

The World's Only Global Musical Instrument Museum

MEDIA ALERT

New Historic and Iconic Instruments Coming to MIM's Special Exhibition

Rediscover Treasures: Legendary Musical Instruments *opens November 11, 2022*

PHOENIX (November 11, 2022) – This fall, some of the rarest instruments of their kind will join the [Musical Instrument Museum's](#) (MIM) special exhibition [Treasures: Legendary Musical Instruments](#)—including ancient flutes to priceless instruments owned and played by musical icons like Prince and Eric Clapton. Since the exhibition opened in November 2021, more than 51,500 guests have explored the exhibition, which celebrates the power of music across 6,000 years of history. MIM is excited to announce that the exhibition will reopen as **Rediscover Treasures: Legendary Musical Instruments** on November 11, 2022, and feature 28 new acquisitions and loans of historical significance for guests to explore alongside exhibition favorites like the Erard grand piano, Amati violin and viola, ancient Mesopotamian lyre fragments, and Jimi Hendrix's Black Widow electric guitar.

Featured historic instruments in *Rediscover Treasures* include:

- **Hochbrucker pedal harp, Germany, c. 1720.** Jacob Hochbrucker's ingenious pedal harp design represents a revolutionary step in harp history. Single-action pedal harps would become one of the most popular instruments in the mid-eighteenth century, especially among the French aristocracy, including Marie Antoinette. Today, only four known original Hochbrucker pedal harps remain.
- **Emperor Go-Daigo's *hitoyogiri*, Japan, early 14th century.** This extraordinary Japanese instrument is one of two known *hitoyogiri* flutes in existence owned and treasured by Japanese emperor Go-Daigo (1288–1339). The body is profusely decorated with multiple layers of lacquer and gold powder and features elaborate dragon and cloud motifs.
Loan courtesy of the Takao Oikawa Family
- **Crystal flute by Claude Laurent, France, 1809.** A watchmaker and mechanic by trade, Laurent was a musician at heart, which led him to develop innovative glass flutes in 1806. Unaffected by temperature and humidity, these groundbreaking "crystal flutes" were stable, even-toned, and well-tuned instruments.
- **"The First Ukulele," Hawaii, c. 1879.** Likely crafted by Portuguese immigrant Jose do Espirito Santo, this instrument is thought to be the first Hawaiian-made ukulele. Despite its delicate construction and small size, this ukulele remains in playable condition and produces remarkable volume.
Loan courtesy of Shawn Yacavone at Ukulele Friend

Rediscover Treasures will also feature iconic, celebrity-owned instruments including:

- **Prince's Purple Yamaha Grand Piano.** This purple Yamaha grand piano featuring the word "beautiful" written in metallic gold was used during Prince's Jam of the Year tour from 1997 to 1998 following the release of his triple album *Emancipation*. The artist danced atop the piano during live performances, as seen in the "Somebody's Somebody" music video. Also on display is Prince's green stage wardrobe featured in the same music video, as well as a custom "Black Power" Lākland bass. Bassist Rhonda Smith commissioned this instrument and gifted it to Prince in the late '90s.

The World's Only Global Musical Instrument Museum

Loans courtesy of The Estate of Prince Rogers Nelson and Paisley Park

- **“Brownie,” Eric Clapton’s 1956 Fender Stratocaster.** This two-color sunburst electric guitar was Clapton’s first Stratocaster, and it became a key part of the guitarist’s signature tone. Purchased by Clapton in a London music shop in 1967, the guitar can be heard on Clapton’s early solo classics, such as “Layla” and “Bell Bottom Blues.”
Courtesy of the Museum of Pop Culture, Seattle, WA
- **1958 Gibson Flying V electric guitar.** Created to compete with popular guitars like the Fender Stratocaster, the modernistic Flying V was initially so controversial that only 81 examples were shipped in 1958, making originals incredibly rare. This particular Flying V has been played by many world-class guitarists, including Joe Bonamassa, Eric Johnson, and Jack Pearson.
Anonymous loan
- **Lionel Hampton’s Deagan vibraphone, c. 1935.** This one-of-a-kind gold “King George” model vibraphone was custom-made for Lionel Hampton, and remains the only example built to the Deagan company’s most deluxe trim level. Known as the “King of the Vibes,” Hampton played on recordings by Louis Armstrong and others, and he effectively introduced the vibraphone to jazz music.
- **Dizzy Gillespie’s Martin Committee trumpet.** Regarded as one of the most iconic trumpeters of all time, Gillespie played an equally iconic trumpet with a distinctive angled bell. The trumpet on display is one of Gillespie’s personal instruments; built in 1962, it features gold plating, custom engraving, and his signature upturned bell in sterling silver.
Loan courtesy of Joey DeFrancesco

Throughout the exhibition, original video content uncovers these instruments’ stories and the traditions they represent with performances and interviews by museum curators and notable musicians.

For information about MIM’s current special exhibition, visit MIM.org.

Presenting sponsor U.S. Bank

Sponsored by Arizona Office of Tourism, John & Joan D’Addario Foundation, and John & Mary Ann Mangels

Supported by Christine Lindley, Carolyn & John Friedman, Babette & Richard Burns, Jane & John Guild, Marcia & Jim Lowman, and Ann Phillips

The Musical Instrument Museum is located at 4725 E. Mayo Boulevard in Phoenix (corner of Tatum and Mayo Boulevards, just south of Loop 101). For general museum information and a full schedule of events, visit MIM.org or call 480.478.6000.

About MIM

The World's Only Global Musical Instrument Museum

The Musical Instrument Museum (MIM) enriches our world by collecting, preserving, and making accessible an astonishing variety of musical instruments and performance videos from every country in the world. MIM offers guests a welcoming and fun experience, incomparable interactive technology, dynamic programming, and exceptional musical performances. MIM fosters appreciation of the world's diverse cultures by showing how we innovate, adapt, and learn from each other to create music—the language of the soul. To learn more about MIM, visit **MIM.org**.

Find MIM on Facebook: [Facebook.com/MIMphx](https://www.facebook.com/MIMphx)

Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube: **@MIMphx**

MIM Press Contact

Sydney Rich, Media Relations Specialist

sydney.rich@MIM.org

480.245.6953