

JULY 2025

MG

proaudio

DRVCTOR
& the rasta rebels
THE INTERVIEW



Gibson

Through the Decades

MEET THE ARTISTS

Gibson SOL STRINGER
Gibson 4 EVA YOUNG BAND

JARED JAMES NICHOLS
and **Blackstar**
AMPLIFICATION



HPW-5000

AFFORDABLE PREMIUM HEADPHONES



S100 AUROTOUCH
100W MULTI-FUNCTION AMPLIFIER





**“Go
where
the
guitar
takes
you.”**

WELCOME TO THE JULY EDITION OF PROAUDIO MUSICGEAR MAGAZINE

As winter settles in and the gig bags get a little heavier, we're warming things up with another packed issue of MusicGear Magazine—and this month, we're diving deep into the heart of what makes music timeless: great guitars, powerful sound, and the artists who bring them to life.

This month, we dive into the legacy of Gibson through the decades, explore the stunning Joe Bonamassa Epiphone Collection, and shine a spotlight on rising and legendary artists alike.

Enjoy exclusive interviews with Dr. Victor & The Rasta Rebels, Sol Stringer, and meet the next generation with our feature on the 4 Eva Young Band. We also take a look at blues-rock powerhouse Jared James Nichols and his partnership with Blackstar Amplification.

On the gear front, don't miss the Swiff Audio S1000 amplifier, the Maestro Titan Boost pedal, and the all-new PowerWorks HPW-5000 headphones—plus a full dose of Epiphone and Gibson inspiration.

Wherever you are on your musical journey, this issue is for you.

Let's keep playing, creating, and dreaming.

STAY LOUD. STAY INSPIRED.
Proaudio MusicGear Team

MusicGear

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Product Library

This magazine is designed to inform, supply, and provide information relating to the industry that we find ourselves in. Some of the material that we have used is resourced from websites around the world to help bring perspective and insight to your business' and your lives. Products highlighted and reviewed may or may not be available, if you have any questions relating to the information herein, please contact us.

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Gibson[®] Through the Decades

Iconic Models That Shaped Music



Few names in music evoke the kind of reverence Gibson does.

From the smoky jazz clubs of the 1930s to modern stadium rock stages, Gibson guitars have left their fingerprints on every genre, every revolution, and nearly every major movement in popular music.

Over the decades, Gibson has produced some of the most iconic and genre-defining instruments in history-tools of the trade for legends and future greats alike. Let's take a journey through time and explore the models that didn't just make noise-they made history.



1930s-1940s

Jazz Royalty & Electric Beginnings

Long before the Les Paul made its mark, Gibson was already a trusted name among jazz players.

- L-5 & Super 400 – Large-bodied archtops with lush acoustic tone and exquisite craftsmanship, these were favored by jazz virtuosos.
- ES-150 – Released in 1936, this was one of the first commercial electric guitars. It gained fame thanks to Charlie Christian, whose amp-powered solos changed the course of jazz.



Legacy

Gibson pioneered archtop and electric guitar technology when most were still clinging to acoustics.

1950s

The Birth of the Solid Body – The Les Paul Arrives

In collaboration with guitarist and innovator Les Paul, Gibson released its first solid-body electric guitar in 1952.

- Les Paul Goldtop (1952) – The original, featuring P-90 pickups and a carved maple top.
- Les Paul Custom (1954) – The “Black Beauty” with elegant appointments and dual pickups.
- Les Paul Standard (1958–1960) – With its sunburst finish, humbucking pickups, and flame maple top, this is the holy grail of electric guitars.

Legacy

The Les Paul changed rock forever-its rich, sustain-heavy tone became the gold standard.



1960s

Thin necks, Psychedelia & British Invasion

As music got louder and bolder, so did Gibson.

- SG (1961) – Initially a redesign of the Les Paul, the SG became a hard rock staple thanks to players like Angus Young and Tony Iommi.
- ES-335 (1958) – A semi-hollow marvel that bridged jazz and rock.
- Firebird & Thunderbird (1963) – Bold body shapes, mini-humbuckers, and reverse headstocks.



Legacy

Gibson became the choice of rebels, innovators, and British invaders. Think Eric Clapton, Keith Richards, and George Harrison.

1970s

Power, Attitude & Arena Rock

Gibson rode the wave of rock's golden era with grit and power.

- Les Paul Deluxe & Custom – Embraced by players like Pete Townshend and Randy Rhoads.
- Flying V & Explorer – Futuristic, aggressive guitars for metal and hard rock.
- Marauder & S-1 – Short-lived models that experimented with Fender-style features.



Legacy

The sound of rock 'n roll rebellion-thick, distorted, and unapologetic.

1980s

Return to Roots & Shred Culture

While the hair metal scene exploded, Gibson stayed grounded in classic tone—but also explored modern styles.

- Les Paul Standard Reissues – A nod to the revered '58-'60 models.
- Chet Atkins & Studio Series – Diversifying into country and studio-friendly builds.
- Jimmy Page, Slash & Zakk Wylde – Brought the Les Paul back into the spotlight for a new generation.



Legacy

Gibson balanced heritage and shred, helping to define rock's next evolution.

1990s-2000s

Revival, Reissues & Custom Shop Glory

As grunge and alternative music rose, so did the demand for authentic tone and vintage style.

- Historic Reissue Series – Accurate recreations of the legendary '59 LPs.
- Signature Models – From BB King's Lucille to Gary Moore's Les Paul.
- Robot Guitar (2007) – Gibson dabbled in auto-tuning tech with mixed reactions.

Legacy

A golden era for collectors and tone purists alike.



2010s-2020s

Tradition Meets Innovation

The last two decades have seen Gibson walk a tightrope between tradition and technology.

- Les Paul Tribute & Modern Series – Weight relief, slim necks, and player-friendly upgrades.
- Custom Shop Masterpieces – Museum-grade recreations for collectors.
- Gibson App & Play Series – New educational tools and beginner models to invite fresh players.

Legacy

Gibson continues to adapt while honouring the sound and style that made it legendary.



From jazz standards to stadium anthems, from bluesy bends to brutal riffs, Gibson guitars have shaped every corner of the musical world. Each decade tells a story of evolution, risk, reinvention-and above all, tone.



Whether you're holding a vintage '59, an Epiphone sibling, or a modern SG, you're holding a piece of history.



DR VCTOR

& the rasta rebels

Legends Live On

A Conversation with Dr. Victor & The Rasta Rebels

For over four decades, **Dr. Victor** has been a cornerstone of the South African music scene. Whether lighting up a festival stage or inspiring singalongs with timeless anthems, his presence is unmistakable—and unforgettable. With his band **The Rasta Rebels**, he's cultivated a sound that's not only instantly uplifting but globally resonant, blending pop, reggae, African grooves, and an unmistakable spirit of joy.

