

# Grapevine

## U2's The Edge and Gibson team up for Gulf Coast disaster relief

Los Angeles — Following a visit to New Orleans in November, U2's The Edge announced the unveiling of Music Rising, a campaign to raise funds to replace the lost instruments and accessories of the musicians affected by the hurricanes that devastated the Gulf Coast region. Lead partners Gibson Guitar and Guitar Center Music Education Foundation have spearheaded the initial effort by collaborating on the design, manufacture and sale of an exclusive Gibson guitar with all proceeds going directly to the Music Rising program. The guitar will be available through Guitar Center.

The instrument captures the essence of the Gulf Coast's musical tradition. A very limited quantity will be produced with all proceeds benefiting Music Rising and a pledge of \$1 million in support. The Gibson Music Rising guitar features hand-painted designs using the colors of Mardi Gras. Each guitar will be individually painted and handmade. All of the usual plastic parts (back plate, pick guard, toggle cover, truss rod cover) have been replaced by woods from the States affected by the hurricanes, and the Music Rising logo, exclusive to this guitar, is etched into the pick guard.

The Edge visited New Orleans between U2's *Vertigo* tour dates to see the profound impact on the area first-hand and to spend time with local musicians, listening to their experiences and trying to understand their needs. During his stay, he toured several neighborhoods and struggled venues.

"My recent visit to New Orleans gave me a first-hand look at the devastation which tragically destroyed the lives of thousands. The area's rich and spirited culture must be restored and can be by assisting those musicians affected by the disaster, which in turn will bring back the essence of the regions," said Edge. "Providing replacement instruments through Music Rising will not only help the professional musicians to



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Above, U2, from left: The Edge, Bono, Adam Clayton, and Larry Mullen. Below, the Gibson Music Rising guitar.



regain a foothold on their future, but will also ensure that one of the Gulf Coast's greatest assets, its music, will rise again."

The application and qualification process for musicians will be handled by MusiCares®, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping music people in crisis which has already provided more than \$1.5 million in direct financial assistance to more than 1,800 Gulf Coast music people. MusiCares Foundation will manage all eligibility for Music Rising grants, and fulfillment of the grants will be managed by Musician's Friend, one of the country's largest online music retailers.

In addition to the purchase of the Music Rising guitar, interested supporters can make tax-deductible contributions to Music Rising at [www.musicrising.org](http://www.musicrising.org) or by sending a check made payable to: Music Rising, c/o MusiCares Foundation, 3402 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90405. For more information on Music Rising or how to purchase the Music Rising Gibson guitar go to [www.musicrising.org](http://www.musicrising.org).

## GRAPELEAVES



**News & notes:** Pete Townshend has announced that he will tour with The Who in 2006. On Dec. 24, 2005, Townshend confirmed via a posting on the "Pete's Diaries" section of his Web site ([www.Petetownshend.co.uk](http://www.Petetownshend.co.uk)) that he is ready to hit the road once more. "As it seems everyone in the world is already making announcements about a forthcoming Who tour I figured I should make my own statement. I have said many times, repeated up until a few days ago, that I am reticent about committing to a tour without a completed new Who album under my belt. As things stand I am still pushing to produce some more songs. So the announcement may seem premature. It is not... I have high hopes for the whole tour to be shared to a wide audience at home in a mixture of pay for view and free special Web casts. Some of the proceeds will go to charity of course. I also have a very, very cool surprise to announce in June, just before the tour kicks off" ... Van Morrison has inked a new deal with Lost Highway Records, which will release Morrison's upcoming album, *Pay The Devil* (March 15). On *Pay The Devil*, Morrison turns his muse to interpreting classic country songs such as Hank Williams' "Your Cheatin' Heart" ... Texas rockers ZZ Top will see two of their early albums, *Tres Hombres* and *Fandango*, reissued Feb. 28 (Warner Bros.) with previously unreleased live versions of "La Grange," "Jesus Just Left Chicago" and "Waitin' For The Bus" and "Tush," "Heard It On The X" and "Jailhouse Rock" capping the respective discs... Neil Young will be the keynote speaker at the South By Southwest Music And Media Conference in Austin, Texas, March 15-19. Coinciding with Young's appearance will be the screening of Jonathan Demme's *Neil Young/Heart Of Gold*, depicting Young's 2005 Nashville, Tenn., performances, which center on songs from his latest album, *Prairie Wind*. In addition, Chrissie Hynde, Kris Kristofferson, Billy Bragg, Judy Collins, Sam Moore, and k.d. lang will be speaking and participating in interviews during the conference. Artists scheduled to perform include Arctic Monkeys, Belle & Sebastian, Neko Case, Cat Power, Echo & The Bunnymen, Elbow, Nickel Creek, Beth Orton, Towers Of London, and Tom Verlaine, among many others.

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**On the bookshelf:** The complete concert files of Led Zeppelin are available in an updated, pocket-sized guide by Dave Lewis and Simon Pallett titled *Led Zeppelin: Concert File* (Omnibus Press, ISBN: 1.84449.659.7). The authors recount more than 500 Zeppelin shows between 1968-80, with full set lists, reviews and concert and group-member anecdotes. The guide is lavishly illustrated with concert shots, ticket stubs, posters and also includes all major TV and radio appearances, extensive bootleg and film references as well as complete appendices of the members' solo careers.

**For couch potatoes:** From his first break with Procol Harum in the '60s to embarking on a successful solo career in the '70s, guitarist Robin Trower's blues-based psychedelic guitar approach has drawn him many comparisons to fellow legend Jimi Hendrix. A new DVD from Music Video Distributors, *Living Out Of Time (Live)*, captures the Stratocaster-wielding Trower on a 13-track set recorded at the WDR Rockpalast during the Crossroads Festival in Germany on the guitarist's 60th birthday, March, 3, 2005. "Too Rolling Stoned," "Day Of The Eagle" and "Bridge Of Sighs" are among the highlights. Bonuses include interviews, photo gallery and a 5.1 surround sound option... Other recent Music Video Distributors DVD releases include Roy Ayers — *In Concert: Ohne Filter*, which features a nine-song performance by the celebrated vibraphonist recorded Nov. 15, 1994, at the Ohne Filter Studios in Baden-Baden, Germany. Tracks include "A Wee Bit," "Everybody Loves The Sunshine" and "Running Away"; Gordon Haskell, *The Road To Harry's Bar*; Pain, *Life Is Overrated*; various artists, *God Save The Queen — A Punk Rock Anthology*; and Buzzcocks, *Live At Shepherds Bush Empire 2003*.

**For analog kids:** Columbia Records has five classic long-players scheduled for reissue on 180-gram vinyl Feb. 14: Uncle Tupelo, *No Depression*; Johnny Cash, *At Folsom Prison*; Robert Johnson, *King Of The Delta Blues Singers*; and Dave Brubeck Quartet, *Time Out...* Another 180-gram slab slated for a Feb. 14 release is Sly And The Family Stone, *Fresh* (Epic).

— Todd Whitesel