



My Guitar story

My story begins, not with the guitar but with the accordion. As a good Polish/Italian 5-year-old, I started out on accordion and went from polkas and Italian tunes that my family liked to hear, to symphonic music arranged for the accordion. By the time I turned 12, I realized that the accordion was not very sexy, and I turned to guitar, playing an inexpensive acoustic guitar that one of my older cousins was kind enough to give me. I also built my own SG like electric with hand wound pickups that I wired for both humbucker and single coil sounds with an in and out of phase switch for variety. In those days it was just my mom and I and I could not afford much. My mom remarried when I was 14 because of the comradery my stepfather gave me an import Guild for my birthday which I still own to this day. I played in two bands in high school with good friends playing an eclectic variety of prog rock songs. I continued to play throughout college and Med school. My med school buddies, and I rewrote Tommy by the Who for our senior class skit Naming it Tormey, a rock opera, after our Dean of the school, Dean Tormey. It was fun for all involved except for some of those who were lampooned but we all survived and graduated.

I continued to play through surgical training occasionally at department events. My responsibilities became so great with work and our two new children that I ceased playing for almost 20 years. I was asked by my wife's cousins to play with some of them at a memorial mass for their recently deceased sister. The bass player suggested that I join Guitar league thinking I would enjoy it and I have been a member ever since.

Guitar league was supportive and exposed me to many of the players in Central New York and got me to play more or less daily and get back some of my lost skills. I remain a loyal member because of the comradery and friendships I have had the pleasure to develop. Monthly meetings give me musical concerts and stimulation and friendships I cherish. The league is a way to maintain sanity in this crazy world we live in. Music is a balm for many bruises and the League is a wonderful group of supportive friends who help keep me going.

I currently own probably too many guitars like many of us but here is a list:

The afore mentioned Guild Madeira

A wonderful Seagull Entourage with a Cedar top and under saddle pickup (my main Ax)

A Brazilian Tranquillo Giannini classical I picked up at a garage sale

An Epiphone ES 335 electric with splitable pickups

A 12 string Sigma by Martin I bought used many years ago (beautiful instrument)

I need to be more diligent with my practicing but I play at least 1 hour a day and am always trying to learn new songs and techniques. The inspiration from guitar league is a joy to me.

Frank