculty members. More information is available at www.usd.edu/urelations/news.