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## **BACKGROUNDER**

### **ROSEBERRY GUITARS ANNOUNCES BOOST IN PRODUCTION OF ITS MOST POPULAR CLASSICAL STUDENT MODEL**

Due to high demand, luthier and Roseberry Guitar owner Scot Tremblay is increasing production of his popular student model, the Louis Panormo guitar.

#### **A Canadian luthier of distinction**

Having played and studied classical guitar from an early age, the instrument has always been a part of Tremblay's life. After attending the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada, he turned his attention to concretizing, teaching, and other guitar related pursuits including the study of romantic period guitars and their construction.

In 1985, Tremblay began building on a part-time basis, marketing his instruments through word of mouth and his fledgling new company, Roseberry Guitars. Although largely self taught, in the mid 1980's he attended building classes in Cordoba, Spain, with famed guitar maker and teacher, José Luis Romanillos Vega. He also worked with noted American luthier Richard Schneider until his death in 1997. Schneider, Tremblay says, was a fervent proponent of the ultramodern concert guitar, and never fully understood his fascination with those "ancient relics," but nevertheless was a dear friend and mentor.

It was during this time, that Tremblay's Roseberry Guitars found success in not only producing Romantic period guitars, but also in promoting his reproduction of the Louis Panormo guitar as an affordable model for students of classical guitar.

Having completed construction of a new and larger workshop in Victoria, B.C., Tremblay is set



to meet the increased demand for his expertly crafted instruments.

### **The romance of the Louis Panormo student guitar**

Patterned after Louis Panormo's 1838 student guitar, an early Romantic design, Tremblay is upping the production of these top selling instruments from six a year, to 10. This is a significant increase, as each new instrument requires more than 100 hours of meticulous craftsmanship, generally involving up to 12 weeks of production time.

The French-born Louis Panormo (1784-1862), along with his brothers, were considered to be 19th century England's finest guitar makers and among the only luthiers outside Spain making guitars "in the Spanish style," as the labels in Panormo's guitars note.

Roseberry Guitars has continued Panormo's fine tradition by recreating these superb instruments using aged wood carefully chosen according to the master luthier's original design. Calling the instrument's sound "a bright, clean tone reminiscent of French or Italian guitars of the era," Tremblay is pleased to continue this heritage of exceptional guitar making.

### **Building the new and restoring the old**

Tremblay's instruments have been played in concert and in recordings by Alexander Dunn, Richard Savino, Douglas Hensley, Pepe Romaro, and others. His guitars have also been featured in a number of YouTube videos, and in magazine articles, most notably in *American Luthier*.

But his interests extend beyond building Early Romantic guitars, to also include the restoration of period instruments.

Such restoration has been an interest of Tremblays for some time. A significant number of Panormo, Lacote and other 19th century instruments have made the journey to his shop, been carefully restored, and returned in top playing condition to their owners.

Most notable are three guitars: a Luis Panormo, reputed to have been in the possession of the daughter of Fernando Sors, an 18th century composer; a late 19th century classical guitar by Jose Fernandez de Silva played by early 20th century Spanish virtuoso Miguel Llobet; and an Andres Marin guitar once owned by the Paraguayan master classical guitarist and composer Augustin Barrios Mangore.

This passion for restoration, along with the increase in production of the Panormo student guitar, reaffirms Roseberry Guitars as a true Canadian success story.

