



Students from Minnesota State College-Southeast Technical guitar and violin labs have been building instruments for several months. See their finished masterpieces at the annual Student Guitar Show with almost 80 hand-crafted instruments on display from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday May 12. Seen above are some of the pieces at various stages of production. A steel string guitar built by instructors will be raffled off. **Top row, from left:** Justin Ness: OM acoustic guitar; Ness: electric bass; John Potts: electric bass. **Middle row:** Jairus Paulus: Single O acoustic guitar; Franziska Andonopoulos: Gibson J45 style acoustic guitar; Carl Johnson: OM acoustic guitar. **Bottom row:** Colin Samek: Weissenborn guitar; Curren Effinger: Archtop guitar; Effinger: Semi-hollow body electric guitar. (Republican Eagle photos by Stacy Bengs)

Strum this way

By Stacy Bengs

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Nearly 80 brand new, handcrafted guitars will be in the spotlight next week as Minnesota State College-Southeast Technical hosts its free annual Student Guitar Show.

The instruments are on display 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday May 12 at the Red Wing campus.

"Students in the guitar and violin labs have been focused intently on their

work as they build flattop, archtop and electric guitars, mandolins, ukuleles and at least one hurdy gurdy," said communication director Katryn Conlin.

The guitar show includes concerts on two stages, as the instruments will be played live for the first time by professional Twin Cities musicians, including Bill Cagley, Sarah Cagley, Mike Cramer and Phil Heywood.

"The students are brim-

ming with satisfaction," instructor Brian Boedigheimer said. "It's a celebration of the great work they have been doing all year. All the struggle and challenges are behind them, and the guitar show is their reward."

Typically, first-year students build acoustic and electric guitars over the course of seven weeks. Finishing takes another two weeks and the last days of class are spent on the final setup by adding

bridges, tuners and strings, among other things.

"Second-year students work all year on their carved instruments, like archtop guitars," Boedigheimer said, "and spend three months on their advanced-build guitars."

The advanced-build guitars are designed in the fall and built in the spring with more challenging finishing work.

"At the end of the year, they have a tangible re-

sult – a guitar that will live with them for decades," he adds.

Guitar repair and building instructor David Vincent and other faculty members have contributed to the construction of a "beautiful handmade steel string guitar which will be raffled off at the Guitar Show," Conlin said.

Vincent has taught at the school since 1984, has built more than 50 instruments and helped stu-

dents build more than 600 instruments throughout his career.

Since 2009, he also has made the guitars given out as the first-place prize for the Minnesota Flatpicking Guitar Championship.

Raffle tickets are \$5, with proceeds benefitting the Roger Benedict Memorial Scholarship Fund, supporting Southeast Technical students in the string instrument repair and building programs.