

MAIN VERSION

Initial Contact Email:

Dear _____,

My name is _____, and I am collaborating with several other students here at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) on a project related to guitar preservation. The project deals with physically scanning and audio analyzing rare and highly-regarded acoustic guitars in order to better understand how they were made and how they perform.

We are conducting interviews with exceptional luthiers and we would welcome your input as part of this process. In particular, we are interested in explaining more about the project and the methods we're taking to analyze these instruments and how, if at all, the digital artifacts (representations of internal bracings, resonant frequency info, etc.) might be useful to you as a builder.

Please let us know if you would be interested and available to meet with you via Zoom 6/1/22 to 6/5/22 timeframe for a brief meeting, no longer than an hour.

Thank you for the beautiful instruments you create.

Sincerely,

The Fretology IQP Team

Consent & Release Email:

Hello,

As mentioned previously, we would like to schedule a brief interview with you via zoom, which would last no longer than an hour. Is there a specific day of the week and time of day which would work best for you? We would appreciate any meeting time at your earliest convenience. By continuing with our research and scheduling an interview, you thereby acknowledge and agree to our consent and release protocols described below.

Thank you for your interest in our research project. Our team wanted to inform you of our consent and release protocols before proceeding. We will keep all private information confidential. All parties involved have the right to withdraw their information and discontinue participating in our research at any time. All private information collected from participants during our study will be permanently deleted after one years time. Information collected and

utilized within this study is intended to and will be used to aid out and future research and development of guitar building and analysis.

Sincerely,

The Fretology IQP Team

OLD EMAIL VERSION

Dear _____,

My name is _____, and I am collaborating with several other students on the IQP [Fretology](#), here at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI).

Fretology is a musical instrument analysis and preservation effort developed and maintained by the Electric Guitar Innovation Lab (EGIL) of WPI. While there are many guitar-making schools and organizations that have access to schematics of certain renowned instruments, there is no centralized, open-access repository of information in existence whereby someone can explore in-depth data about these instruments.

Our goals are to:

- Create a detailed profile describing how each guitar was made
- Preserve the history and cultural tradition of important instruments
- Identify a sonic profile of the tonal qualities of each guitar
- Archive sounds and video of these instruments
- Equip the instrument-making community with builder resources (models, plans, design docs, etc.) through an open-access digital portal
- Facilitate education and adaptation based on these revered designs

Our team was curious if you would be interested in an interview to gather information on what sort of resources luthiers and guitar enthusiasts would like to have in this database form. If you are interested, we would like to meet (most likely over Zoom) as soon as you are able for a brief meeting, no longer than an hour. We all truly appreciate your time.

Thank you for the beautiful instruments you create.

Sincerely,

The Fretology IQP Team

Project Personnel:

- V.J. Manzo, Founding Director and PI of the Electric Guitar Innovation Lab; PI, WPI Faculty
- Ken Parker, Luthier and WPI Affiliate Research Associate for the Electric Guitar Innovation Lab; Project Inceptor and Collaborator
- Ryan McKenna, WPI alumnus and Research Associate for the Electric Guitar Innovation Lab; Project Manager
- John Thomas, Guitar Researcher and Professor of Law at Quinnipiac University; Co-PI
- Tania Grgurich, Clinical Associate Professor of Diagnostic Imaging at Quinnipiac University; Co-PI
- Jeff Duquette, Guitarist and WPI Affiliate Research Associate for the Electric Guitar Innovation Lab; Project Collaborator

Special Thanks To:

- Advisory Board Members Eric Siegel, James D. Krugman, Kevin Dolan
- The generous donor and sponsorship support from The Les Paul Foundation , Ty Danco, Hipshot , Sperzel , ProCo cables , and D'Addario Strings .
- James Loiselle, Ian Anderson, and Toby Bergstrom and the team in WPI's Washburn Shop
- Mitra Anand and the team in WPI's Makerspace
- Erica Stults and the team in WPI's ARC
- the faculty, staff, and students of the Quinnipiac Radiologic Sciences program
- the faculty, staff, and students of the Electric Guitar Innovation Lab at WPI

Old Consent & Release Email:

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The Fretology IQP Team