

Grapevine



Photos courtesy of Heritage Auction Galleries

Kurt Cobain (right) with his Mosrite Gospel guitar.

Kurt Cobain's guitar expected to bring \$75,000+ at auction

DALLAS, TEXAS — Heritage Auction Galleries will offer Nirvana's Kurt Cobain's 1960s Mosrite Gospel guitar in its upcoming Signature Music & Entertainment auction April 15 in Dallas, Texas.

According to Heritage's Doug Norwine, "This instrument is unusual in a couple of ways. First, it is the only known example of a Mark V style Mosrite Gospel model. While Kurt owned and smashed many cheaper [usually Univox] copies of Mosrite guitars during his career, this was one of only two actual Mosrites he owned. (The other was damaged and given away.) It was also one of his favorite guitars, which saved it from the usual fate of the instruments he used for live performances."

Cobain purchased the guitar in San Francisco in 1990.

According to guitar maker Earnie Bailey, "Kurt had only one Gospel, and this is a beyond-rare guitar. At the time Kurt died, I was secretly working with Loretta Mosley to build Kurt a lefty Gospel... in some cool color."

Unfortunately, Cobain died as Bailey was gathering photos to send to Mosrite the original. "Loretta sent me a nice letter after it ended, as she had recently lost Semie [her husband, founder of Mosrite] and was now running Mosrite on her

own," according to www.kurtsequipment.com. "She had sent me some sales literature of another Gospel but could find no history of ever having made one based on the Mark V guitar," said Bailey.

Cobain had painted the very small Mosrite dot markers with white-out to make them more visible in a live setting. Although the most recent owner removed this simple modification, residue is still visible on the instrument. This is a factory right-handed instrument, so it was modified for Cobain with a strap button added to the treble side horn, and the original metal string guide has been flipped to allow it to be strung left handed. The original case bears the words 'NIRVANA' and 'E.. Elvis' (colorful expletive deleted here but preserved on the case) in white paint, which, while painted over with the same white paint, are still visible on inspection. This lot also includes a handwritten letter from Chris Cobb, owner of Real Guitars in San Francisco, who sold Cobain the guitar in the fall of 1990.

The Guitar carries a presale estimate of \$75,000 and up.

For more information about Heritage's auctions and to reserve a copy of an auction catalog, contact Nicole Jewell at 800-872-6467, ext. 272, or visit www.HeritageAuctions.com to order by e-mail.

GRAPELEAVES



News & notes: Guitarist David Gilmour's third solo album, *On An Island*, includes appearances by guest musicians David Crosby, Graham Nash, Robert Wyatt, Phil Manzanera, and Pink Floyd's Richard Wright. The 10-track disc goes on sale in the States March 7. Gilmour plans to begin the *On The Island* tour in Europe in March, continuing on to America in April before returning to the United Kingdom at the end of May, with concerts in Manchester, Glasgow and London.

On the bookshelf: *Raspberries TONIGHT!*, written by Bernie Hogya and Goldmine contributor Ken Sharp and featuring the photographs of Gene Taylor, is the souvenir of a historic, once-in-a-lifetime reunion. Jim Bonfanti, Wally Bryson, Eric Carmen, and Dave Smalley — the original Raspberries — last performed together on stage more than 30 years ago. Now, they are reunited and hoping to "Go All The Way" again. Join them during rehearsals, on stage and backstage as they mount a comeback that defies the odds. Bursting with color, *Raspberries TONIGHT!* features new exclusive interviews with Carmen, Bryson, Smalley, and Bonfanti and includes scores of unpublished photos. Each show from their first through their two back-to-back sold-out shows at B.B. King's in New York City are covered in depth, with recollections from band members, roadies, celebrities such as Little Steven and promoters. The book can be ordered only through www.ericcarmen.com.

For couch potatoes: Music Video Distributors and Highway 61 will release *Bob Dylan — 1975-1982: Rolling Thunder & The Gospel Years* April 4. Dylan hit the road with a rag-tag band of folk troubadours for the 1975 Rolling Thunder Revue. Appearing unannounced in small venues, the Revue culminated in "The Night of the Hurricane" benefit at Madison Square Garden for wrongly-convicted boxer Rubin "Hurricane" Carter. In his first interview in 30 years, "The Hurricane" tells all. Folk legend Ramblin' Jack Elliott, violinist Scarlet Rivera, bassist Rob Stoner, and Ms. Jacques Levy reveal the inside story of the *Desire* album, the Rolling Thunder Revue and the tour film, *Renaldo And Clara*. In 1979, Dylan

became a born-again Christian and recorded three gospel albums. In his first-ever interview, Dylan's Bible class teacher, Pastor Bill Dwyer, describes Dylan's religious transformation, while *Slow Train Coming* producer Jerry Wexler, background singer Regina McCrary, keyboardist Spooner Oldham, songwriter Al Kasha and others tell their tale of working with Dylan during his gospel years... Drumming star Neil Peart of Rush has released his first instructional DVD, the double-disc *Anatomy Of A Drum Solo* (Hudson Music/Rounder-Universal). It features newly recorded, in-studio footage of Peart discussing his approach to drum soloing. Using "Der Trommler," a live drum solo performed and recorded during Rush's 2004 European tour as a framework, Peart details each section of the nine-minute solo as well as explaining and demonstrating the techniques required to play it. In addition, his entire performance of "Der Trommler" has been transcribed and is included on the disc as a printable Portable Document Format (PDF) file. Additional material includes improvised workouts at the drums and a never-before-released solo recorded in Hamburg, Germany, in September 2004... The first live DVD of hard-rockers Whitesnake, *Live: In The Still Of The Night (Special Collector's Edition)*, features performances of 16 songs, including "Love Ain't No Stranger," "Is This Love," "Here I Go Again" and "Still Of The Night." A behind-the-scenes documentary, photo gallery and 10-track bonus CD of the live performances round out the *Special Collector's Edition*. In stereo and 5.1 surround. (Universal)... Other new Music Video Distributors releases include Third World — *Music Hall In Concert*; Johnny Guitar Watson — *Music Hall In Concert*; and Europe, *Live From The Dark* (two DVDs).

For analog kids: Among the new vinyl issues being released in February/March are The Guess Who, *American Woman* (Cisco/RCA); Muddy Waters, *The Best Of Muddy Waters* (Speakers Corner/Chess); Ray Davies, *Other People's Lives* (V2 Records); and Willie Nelson, *You Don't Know Me: Songs Of Cindy Walker* (Lost Highway).

— Todd Whitesel