In this exclusive conversation, we dive deep into the mind of the man behind the music. From the evolution of his signature sound to sharing stages with international icons, from licensing deals across continents to his newest release “No Fear” with Dboy—Dr. Victor shares the insights, memories, and magic that have kept his journey alive and relevant.

As always, his message is simple but powerful: keep the music real, stay passionate, and never stop learning.



INTERVIEW - Dr. Victor & The Rasta Rebels

Presented by Proaudio MusicGear

MG You've built a legendary career spanning more than 40 years. What do you think has been the key to your longevity in the South African music industry?



I love music very much, one could say I'm more of a music lover than a musician. My style of music is pop music, which is a very big catalogue to draw ideas from. Also, the piano has black and white notes and I decided to play them all. I just love to see people sing along to our music. People need someone to uplift their spirits and that's where we come in. Of course, I'm very grateful to our loyal fan base.

MG Your sound is instantly uplifting and infectious—how would you describe the evolution of your music over the decades?



I think we've come a long way experimenting with different styles of reggae, R&B and rock sounds, but I can certainly say we've established our own sound that's instantly recognizable when you hear it on the radio.

MG With so many live shows under your belt, what's the secret to keeping your performances fresh, energetic, and relevant?



As a musician you have to keep going and try and breathe new ideas into the music, borrowing a small piece from another song or trying out a remix idea on one of our old classics—it always works as long as you're not too cheesy. The music and visual aspect of our band should always be engaging with the audience.

MG Can you tell us about the role guitar plays in crafting your signature sound—especially when blending reggae, pop, and African influences?



The guitar is a big part of how I approach our demos and compositions. I can immediately hear if someone used synthesized guitars—it doesn't sound authentic. Especially in reggae and African grooves. Also, I always have a wah-wah pedal on my pedal board for those reggae chops, which is a very important pedal in reggae and soul music.

MG Many of your tracks became anthems, from “Give Me Hope Jo’Anna” to “Shambala.” Which songs still give you goosebumps when you perform them live?



“Gimme Hope Jo’Anna” is definitely the song that resonates with people almost 30 years since we recorded it. The South African people just embraced that song as part of our own culture and history.

MG You’ve opened for some serious global legends—Paul Simon, Gloria Estefan, Janet Jackson. Any standout memories or lessons from those moments?



Yes, we were very fortunate to work with those icons. The lesson that I learned from them is you can be a great musician, but if you don’t have your own sound or signature you’re not going to make it.



MG Your music has resonated globally, even earning licensing deals in places like Mexico, Japan, and the Middle East. What do you think gives your sound such international appeal?

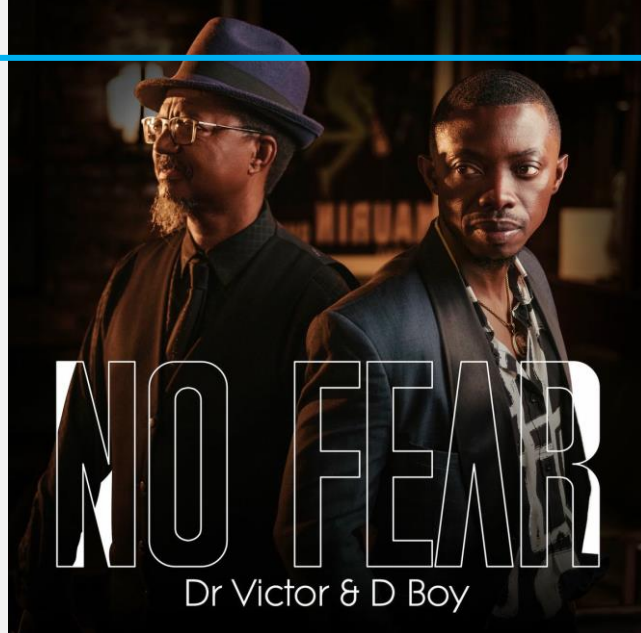


I think South African people just have that rainbow touch. Whatever we touch will always sound like us. We are happy people and we have something special to offer. The world likes our music and I was just lucky to get those deals. We've always exported our music as a nation—from the likes of Johnny Clegg, Miriam Makeba, Hugh Masekela, and Lucky Dube—they all paved the way for us.

MG How has the South African live music scene changed since the days of CC Beat, and what excites you most about where it's heading?



Thanks to the internet, the world is an open market for all who want to learn and exchange ideas. I have a ritual to watch all kinds of musical tutorials every night before I go to bed—from how to use studio plugins, music theory, the NAMM Show gear releases, etc. Now I'm learning where AI fits in our music and how to use it legally.



MG Your latest release “No Fear” with Dboy is out now—tell us the story behind the song and what inspired this collaboration.



The song was written by Dboy (Daniel Lyonga) from Cameroon and this is what he had to say about the concept of the song:

The song is a motivational song that serves as a declaration to say we can accomplish all things in spite of the challenges. Advice from parents and life lessons have informed certain values and principles that we live by and ought not to compromise. We all face challenges and in different magnitudes. They could be spiritual, emotional, mental or even physical. These could either break you or make you. Often, a positive declaration will go a long way in building resilience.

Song Title: No Fear
FEAR – False Evidence Appearing Real



As one of the busiest live bands in SA, what advice do you have for younger artists trying to build a lasting live career?



First of all, you have to have passion. You're not going to make it if music is a side hobby—it's a full-time commitment. Like everything else, it has its ups and downs. Also, you have to spend money to make money. You have to set aside some money for recordings, gear, medical, transport, your image, etc. We're like a hybrid band—meaning we play originals and covers—which means you'll have to practice for the rest of your life to stay relevant. And without passion, it's not possible.



Lastly, what's next for Dr. Victor & The Rasta Rebels? Any new music, tours, or surprises we should keep an ear out for?



We're busy recording new material—hopefully it will be ready by the end of the winter. I still believe in albums, I'm old school. Also, we'd like to record a Greatest Hits live reggae album and take the idea on the road for our fans to enjoy. Sometimes the show just has to be a massive karaoke for everyone to sing along and have fun.





S100

AURATOUGH FULL-FUNCTION AMPLIFIER

100W high power | 5.8G digital transmission | 5200mAh battery capacity | 5 hours battery life



Swift Audio S100 Auratouch

Where Innovation Meets Expression



Finding an amplifier that's compact, intuitive, and fully loaded with features can feel like chasing a dream. But with the Swift Audio S100 Auratouch, that dream comes alive—beautifully.

