

Jim's Guitars

It must have been about 1958 and I had a cheap Spanish guitar which my friend Brian taught me to play thus beginning a musical association lasting ,on and off for nearly 50 years. My friend next door and I went to Hunstanton on holiday and we would go to the KitKat club to watch the house band with their new American guitars, one was a wonderful sunburst Telecaster. Unbeknown to me my friend had booked me in for a talent spot one night. I sung a cut down version of Living Doll and lived to tell the tale, I few years later I would perform there with a band

My next guitar, with the encouragement of my friend Brian, was a Rosetti it was made by Egmond in Holland. The UK importers called them Rosetti and nearly everyone had one since it was all you could get at the time. You could get a rudimentary pickup with the lead fully integrated into the pickup if the lead got snagged then the lead would pull out which is what happened to me!

Wilson's music shop in Norwich was one of my favourite haunts and they had a solid of indeterminate origin for £19 which I could afford. It was just a blank of wood with strings on it and one of the switches' did not work but I carried of using it. And then the shop had a mark one Watkins Rapier which I could afford. (See Watkin's website) It was a nice looking guitar and a joy to play and I wish that I could have kept it. However the electrics were rather primitive although the following models were up there with the rest and they were used by some top-line groups.

Jim Burns began to issue high end guitars and one was the Sonic, it was a very powerful instrument and blew the speakers in my amp on its first outing so that I had to be rescued! I kept it until the end of my rock period and, for the dinner-dance period I traded it in for a semi-acoustic Kay which was a rather weak instrument.

Back into the rock scene friend opened a music shop in the town and he had a Hondo Les Paul copy at a good price. This was another powerful instrument with two humbucker pickups.

I needed to form a band for a Children in need gig and for some reason I borrowed my son's Fender Stratocaster. I got on well with this and decided I should have one so I got a Mexican made one which was a splendid red colour, after a while it got damaged so I got a sunburst model; for stage work and studio I also got a Crafter active semi-acoustic.

In between times I had a jumbo for folk singing and a 12 string for youth club work.