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Hand made hand played : the art & craft of contemporary guitars

Author : Robert Shaw

This book is dedicated to the memory of the author's mother, Terry Shaw, who taught him to love music, books, nature, and all things of beauty. This book also tells us about the history of acoustic guitars, classical and flamenco music, flattop, harp, and acoustic bass. It also talks about the electric guitars, such as hollow and solid bodied ones, as well as electrics, and electric bass, etc.

While the origins of guitar remain obscure and hotly debated, instruments similar to the modern guitars can be traced to the ancient Near East and probably were introduced to Europe during the Crusades. A variety of plucked stringed instruments, most with bowl-shaped backs like those of the Arabic ones and the later Renaissance lute and Neapolitan mandolin, were popular in Europe during the Middle Ages. Four- and five-stringed fretted instruments evolved in Europe during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, and a flat-backed, six-coursed relative of the guitar, the vihuela, appeared in early sixteenth-century in Spain. Five-course guitars, strung with pairs of gut strings, were common throughout Europe by the mid-1600s and continued to be made until the late 1700s, when the first guitars with six single strings emerged.

Interest in Renaissance, Baroque, and early Romantic-era music began to grow in the 1960s and eventually made its way from the academy to public awareness. As the popularity of early music has grown, the demand from the performers for historically correct period instruments, has increased.

After reading this book, I learnt lots of new things about the differences between classical guitars and electric guitars. For example, the shape or the numbers of string are not the same in each type. If you look at the instruments, no matter how much they may look the same, each one is different---each piece of wood has a different potential and unlocking. It is where the true art happens. So none of the guitars are the same!

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Hand Made Hand Played

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ROBERT SHAW