Designed for musicians who need portability without sacrificing performance, this full-function amplifier offers a sleek solution that's as powerful as it is practical.

At first glance, the S100 impresses with its minimal, modern design. But the real magic begins when you power it on. Its responsive Auratouch control panel brings a new level of intuitiveness to amp control.

Everything from tone shaping to effect selection is at your fingertips—literally. No clunky knobs or menus, just smooth, tactile responsiveness that reacts like an extension of your musical thought.



**SWIFF AUDIO**

Global Brand Ambassador

Luca Stricagnoli*Luca Stricagnoli*

Despite its compact size, the S100 doesn't pull any punches. It delivers a rich, articulate sound that belies its footprint, making it ideal for guitarists on the move—whether you're rehearsing in a bedroom, performing on a street corner, or tracking a new idea in your home studio. And with its wide array of built-in effects, the S100 is more than just an amp—it's a creative toolbox.



and it has so many surprises

Whether you're a busker, bedroom producer, or studio player, the Swift S100 offers a rare blend of smart design and sound integrity. It's proof that you don't need to be big to sound bold.

If you're looking to upgrade your setup with something futuristic, functional, and fiercely musical—the S100 Auratouch might just be the smartest amp you've never heard of.

POWERFUL FUNCTION AND GOOD SOUND QUALITY

Innovative design makes music beautiful.



100W Power



Touch



Microphone Input



5.8G Wireless Transmission



5.8G Wireless Recording



Bluetooth 5.0



Multiple Units In Series



Drum Machine



Multiple Reverberation Modes



Audio Input



Lithium Battery Power Supply



5 Hours Battery Life

JOE BONAMASSA'S Epiphone Collection

Affordable Doesn't Mean Inferior

The price tag of a guitar often dictates its perceived value,

blues rock legend Joe Bonamassa is helping to shift the narrative-one Epiphone at a time.

Known for his vast vintage guitar collection and impeccable tone, Bonamassa isn't just an aficionado of six-figure Gibsons. Over the past decade, he's collaborated with Epiphone to release a series of artist models that prove high-quality craftsmanship, premium tonewoods, and soulful sound don't have to break the bank.

His growing Epiphone line is reshaping how the industry views "affordable" gear-and offering a welcome entry point for serious players on a budget.



Why Epiphone?

Bonamassa's decision to work with Epiphone was never about compromise-it was about access.

"There are a lot of people who love guitars but don't have \$5,000 or \$10,000 to spend," Bonamassa told *Guitar World*. "With Epiphone, we can give them something they'll be proud to play on stage, in the studio, or at home."

As a long-time ambassador of vintage tone, Joe has always taken gear seriously. He owns some of the rarest guitars on the planet, including original '59 Les Paul Standards, Flying Vs, and ES-335s. That makes his seal of approval on an Epiphone model all the more powerful.

The Signature Series That Changed the Game

Bonamassa's Epiphone collection is more than a gimmick—it's a carefully curated tribute to his favourite vintage pieces. Each model is built to reflect the soul and specs of a beloved guitar in Joe's own vault.



Here are just a few highlights

Lazarus '59 Les Paul Standard

- Inspired by a real 1959 Les Paul Joe nicknamed “Lazarus” after restoring it from a sanded-down husk.
- Features a flame maple cap, mahogany body and neck, and Gibson Burstbucker pickups.

Black Beauty Les Paul Custom

- A triple-humbucker beast modeled after Joe’s 1958 LP Custom.
- Gold hardware, ebony fretboard, multi-ply binding—pure elegance and bite.

Amos Flying V

- Based on Joe’s ultra-rare '58 Flying V “Amos.”
- Korina body, vintage neck profile, and blistering rock tone.
- A true throwback to one of Gibson’s most experimental designs.

Norm Burst 335

- A semi-hollow tribute to a cherished guitar from Norman’s Rare Guitars in California.
- Balanced, warm, and surprisingly versatile—ideal for jazz, blues, or even indie rock.
- Each guitar offers premium features, carefully selected tonewoods, and vintage aesthetics-often using the same pickups and electronics as their Gibson counterparts.



Joe Bonamassa's Epiphone signature models

have earned praise from critics, guitar reviewers, and working musicians across the globe. Known for their superb playability, tonal consistency, and vintage-inspired craftsmanship, these guitars defy the notion that affordability compromises quality.

Crucially, they're not just for beginners-these are serious instruments, fit for both stage and studio.

Crucially, they're not just for beginners-these are serious instruments, fit for both stage and studio.

Joe Bonamassa has done more than release a few budget-friendly guitars-he's elevated the entire perception of what an affordable instrument can be. By pouring his knowledge, passion, and exacting standards into each Epiphone model, he's created tools for musicians who care about tone, heritage, and playability-regardless of their budget.

And in doing so, he's proven something we often forget: great guitars aren't about logos. They're about inspiration.





**“ When you’re young
and struggling, you
overplay to get
noticed.**

**I have shredded my
way to success.**

**Maybe now is a good
time to just go,... ‘Is
this serving the
song’”**

Joe Bonamassa





Strings, Soul & Storytelling

A Candid Chat with Sol Stringer

From a brown notebook of lyrics to the stages of Johannesburg and beyond, **Sol Stringer** has carved out a path that's anything but ordinary. A soulful guitarist, dynamic performer, and emerging DJ, Sol brings heart to every note and story to every song. Raised in a gospel-filled home in Krugersdorp and inspired by legends from Lenny Kravitz to Tracy Chapman, his sound is as diverse as his journey.

In this honest and often humorous conversation, Sol opens up about his musical roots, the magic of his old Gibson, the weirdest stage he's ever rocked, and why clean hands before a gig are non-negotiable. From church gigs to hippy stages and now DJ decks, his passion for music remains unmistakably raw and real.

This is Sol Stringer—unfiltered, grounded, and always plugged in.



INTERVIEW - Sol Stringer

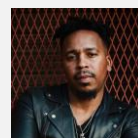
Presented by Proaudio MusicGear

MG Let's take it way back—You used to write lyrics in your musical book and keep them in a brown suitcase. Do you still have that suitcase? What was the first song you ever wrote in it?



Yeah, I actually used to write on a brown book which was one of my old 2 quire school books, but I lost the suitcase because it was really old. Back then we would write cover songs and lipsynch, if not mime them.

MG You're one of seven siblings—was your house always filled with music growing up? Who had the best taste in music (besides you, obviously)?



My house was mostly filled with music but mostly Gospel music 'cause of my late Dad—he was a preacher. My older brother had the best popping and quite versatile music—from pop, R'nB, jazz, hip hop, etc.

