

Fascinating Guitars

Temporary exhibition of the Musikinstrumenten-Museum Berlin
Thursday, September 23, 2010, to Sunday, January 30, 2011

EXHIBITION OPENING

Wednesday | September 22, 2010 | 6 p.m.

Altwiener Schrammelmusik

Malat Schrammeln

Paul Fields, violin

Thomas Gröger, violin

Peter Hirschfeld, Old Viennese contraguitar

Rudolf Malat, Old Viennese accordion

The Musikinstrumenten-Museum Berlin opens its doors to classic fans and headbangers, romanticists and jazzfans, to scientists and enthusiasts from all around the world: to the elderly and to youngsters.

More than 150 precious guitars from four centuries illustrate the history of a musical instrument, the varied musical context of which showcases contrasting styles second to none. Art music and popular music are notions which are entwined with the history of the guitar and its music in various aspects.

The special exhibition »Fascinating Guitars« conveys the history of the guitar in all its facets from the Baroque era to the present day through exhibits from the inventory of the Musikinstrumenten-Museum Berlin. Starting with a five-course guitar from 1699 by Martin Kaiser the exhibition takes the visitor on a historical journey right through to the Rickenbacher »Frying Pan« from the 1930s which demarcates the birth of the modern day electric guitar. Customized constructions and rare species of electric guitars from traditional German manufacturers such as Hoyer, Framus, Hofner and Hopf complete the historical journey.

Most historical portrayals focus on the pivotal development of the Spanish guitar in the 19th century. The special exhibition »Fascinating Guitars«, however, places an emphasis on lesser known and largely unexplored Middle-German, South German and Austrian guitar makers of the 19th century. The artful details of the slender constructions during this era along with the tender and intimate lyricism of the

music which was composed specifically for these instruments are exhibited to a wider audience for the first time.

Embedded in various concert series of the museum Alte Musik live, Das Forschende Orchestre, Jour fixe, Jazz im MIM and Meisterlied, selected instruments from the collection can be heard live. A bilingual audio-guide (German and English) will bring the collection to life and offers sound examples along with facts and features regarding the history as well as the construction of the instruments.

The special exhibition can be visited during the opening hours of the museum from 23rd September 2010 through 30th January 2011 (closed on Mondays).

In addition, the museum presents an interactive learning program: In a fortnightly rota, every Thursday at 2pm, visitors can participate in beginners' workshops for classical guitar and electric guitar respectively.

An open luthier's workshop constitutes an integral part of the exhibition. Every Wednesday from 2pm to 3pm, a guitar maker from Berlin will offer insights into her art.

On the 22nd January 2011, the Musikinstrumenten-Museum will host a musicological symposium on the guitar in the Curt-Sachs-Saal.

For further information and to register for an event please visit www.mim-berlin.de or call +49 (0)30.2 54 81-139.

The exhibition catalogue »Faszination Gitarre« will appear in the Nicolai Verlag Berlin (EUR 29,95).

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Photos:

Publication is permitted free of charge for coverage of the temporary exhibition. Please add photo credits and send a copy.

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The museum is fully accessible for disabled visitors.

Opening hours | Admission

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday | from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thursday | from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday | from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Closed on Mondays

Admission € 4,00 | reduced € 2,00

Free admission for visitors under 19.