



Maple Leaf Rag

Maple Leaf Music Newsletter

July 2005

The BIG Brazilians

In the spring we talked about our fine OM guitars-(some of these are still available). Now we are in honored possession of five, count them (!) five Brazilian Dreadnaughts from Bourgeois, Collings, Goodall, Huss and Dalton, and Froggy Bottom. All are constructed of the very best AAA Brazilian Rosewood and Adirondack spruce, gloss mahogany necks and Brazilian Rosewood peg head overlays. The tuners are open geared Waverlys with nickel bottoms, except for the Goodall which sports grained ivoroid buttons. All are drop dead gorgeous as you will see in the Photographs. And they sound just wonderful- loud, bright, rich, open, and full.

Is Brazilian better than Indian? I will say unequivocally yes, especially in the D's. You get more richness and clarity of tone, more punch, and certainly more beauty! And be aware that the recent influx of fine Brazilian may not last forever. Collings is now telling us that delivery for our next Brazilian guitar will be a year, as the wood is in such demand.

Before I go into details of each guitar, a brief comparison is in order. The woods and dimensions are identical but the trim varies. Interestingly, and sound-wise more important is that the Frog and the H&D have 25 1/2" scale lengths and the other three are 25 3/4 inches. While the difference is slight, it is subtly reflected in the sound; the two with the shorter scales have a both a sweeter and rounder sound in the attack on the string- the front side of every note is richer and fuller. On the longer scale guitars, the attack (or what happens immediately when you hit the string) is shorter and sound is crisper, brighter and sharper.

Each of these guitars, with more photos, is described on our web site at mapleleafmusic.com. I did my best, but the colors of the photos are not always exactly accurate, especially as to how light or dark the wood is. Please feel free to call with questions - 802-254-5559.

Bourgeois Brazilian Dreadnaught

This is the only used guitar in the gaggle. It has a 1 23/32" fingerboard, 25 3/4" scale, and has an installed K&K pickup. Herringbone trim on the top, with ivoroid bindings and heelcap. Mint condition. This is a guitar with a quick attack, lower mid-range punch and great mids, especially up the neck. She is focused, direct, and bright.



Froggy Bottom Standard D

This guitar is the most different from all the others in terms of sound, which is full lush, and extremely well balanced. The notes ring out with great clarity and individuality. 25 1/2" scale, curly maple trim all around.



Collings D2HBaaaA

Rather a V neck with some bulk to it. Sound is bright, ringing, bell-like with incredible clarity of tone underpinned by a huge bass and lovely middle. Loads of sustain. Very even with luscious over-tones. Most balanced guitar of the lot. Ivoroid trim. 1 3/4 nut width. 25 3/4 scale.



Goodall Traditional Brazilian Dreadnaught

This guitar sports the darkest rosewood of the lot and the tone is commensurate with the wood! Herringbone trim on both top and rosette, and an amazingly perfect spruce top with even grain and color; maple binding and heel cap. She is powerful beyond words, with a low E equal to a deep church bell. All across the strings, this guitar comes on like a big freight train, but with great beauty of tone as well. However, she doesn't have the really brilliant treble like some of the others. Scale length is 25 3/4. Nut width is 1 3/4". The back and sides of the other four guitars could be from different parts of the same log, but this wood is unique both in color and grain, much like the old 30's Martin wood. Because of the wood's darkness this back was the most difficult photo I ever tackled- apologies for the flash, but this is the best representation I could get.



Huss and Dalton TRD Custom

This beauty, pictured at the lower right, features the AAA Brazilian, ivoroid binding, herringbone top trim. This is the only guitar of the five with an extended saddle. Scale length is the shorter 25 1/2". Nut width is 1 23/32. The sound is loud and powerful and a real sweet presence and lush overtones. The sound peaks on the G string- the mid range is just fantastic.

None of these Dreadnaughts is "better" or the best. They are each different, and all truly exceptional. We also have a Namm Show limited Brazilian D coming at the end of July. Be in touch!



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Open 7 days a week

Don't forget to visit our web site

mapleleafmusic.com