MG Your guitar is your mouthpiece—tell us about your old Gibson. What's the story behind it, and what makes its sound so unique for you?



Gibson is one legendary brand that is still timeless. I mean the likes of Bob Marley, Lenny Kravitz and Slash—who I look up to. The warm and very eclectic rock distortion it delivers is out of this world.

MG Do you remember the moment you picked up a 6-string and thought, “Yep, this is it”? What song sealed the deal?



I remember it like it was yesterday because all I wanted to do was put distortion on it. Lol! The song that sealed the deal was *Sweet Child O' Mine* by Guns 'N Roses.



If your guitar could talk, what do you think it would say about all the gigs, songs, and soul you've poured into it?



What a ride we had and great memories we created.



You've got a smooth, soulful sound. Who are the artists—local or global—that shaped your style and vibe?



Kirk Franklin, Tracy Chapman, Prince, R. Kelly, The Isley Brothers, Lenny Kravitz, Jimi Hendrix, George Benson, Guns N' Roses, Aerosmith, Bon Jovi, Bryan Adams, Blink 182—and mostly '90s top-charting musicians across the board.



We hear you're from Krugersdorp! How has your hometown influenced your music, your storytelling, or even your rhythm?



It sparked my first gig runs from playing in church and finding myself on bigger stages. Making friends from different walks of life, creed, race and stuff—which I appreciated 'cause it wasn't an easy one to live in because of our country's past. But instead, I got a different experience from it—that not everyone believes in the same thing regardless of colour. Having in mind I was an ice hockey player in Krugersdorp. Some friends introduced me to punk rock even—and I loved it.





What's the weirdest or most unexpected gig you've ever played? A wedding on a mountain? A garage jam with cows nearby?



Lol! The weirdest gig I've ever played at was some mini festival in Johannesburg Newtown. They had different stages—from deep tech, rave, Afro tech, and some heavy hippy stuff I never thought was a genre. I was booked at the hippy stage. Inside that stage it looked like a fairy's nest, but the music was a lil' creepy 'cause I'm not used to the genre. But I still rocked out my set—they loved it.



Do you have any pre-show rituals? Something like talking to your guitar, eating a specific snack, or playing a secret warm-up song?



I like to have a meal before my set, depends on what I feel like—but meaty though. Then before I get on stage, I pray, then go for a tinkle to kill the nerves and wash my hands. Guitar needs clean hands.



Imagine you're stuck on an island with your Gibson and only one amp—what 3 songs do you keep playing to stay sane?



Just the Two of Us by Bill Withers, *Best of Me* by Anthony Hamilton, and Bob Marley's *No Woman, No Cry*. I don't know why, but I just love that on guitar. Lol.

MG proaudio If you had to swap your 6-string for any other instrument for one week, what would you choose—and why?



That would be the saxophone—but knowing how to play it before that one week. I love the soothing sound of the saxophone—it just does something to me internally.

MG proaudio Lastly, what's next for Sol Stringer? Any new music, collaborations, or surprise gigs we should keep our ears tuned for?



Sol Stringer has been on decks as a DJ lately and hosting a few events. I will be hitting the airwaves with some collabos with some DJ friends—namely DJ Clock and DJ Innocent. I've also been performing with some muso friends at a live venue called Bertrand Café in Johannesburg, Maboneng. There we've been hosting different vocalists to perform cover songs—from jazz, Afro pop, and well-known songs.

We're also prepping up for some international gigs as a band. To catch more developments of what I'm up to, catch me on my socials.



Epiphone

DWHOUNDLX

DOBRO HOUND DOG DELUXE RESONATOR

The Epiphone Dobro Hound Dog Deluxe Resonator is a striking blend of tradition and innovation. Built to deliver the unmistakable metallic twang and warm growl of classic resonators, this model features a spun aluminum cone, maple body, and a round mahogany neck with a sleek rosewood fingerboard.

Its vintage-style fan plate cover and classic f-holes give it a rootsy, authentic look—while the sound is unmistakably Dobro: rich, raw, and resonant.

Equipped with a Fishman™ resonator pickup system, the Hound Dog Deluxe transitions effortlessly from unplugged porch playing to electrified stage performance. It's a reliable workhorse with premium build quality, ideal for guitarists who want to channel vintage Americana tones with modern flexibility.



WHY IT'S WORTH IT

What sets this resonator apart is its combination of craftsmanship, stage-readiness, and tonal character. Most resonators limit you to acoustic settings, but Epiphone took it a step further by adding a built-in pickup, making it ideal for gigs and recording sessions.

Whether you're fingerpicking subtle melodies or sliding into swampy blues lines, the response is immediate and expressive. Plus, the value-for-money is unbeatable. You get Dobro's iconic voice with Epiphone's trusted construction—without breaking the bank.

WHAT KIND OF MUSIC IS IT GOOD FOR?

This is a **roots musician's dream**. The Hound Dog Deluxe excels in:

- **Blues** – For that gritty, soulful slide work
- **Bluegrass** – Especially for those punchy licks and rich sustain
- **Folk and Country** – Ideal for adding texture to storytelling songs
- **Southern Rock or Americana** – Great for layering under acoustic or electric arrangements

Whether you're a purist or a modern player looking to add something unique to your sonic palette, this guitar fits right in.



The **Epiphone Dobro Hound Dog Deluxe** isn't just a guitar—it's a time machine with pickups. It takes you to front porches, smoky bars, and late-night jam circles without ever leaving the stage. If you're looking to diversify your sound and bring something real and raw into your set, this resonator is ready to howl.



“Some guitars sing. This one
growls—and tells stories your
regular six-string can’t.”

— Proaudio MusicGear



Young, Loud & Unstoppable

Meet the 4 Eva Young Band

The members of **4 Eva Young Band** are proving that age is no barrier to talent, dedication, or originality. With a lineup that blends youthful energy, serious musical chops, and genre-bending influences, this group is quickly making waves across South Africa's live scene.

From soulful vocals and rock-driven guitar riffs to multi-instrumental finesse and explosive drum fills, each member brings their own spark to the stage—and together, they create a sound that's fresh, fearless, and full of heart. Whether they're playing covers, crafting originals, or pushing boundaries in the studio, 4 Eva Young Band is all about doing music their way.

We sat down with the band to get to know them a little better—and **we'll be going one by one**, starting with guitarist and vocalist **Johan van Rooyen**, followed by **Kosie Beukes**, **Zandri Bezuidenhout**, and **Caitie Rock**. Each artist brings a different perspective, and together, they show us what it means to be young, talented, and all in.



