

Meet the Luthier STEVE FISCHER



Recently, I had the opportunity to meet and spend some time with custom luthier Steve Fischer. His workshop is located in a modest business park in Cedar City, Utah. His story however, is one that most luthiers could only dream of...

How did you get into lutherie?

As a young teenager, I saw an ad in the back of one of my guitar magazines for a lutherie school. I have always loved making things and I really enjoyed playing the guitar so a career as a guitar maker seemed like the natural choice. Several years later I attended Bryan Galloup's school of Lutherie where I got my feet wet in the world of guitar making. On the first day of school everything in my brain clicked and I knew I had found the perfect career.



What happened after you finished the lutherie school?

A couple days after I finished school I heard that Paul Reed Smith would be giving a clinic at a nearby guitar store. So, I packed up my student project guitar and went to meet him. When I got to the front of the autograph line Paul looked at me and said "what's in the case?" and I told him I had brought a guitar I made to show to him and hopefully get some feedback and some pointers on how to make the next guitar better. He played it for a minute and said "stand over here for a minute, I want to talk to you when this is all done". Paul told me he liked the guitar. The next day he called me and asked me to make an acoustic guitar for him.



That same weekend I had accepted a job at McPherson guitars. Landing at McPherson was probably the best thing that could happen, because in many ways it was like a continuation of school. Almost like graduate studies.

While I worked at McPherson during the day I would go home to my basement and work in

the evenings and weekends building the guitar Paul had commissioned from me. Finally, at the end of two years Paul called me to say that he loved the guitar and asked me to come to Maryland to meet with him. He told me that PRS wasn't quite ready to jump into the acoustic world but that he was very interested in perusing that market. We decided that I would set up a shop and build some prototype acoustic guitars, pass them around to some select musicians to see if there was a market out there for an acoustic PRS.

Over the next three years I designed guitars and built prototypes until Paul and I decided that we had developed a guitar that we could show to the world. With the support of some very important musicians PRS decided that it was time for the first line of PRS acoustic guitars. So I packed up my family and relocated to Maryland where I would establish the production process and train the crew that would build the guitars. The guitars were an instant success, winning a MIPA award for best acoustic guitar and very positive reviews all over the country and the world.

Unfortunately living on the east coast didn't work for my family and me. We wanted to be nearer our families and have our children grow up knowing their grandparents and things like that. So, once again I loaded up my family and headed back to Utah. Now I am very blessed to have the opportunity to do what I had wanted to do since the very beginning; establish Steve Fischer Guitars. Just me alone in my wood shop, no CNC machines, no lasers, just me building exactly the guitars that I have always wanted to make; simple elegance and uncompromising tone.

If you'd like Steve to create the guitar of your dreams or perhaps... "a family heirloom" you can contact him at: www.stevefischerguitars.com

— Editor.