CAITIE ROCK

Singer | Athlete | Inspiration

15-year-old **Caitie Rock** from the Vaal Triangle is a powerhouse of talent with a passion for singing, musical theatre, modeling, and sport. She's also one of the vocalists in the rising 4 Eva Young Band.

Caitie began singing after being diagnosed with a life-threatening heart and lung condition that doctors believed would prevent her from ever playing sport again. But through singing, her health dramatically improved—so much so that she made a full comeback.

Today, Caitie is not only singing stronger than ever—she's also a dedicated athlete. This year, she competed in the **Athletics South Africa Championships** in the 300m hurdles, placing 12th, and plays hockey for both the **Vaal Triangle** and **Rhino teams**.

In 2022, she played the lead role in *Annie* in Pretoria and released her first self-written single, *Carnival*. In 2024, she was named a **South African Youth Ambassador**, sharing her story to inspire others. Caitie believes Jesus gave her a second chance—and she's using it to live life to the fullest. She also received an award for her ongoing charity work, which began in 2018 when she raised funds for a friend with cancer. Since then, she's remained committed to making a difference.

Caitie is currently learning piano, ukulele, and bass guitar—but her biggest joy is performing with her musical “siblings” in the **4 Eva Young Band**.





MG Caitie, your story is incredibly inspiring. Music helped you heal when sport wasn't an option — how has your voice become your superpower?



My voice has become my superpower—literally and figuratively—as singing has strengthened my lungs in such a way that I don't need any medication anymore, and I can do sports again. I actually took part in the Athletics South Africa championships this year for the 300m hurdles. My voice is definitely now my superpower as I got a second chance in life, so I will not stop singing, ever. Never give up! Focus on staying positive and believe in yourself.

MG You've written your own song, "Carnival," and acted in musical theatre too! How do you balance performance, songwriting, sport, and giving back to the community?



Well, that is all the things that I love and have a passion for. If you love something, you will always make time for it. My life is completely busy every day, but I love every second of it. I create to-do lists for the week, set alarms on my phone, and manage my time effectively. Time is the most valuable thing. Being organized in life, I can enjoy and have time for everything that is important in my life.

ZANDRI BEZUIDENHOUT

Drummer | Athlete | Creative Spirit

At just 13 years old, **Zandri Bezuidenhout** is already living life in full rhythm. Energetic, passionate, and full of heart, she began playing drums at the age of 8—and hasn't stopped since. Today, she's the driving force behind the kit in the **4 Eva Young Band**, where her natural talent and infectious energy help shape the band's high-energy sound.

Zandri brings more than just technical skill to her drumming—she plays with intention and emotion, channeling her love for music into every beat. Whether performing live or rehearsing with the band, she thrives in spaces where creativity and expression collide.

Outside of music, Zandri lives an equally active and vibrant life. She's a keen netball player and participates in athletics, always challenging herself physically. Her love for movement and rhythm isn't limited to sports—she also has a strong creative side. Photography is one of her favorite hobbies, especially capturing fun, meaningful moments with her friends. It's her way of freezing memories and sharing stories without saying a word.

With a bright future ahead of her, Zandri continues to dream big—fueled by friendship, music, and the steady heartbeat of her drums. Whether on stage or off, she lives life with passion, purpose, and a powerful sense of rhythm.





Zandri, you've been playing drums since you were 8.

What's your favourite song to perform live with the band — and why?



My favourite song to perform is *You Give Love a Bad Name*, because I love rock music!



You're super active in sports and photography too! How do those passions influence your energy and style behind the drum kit?



Sports and photography definitely fuel how I approach drumming. Sports keep me physically sharp—things like coordination, stamina, and quick reflexes directly translate to the way I play, especially during high-energy sets. I'm used to staying locked in and pushing through intense moments, which helps when performing live.

Photography, on the other hand, influences my creative side. It's all about capturing emotion and telling a story through visuals, and I try to bring that same mindset to the drums. So together, both passions shape a drumming style that's energetic.

JOHAN VAN ROOYEN

Guitarist | Vocalist | Tone Chaser

At just 14 years old, **Johan van Rooyen** has already developed a deep connection with his instruments—and it shows in every note he plays. Though his musical journey started early, it truly took off when he received his first good guitar, an **Epiphone EJ-200**, at the age of 10. That moment lit the spark, but it didn't take long before the fire was blazing.

At 11, Johan got his first **Gibson SG**, and everything changed. Inspired by the legends who played one before him, it became his go-to for expressive, high-powered solos and rich electric tones. Then, at 12, he added an **Epiphone Sheraton II Pro**, and by 13, the dream grew even bigger with the addition of a **Gibson J-200**, opening up a whole new world of acoustic texture and songwriting potential.

Johan is deeply influenced by guitar icons like **Jimmy Page**, **John Mayer**, and **Stevie Ray Vaughan**—artists known for pouring raw emotion into every performance. It's that same emotional honesty Johan brings to both his electric and acoustic playing, whether he's shredding a solo on stage or crafting soulful riffs in rehearsal.

A founding member of the **4 Eva Young Band**, Johan plays both lead guitar and sings vocals, blending power and precision in every live set. His musical maturity, paired with his ever-growing collection of guitars, makes him not only a standout young player—but one to watch in the years ahead. For Johan, it's all about chasing tone, telling stories through strings, and creating moments that feel honest, powerful, and real.





Johan, you got your first Epiphone EJ-200 at just 10 years old! What was it about that guitar that made you feel like things were “taking off”?



Well, it was a great moment for me, but the best moment was when I got my first Gibson J-200 and I already knew things were taking off.



You mentioned your Gibson SG was a “game-changer.” Can you describe the feeling of playing a solo on it — and what makes it stand out from the rest?



The Gibson SG has a wonderful action, and when I play a solo on it, it feels like a dream.

KOSIE BEUKES

Multi-Instrumentalist | Performer | Heart of Gold

At just 17, **Kosie Beukes** is one of South Africa's most talented and versatile young musicians. Growing up on a farm, his love for music began early—he was playing guitar by age 4 and concertina by 5, inspired by his father's boeremusiek roots.

Kosie has since mastered over **14 instruments**, performing a wide range of genres from traditional Afrikaans to country and English pop. His signature concertina playing has wowed crowds at festivals, weddings, and even old-age homes, where he's known to play room-to-room for those who couldn't attend the show.

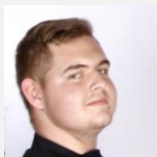
He's released three albums—*Kielie die Krismiswurm*, *Konsertina Kaskenades*, and *Bosveld Vastrap*—earning **Ghoema nominations**, a **SATMA Award**, and international recognition. At just 9, he represented South Africa at the **World Championships for Performing Arts** in Los Angeles, winning **2 gold, 2 silver**, and the **overall trophy** in his age group.

A proud member of the **4 Eva Young Band**, Kosie plays by ear with no formal training and believes his talent is a gift from Jesus. His dream is to study music after school and one day teach others—sharing the joy that music has brought to his life.





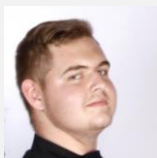
Kosie, you've mastered more than 14 instruments and started recording CDs at age 6! How do you decide which instrument to bring into a song when you're writing or arranging music?



So for me, going into a production and deciding what instruments to put in the arrangement, what I do is I "picture" the song mentally, and from that I can get an idea of what I kind of want it to sound like.



You've played everywhere from music festivals to old-age homes. What's one unforgettable moment from a live performance that really touched your heart?



I would say one memorable moment in my career that really touched me was when I did a charity event for a 5-year-old boy with cancer. Just to see how many people came to support him—it was amazing and super inspiring.



Epiphone

EIGC63FB1-HEP

1963 FIREBIRD I HEATHER POLY

The Epiphone 1963 Firebird I in Heather Poly is more than just a reissue—it's a bold resurrection of one of the most iconic electric guitars in rock history. With its reverse body design, neck-through mahogany construction, and shimmering Heather Poly finish, this Firebird doesn't just look like a legend—it plays like one.

Fitted with a single ProBucker FB720 mini-humbucker, this stripped-back model is all about clarity, bite, and vintage tone with a modern edge. The unbound Indian laurel fingerboard and wraparound Lightning Bar bridge keep things sleek and responsive, while the banjo-style tuners pay tribute to its classic roots.



WHY IT'S WORTH IT

The Firebird I is unapologetically different—and that's exactly why players love it. Its neck-through design offers enhanced sustain and stability, while the mini-humbucker delivers a chimey, articulate sound perfect for both rhythm and lead playing.

The minimalist electronics keep your signal path clean and your tone pure, making this guitar a favourite for tone chasers who value touch-sensitive response. And that Heather Poly finish? It's equal parts retro and rebellious—like rock 'n roll should be.


WHAT KIND OF MUSIC IS IT GOOD FOR?

The **Firebird I** shines in genres where attitude meets precision:

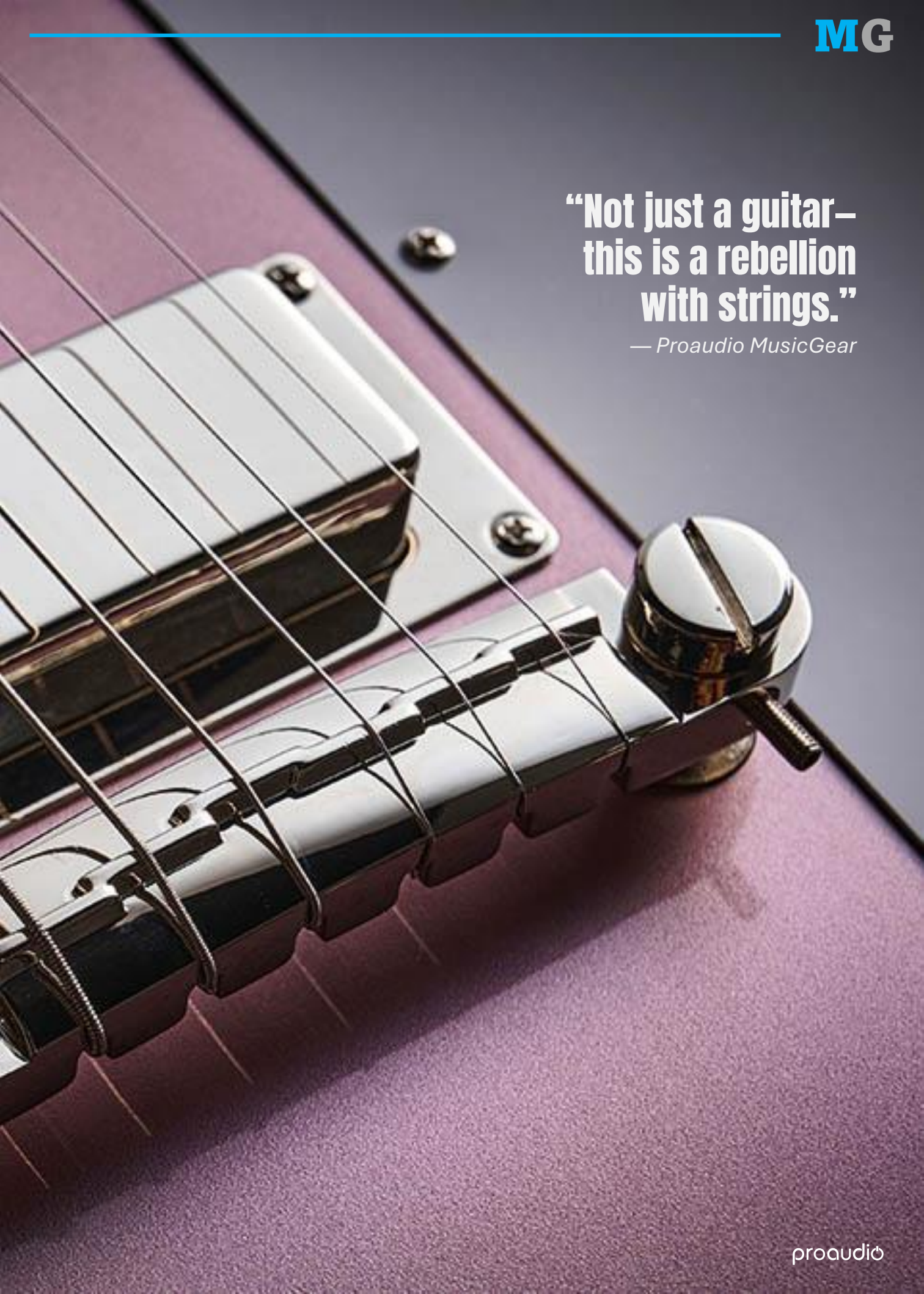
- **Rock** – Think gritty riffs, soaring leads, and stage presence for days
- **Blues** – Responsive enough for expressive bends and raw tone
- **Garage and Indie Rock** – Perfect for cutting through the mix with edge and style
- **Alternative/Experimental** – A favourite for those who don't want to sound like everyone else

Whether you're channeling classic Clapton or carving your own path, this Firebird is ready to fly.



A close-up photograph of an electric guitar's body, focusing on the pickup and control knob area. The guitar body is a deep purple color. A chrome pickup is mounted on the body, with four screws visible. A chrome control knob is partially visible in the bottom right corner. The strings of the guitar are visible in the upper left corner.

The Epiphone 1963 Firebird I isn't about frills—it's about feel. With vintage specs, a slick modern finish, and tone that cuts through the noise, this guitar stands proudly in a category of its own. It's for players who don't just want to play music—they want to make a statement.



**“Not just a guitar—
this is a rebellion
with strings.”**

— Proaudio MusicGear



JARED JAMES NICHOLS × BLACKSTAR

Blues-Power Meets Tube Amp Innovation

Jared James Nichols is a force in the modern blues-rock scene. Known for his electrifying “pick-less” playing style and high-energy stage presence, Nichols channels vintage tones through raw, unfiltered expression. His weapon of choice? A single P-90 Epiphone Les Paul he affectionately calls “Old Glory.” But behind that signature tone is another key ingredient—his collaboration with Blackstar Amplification.

To bring Nichols’s unmistakable sound to life, Blackstar worked closely with him to develop the JJN Series of valve amps. The standout model, the JJN-20R MkII, is a 20-watt all-tube amp powered by EL84s, featuring both British and American-style clean voicings, rich overdrive channels, and Blackstar’s unique ISF tone shaping. It’s compact, versatile, and perfect for players who want the soul of a vintage amp with modern flexibility.



What sets the JJN amps apart is how they capture Jared’s gritty, blues-infused energy while staying practical for today’s guitarist. Whether you’re practicing at home, recording in the studio, or playing live, features like built-in reverb, USB and XLR outputs, and power reduction to 2 watts make it incredibly adaptable. Most importantly, it sounds alive—responsive, dynamic, and rich with harmonics.



“Blackstar amps define my tone... they inspire me to play at my best.”
— Jared James Nichols



The collaboration between artist and amp builder has resulted in gear that feels personal, purposeful, and performance-ready. Every control, voicing, and tonal option was crafted with input from the stage, ensuring that the equipment responds naturally—whether delivering searing leads, gritty rhythms, or nuanced cleans.

For guitarists chasing vintage-inspired tone backed by modern muscle, this line of gear delivers a rare balance of authenticity and flexibility. It captures the essence of blues-driven rock while offering the reliability and adaptability demanded by today's players. Powerful, honest, and full of attitude—it's tone that's ready to roar.



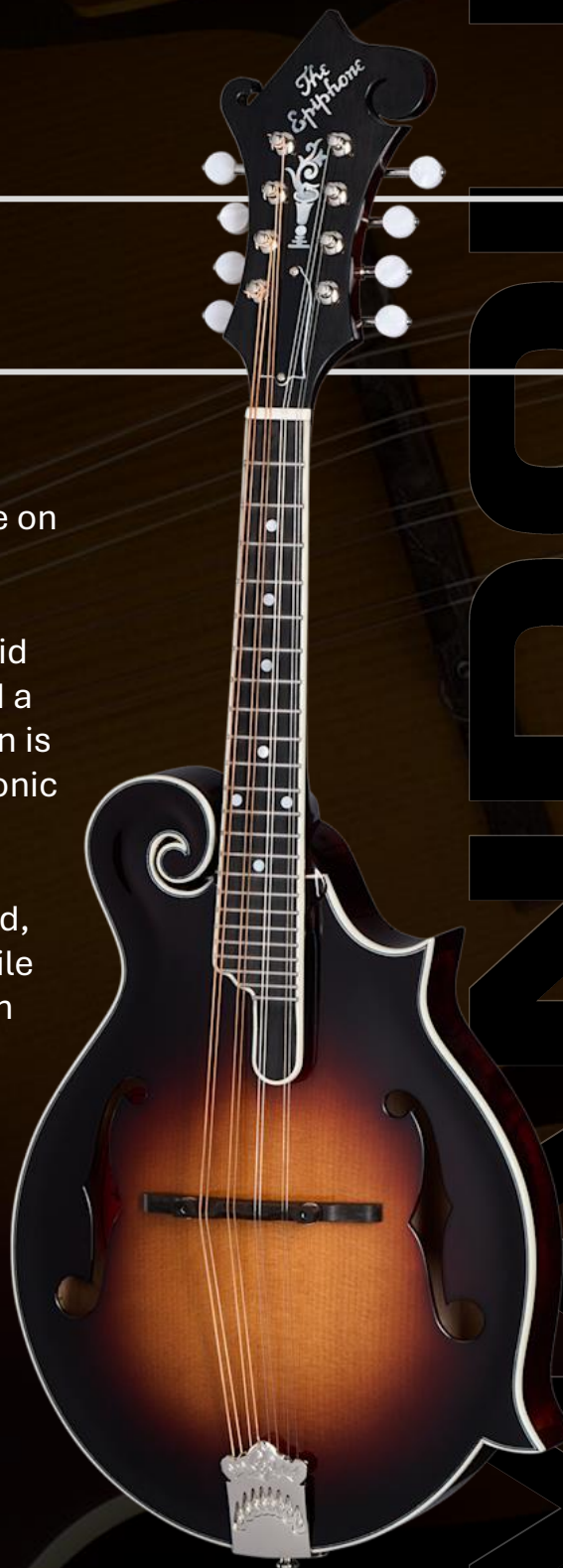
Epiphone

EIGMF5S-VSS

F-5 STUDIO VINTAGE SUNBURST SATIN

The Epiphone F-5 Studio Mandolin in Vintage Sunburst Satin is a refined take on the classic F-style design, offering premium tone and striking looks at a player-friendly price. With a carved solid spruce top, maple back and sides, and a beautifully scrolled body, this mandolin is as much a visual statement as it is a sonic one.

Its satin finish gives it a vintage-inspired, broken-in feel right out of the case, while the extended fingerboard and precision hardware ensure smooth playability across genres. Designed to echo the famous Lloyd Loar F-5 mandolins of the early 20th century, this instrument is built for players who take their craft seriously.



WHY IT'S WORTH IT

The F-5 Studio stands out with its hand-carved top, delivering crisp highs, punchy mids, and a woody resonance that grows warmer over time. The F-style scroll isn't just for show—it enhances projection and gives this mandolin a powerful presence in both acoustic and amplified settings.

Its carefully balanced construction gives players studio-worthy tone at a fraction of the cost of boutique models. Whether you're gigging, recording, or just jamming on the porch, this mandolin is built to perform.

WHAT KIND OF MUSIC IS IT GOOD FOR?

The **Epiphone F-5 Studio** is ideal for:

- **Bluegrass** – Classic chop rhythm and lead clarity
- **Americana & Folk** – Adds depth and texture to acoustic arrangements
- **Country** – For melodic leads and percussive rhythm playing
- **Jazz & Fusion** – Perfect for players exploring genre-crossing mandolin solos

Its warm low end and sharp attack make it a versatile tool for both ensemble and solo performance.



With its graceful scroll, vintage satin finish, and resonant tone, the **Epiphone F-5 Studio Mandolin** bridges the gap between tradition and modern performance. It's a workhorse with class—ready for any musical journey you take it on.

“From Appalachian roots to
modern acoustic stages, the
F-5 Studio delivers timeless
tone and style.”

— *Proaudio MusicGear*

Gibson®

SGSPOO-VE

SG SPECIAL VINTAGE CHERRY

The Gibson SG Special in Vintage Cherry is a no-nonsense rock machine that embodies the stripped-down soul of the iconic SG lineage. With its slim mahogany body, rounded-profile neck, and dual P-90 pickups, this guitar is all about feel, attitude, and unmistakable Gibson tone.

Finished in a classic satin Vintage Cherry, it's a nod to the legendary SGs of the late '60s—but made for today's players who want vintage vibe with modern reliability. From garage stages to arena floors, the SG Special is ready to deliver.



WHY IT'S WORTH IT

What makes the SG Special truly special is its dual P-90 setup, offering a wide tonal range—from gritty cleans to full-throttle growl. Unlike humbuckers, P-90s have that raw edge and clarity that cuts through the mix, making this a favourite for rock, punk, and blues players.

Add in the lightweight body, simple control layout, and uncompromising build quality, and you've got a Gibson that does exactly what it promises: sound incredible and play effortlessly.

WHAT KIND OF MUSIC IS IT GOOD FOR?

The **Gibson SG Special** thrives in:

- **Classic Rock & Punk** – For raw, punchy tones with edge
- **Blues & Garage Rock** – Ideal for expressive leads and dirty rhythms
- **Alternative & Indie** – Perfect for cutting through with character
- **Slide & Roots** – P-90s give the midrange honk that shines in these styles

This guitar is for players who want bold tone, fast neck action, and a vintage look with modern bite.



The **Gibson SG Special – Vintage Cherry** isn't about flash—it's about **feel, function, and firepower**. With a legendary shape, killer tone, and workhorse spirit, it's the kind of guitar you don't baby—you play it hard and let it age with you.



“Stripped back and straight to the point—the SG Special is a red-hot reminder of why Gibson still rules the stage.”

— *Proaudio MusicGear*

Why Every Guitarist Should
Have One on Their Board



What Makes This Pedal Different?

MAESTRO TITAN BOOST

Unleash Clarity, Cut Through the Mix, and Command Your Tone

Where guitar tone has become increasingly complex, the **Maestro Titan Boost** arrives with a powerful reminder: sometimes, *less is more*.

This all-analog, straightforward boost pedal from the legendary Maestro brand doesn't just amplify your signal—it **enhances your voice as a guitarist**.

Whether you're pushing the front end of a tube amp, elevating a solo, or breathing new life into your clean tone, the Titan Boost proves that subtlety can be a superpower.



Precision Meets Power

At the heart of the Titan Boost is a **+25dB gain stage**, offering enough clean boost to drive your amp into saturation or simply elevate your guitar in a crowded mix. The **Level** knob controls your output gain, while the **Tone** knob offers gentle shaping—brightening or darkening your sound without losing definition.

And then there's the **Hi-Pass Filter switch**—a smart, intuitive feature that prevents low-end buildup. This is especially helpful when using humbuckers, fuzz, or thick overdrive tones. It tightens your sound, cleans up your mix, and makes space for everything else on stage.



TITAN

BOOST

SETTINGS TO EXPLORE

Overdriven Amp
without muddiness - Neck Position



Tone: 1 o'clock **HPF:** 9 o'clock
Level: 5 o'clock **Switch:** HI PASS

Overdriven Amp
with "hollow" voicing - Bridge Position



Tone: 10 o'clock **HPF:** 5 o'clock
Level: 5 o'clock **Switch:** HI PASS

TITAN BOOST

EFFECTS PEDAL



True to the **Maestro legacy**, the Titan Boost isn't just functional—it's **beautifully built**. The enclosure has a retro-inspired aesthetic that honors Maestro's pioneering heritage, while the internals deliver modern reliability and pristine sound quality.

This pedal isn't a gimmick. It's a **workhorse**. One that feels as natural on a touring pro's pedalboard as it does in a home studio setup.

HPW-5000



Precision Sound. Affordable Control.

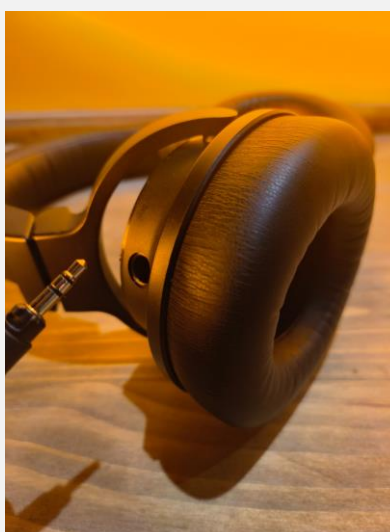
“For those who want studio-grade focus without the studio-grade price tag, the HPW-5000 hits the mark.”

— Proaudio MusicGear

The PowerWorks HPW-5000 is a no-nonsense, closed-back headphone designed for DJs, producers, and music creators who demand clarity and comfort without the premium price tag. With its powerful 40mm dual dynamic drivers, the HPW-5000 delivers rich bass, smooth mids, and crisp highs—ideal for beat matching, tracking vocals, or just zoning in on the music.

Built with durability and long sessions in mind, the HPW-5000 offers a comfortable over-ear fit that blocks out ambient noise and keeps your focus on the mix. The robust headband and swiveling earcups give it a professional feel, while its lightweight construction ensures fatigue-free use over time.

Where this headphone really shines is in its sound accuracy. The response is clean and uncolored, allowing producers and DJs to make confident decisions when it matters most. Whether in the booth or at the desk, the HPW-5000 is a reliable partner for critical listening.



Thank You Dr Victor & The Ratsa Rebels

MG

Pioneer Dj AlphaTheta

audio-technica dBTechnologies



MIDAS



SONANCE
BEYOND SOUND

Turbosound®



ENOVA

TANNOY

LAB.GRUPPEN

SOUND TOWN

Blackstar®
AMPLIFICATION

Carry-on

Epiphone Gibson

KRAMER
Guitars

Proudly brought to you by

proaudio

Are you mixing with the right company?